

Homebound/Hospital Services

Home/hospital services are 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 school setting. Students are not permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities or hold part-time or full-time employment while on homebound instruction.

Eligibility/Scope

A. Temporary Injury, Illness, Health Condition

A student who, due to injury or illness as certified in writing by a licensed health care provider who specializes in the health condition, that may temporarily confine a student to home or hospital for a period that has lasted or will last more than three consecutive weeks will receive home/hospital services. The written statement from a licensed health care provider must include:

- the specific reasons and period of time that the student must remain at home or in the hospital; and
- the criteria or conditions under which the student will return to school, and the expected date of such return.

B. Prolonged Illness

A written statement by a licensed health care provider who specializes in the health condition must be resubmitted at least every three months if a student's temporary home/hospital instruction is prolonged. Hampshire County Schools may require that the parent/guardian obtain an opinion from a second licensed health care provider who specializes in the health condition at the expense of the county.

C. Pregnancy

Students who are pregnant are encouraged to attend school and participate in all aspects of education. A licensed health care provider may recommend homebound instruction if medical complications prevent school attendance before the expected delivery date. The student is eligible for eight weeks of homebound instruction after the delivery date to academically support the student in remaining on track for graduation. Extended homebound services must be certified as necessary by the student's health care provider. Homebound Instruction will not be provided for students to be caregivers. However, students will be provided excused absences for prenatal and antenatal care as recommended by their medical provider. Parenting students will be provided excused absences when their children are sick provided they submit a health care provider's excuse for their child's illness.

D. Exceptional Students

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 Policy 2419. The change of placement to OSE and any appropriate changes to services will be received in the OSE setting, must be addressed by the student's IEP Team and implemented in accordance with the requirements of Policy 2419. For students with Section 504 plans, adjustments to accommodations may be necessary during home/hospital services. Upon return from home/hospital services, both IEP and/or Section 504 documents must be reviewed to ensure appropriate services are in place for re-entry in the school environment.

E. Severe Mental Health Diagnosis

Students with a mental health diagnosis that prohibits them from functioning in the school setting may be eligible for homebound instruction. Diagnosis must be certified by a licensed psychiatrist or physician specializing in mental health conditions. Students receiving homebound instruction for mental health reasons must receive therapy under the direction of a licensed psychiatrist with a treatment plan that leads to the student returning to school. The treatment plan may be administered by a licensed counselor, psychologist, or therapist under the direct supervision of the psychiatrist. A treatment plan must include a kept appointment at a minimum of every two weeks or twice a month.

A written report of progress must be submitted to the homebound coordinator or designee at the end of three months for a student to continue to receive homebound instruction. The report must contain:

1. Psychological diagnosis of the student
2. Dates of kept appointments during initial homebound period
3. Progress being made for return to school

If these procedures are not followed, the student will no longer be eligible for homebound instruction.

F. Board Action

Students who have been expelled by the Hampshire County Board of Education or students who are temporarily removed from school while undergoing an evaluation due to Safe Schools violations will be provided academic support including virtual or homebound instruction.

F. Other

Home and/or hospital services may also be provided temporarily at the direction of the county superintendent for students who have not met the immunization requirements of W. Va. Code §16-3-4. The Superintendent, in collaboration with the Homebound Director, may review and make

determinations on requests for homebound services due to unusual circumstances not outlined in this policy.

Student Attendance

Attendance for homebound students will be monitored weekly by the homebound teacher and reported to the school for documentation in WVEIS. To be considered present for the instructional week, students must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Weekly communication or meeting with the homebound teacher.
- 2) Completed weekly work/ progress in instructional program.

If the student does not communicate/meet with the homebound teacher or participate in the educational process by completing assigned work, the student will be considered absent for the instructional week (5 instructional days). These absences shall be designated as unexcused absences. After ten days of unexcused absences due to failing to meet with/contact homebound teacher or failing to complete assigned instructional work for the week, the student may be considered truant and subject to attendance guidelines pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-8-2(a) and §18-8-4.

Instruction

Since homebound educational services are temporary in nature, the homebound teachers are responsible for facilitating instruction in courses with required content standards (i.e., English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies). For cases in which homebound services may be necessary for a longer period of time, a process for renewal is required every three months. The home/hospital services are guided by the student's classroom teacher(s) therefore the home/hospital teacher must be in regular contact with the classroom teacher(s) to:

- secure and understand units/lessons, instructional plans, and instructional resources (including approved online and virtual options), and
- establish procedures for the collection, grading, and return of student work, as requested by the classroom teacher(s) for feedback and assessment.

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