

HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the delivery of homebound/hospital instruction to students of Monroe County Schools. The Monroe County Board of Education will make provision for the temporary instruction for students unable to attend school because of physical or emotional disability as certified by a licensed physician or psychiatrist and are homebound for a period that has lasted or will last more than three (3) weeks.

II. RATIONALE

Homebound/hospital instruction allows students who are temporarily unable to attend school due to medical barriers to continue learning toward mastery of grade level content standards of core classes while they are confined to home or a hospital. These services will not replace full time instruction on an ongoing basis. The expectation is that the student will return to the regular classroom.

III. DEFINITIONS

Homebound/hospital education is a temporary general education placement used for students who are too symptomatic or too emotionally fragile to attend school in the school building as certified by a licensed physician or psychiatrist and are homebound for a period that has lasted or will last more than three (3) weeks pursuant to regulations set forth in this policy and in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2510.

Licensed physician means an individual actively licensed in this state to practice medicine (including psychiatry) or surgery by the West Virginia Board of Medicine or osteopathic medicine or surgery by the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine or an individual similarly licensed by another state licensing authority or board. Physicians' assistants, psychologists, therapists, counselors, nurses, or clerical staff are not licensed physicians for purposes of this policy. In order to recommend homebound or hospital instruction, the licensed physician must specialize in the health condition that may temporarily confine a student to home or hospital.

IV. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for homebound/hospital services, a parent or guardian must present documentation that a student meets one of the following criteria:

1. Has an injury, noncommunicable illness, or health condition which prevents him/her from attending school for more than three weeks cumulatively as

- diagnosed and confirmed by a licensed physician who specializes in the health condition that may cause the temporary inability for the student to attend school; or
2. Has an injury or health problem/condition that requires the student to be homebound or hospitalized for a period that has lasted or will last more than three weeks as diagnosed and confirmed by a licensed physician who specializes in the health condition that may cause the temporary inability for the student to attend school.
 3. Placed on an Out-Of-School Environment education program based upon 504 Plan recommendations or by Special Education IEP.
 4. Has a mental health condition that requires the student to be homebound for a period that will last more than three (3) weeks as diagnosed and confirmed by a licensed psychiatrist.

A licensed physician or psychiatrist must provide a written statement to the county school district that the student must remain at home or in the hospital for a period of three weeks or more. The written statement must include:

1. The specific medical reason(s) why the student must remain at home or in the hospital.
2. The medical criteria or condition(s) under which the student can return to school AND expected date of such return.

Homebound instruction is provided only when accommodations cannot be made by providing a reduced-day schedule and/or modifications at the school level. Students placed on extended home instruction shall submit a physician's or psychiatrist's statement of need for continued home instruction every three months. No student shall be granted homebound/hospital services based on the scheduling of future appointments.

Students who are recommended for homebound instruction for mental health reasons must be receiving therapy under the direction of a licensed psychiatrist with a treatment plan that leads to the student's return to school. Documentation that the student is currently in regular treatment sessions more than once per month is required. A treatment plan and timeline developed by the psychiatrist for the return to school must accompany the application. Failure to remit this plan will result in the rejection of homebound services.

Monroe County Schools reserves the right to confer with the acting physician or psychiatrist regarding the treatment plan and progress of the student.

Pregnancy is not a legitimate reason to recommend homebound instruction unless medical complications prevent the student from attending school. Each pregnant student should be encouraged to attend school and participate in all aspects of education with the support of the school nurse and under the supervision of the physician. A licensed physician may recommend homebound instruction if temporary medical complications prevent school attendance before the expected delivery date. After delivery, homebound instruction is offered for the 4-6-week postpartum period.

Homebound instruction will not be provided for students to obtain employment or act as care-givers

V. PROGRAM DELIVERY

All homebound students must be enrolled in Monroe County Schools. The county board may require that the parents obtain a second physician's opinion at the expense of the county board. Students receiving homebound services will not be permitted to work. Students receiving homebound services will be required to receive prior approval from the school's principal before attending school functions. Homebound instruction may be provided for any period of time during the normal 180-day school year.

The weekly instruction schedule is based on the student's ability to attend/participate as specified by the physician requesting homebound instruction. The amount of instructional or supportive service provided through the home and hospital program shall be determined in relation to each child's educational needs and physical/mental health. The standard expectation shall be for four (4) hours per week. Additions or reductions in this allocation of time shall require approval of the Director of Special Education.

Home/hospital services must be designed to provide the student adequate opportunity to continue learning toward mastery of grade level content standards while he or she is temporarily confined to home or hospital. These services may not replace full time instruction on an ongoing basis. The expectation is that the student will return to the regular classroom. Since home/hospital services are temporary in nature, the home/hospital teachers are responsible for facilitating instruction only for approved content standards for core courses (i.e., English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies).

Home/hospital services provided for an exceptional student who is unable to attend school temporarily because of an injury, illness, or health condition require a change in the student's placement to Out-of-School Environment (OSE) as defined in WVBE Policy 2419. The change of placement to OSE must be addressed by the student's IEP Team and implemented in accordance with the requirements of Policy 2419.

The parent and homebound instructor will cooperatively establish the scheduling of homebound instruction as follows:

1. Instruction may be provided in the student's home (if appropriate).
2. An alternative site agreed upon by the parents and homebound instructor may be used if the student's home is not appropriate.
3. In all cases a responsible adult shall be asked to be present during the entire instruction session.
4. Failure of the parents to cooperate in scheduling instruction or being available for instruction to be delivered shall be considered absences. County attendance policies shall be followed.
5. Failure of the student and/or parent to actively engage in instruction shall have the instructional session designated as an absence. County attendance policies

shall be followed.

Textbooks/materials for homebound instruction will be provided by Monroe County Schools.

Grades:

The homebound teacher is required to grade all work completed by students and keep a log/portfolio. A grade summary will be provided to the home school for each grading period (or portion of a grading period). This grade may be averaged with other grades for any portion of the grading period completed by the student while he or she still was in regular attendance.

VI. APPLICATION

The procedure for obtaining a homebound teacher is as follows:

1. Student/Parent provides the information necessary to complete an application form available from the office of Monroe County Director of Special Education Services.
2. Student/Parent takes application form to a doctor for completion of his/her report.
3. Application form must be signed by a licensed physician or psychiatrist.
4. A complete application form is returned to the Monroe County Director of Special Education Services.
5. If approved, the homebound teacher(s) will be assigned by the Director of Special Education Services.
6. The application and services will only be approved for 3 months and reapplication is the responsibility of the parent.
7. In accordance with WVBE Policy 2510, Homebound applications only will be approved for a period of three months. Applications to continue homebound services must be submitted a minimum of two weeks prior to the expiration of the three-month period. The student will be required to attend school until a complete application is resubmitted by a parent or guardian/ Time that may lapse between submissions may result in unexcused absences.

Application forms for children desiring homebound instruction may be obtained at the office of the Director of Special Education, Board of Education Office, Union, WV.

This form must be completed by the pupil's physician and returned to the Director of Special Education before a teacher can be assigned to the pupil.

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