

Home Schooling

When a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wants to establish a home-based educational program for his child, the following procedures shall be followed in accordance with law:

1. The parent/guardian must submit on an annual basis written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the district's director of student services 14 days before the program is established.
2. The parent/guardian must certify in writing, on a form provided by the district, the name, age, place of residence and number of hours of attendance of each of his children in the program.
3. The superintendent shall give the parent 14 days written notice to produce records required by law if he has probable cause to believe the program is not in compliance with the law.
4. Each student in a home-based program shall be evaluated when the student is in the third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades. The student's academic progress shall be evaluated either by giving him a nationally standardized achievement test or by submitting an evaluation of the student conducted by a qualified person as defined in state law.

The director of student services shall be responsible for reviewing the student's evaluation, which either shall be submitted to the district or to an independent or parochial school in Colorado. If the test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, the name of the school shall be provided to the district.

5. If the student's composite score on the test is above the 13th percentile, the student shall continue to be eligible for the home-based educational program. If his score is at or below the 13th percentile, his parent/guardian shall be given the opportunity to have the student retested using an alternate version of the same test or a different nationally standardized test selected by the parent/guardian from a list supplied by the State Board of Education.
6. If the evaluation conducted by a qualified person indicates that the student is making sufficient academic progress according to ability, the student shall continue to be exempt from compulsory attendance.
7. If the composite score on a retest continues to be at or below the 13th percentile or if the evaluation conducted by a qualified person indicates that the student is not making sufficient academic progress, the district shall take steps to require the parent/guardian to enroll the student in a public, independent or parochial school.

Extracurricular and interscholastic activities

Students participating in home-based educational programs shall have the same rights as district

students to participate in district extracurricular and interscholastic activities if they meet the requirements of state law and district policy. Such participation is subject to the same rules of any interscholastic organization or association of which the district is a member.

If a student withdraws from the school district more than 15 days after the start of the school year and enters a home-based educational program, the school district shall remain the child's district of residence. If the child was eligible to participate in extracurricular or interscholastic activities when he or she withdrew, the child will remain eligible to participate for the remainder of the academic year.

Habitually truant students

Any student who has been declared habitually truant at any time during the last six of attending public school before the proposed enrollment in a home-based educational program may not be enrolled unless the parent/guardian first submit a written description of the curricula to be used along with the written notification required in paragraph #1 above.

Re-entering district schools

A student from a home-based program may re-enter the district's schools at any time. With the consent of the student's parent/guardian, the district shall place the student at the grade level deemed most appropriately by the district. All students from home-based programs must demonstrate proficiency in the district-adopted content standards at their appropriate placement level. The district may test the student to determine placement.

The district shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student's transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing. See policy IKF.

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LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-7-409 (1.2)(d)(I)(C)(III) (home school students not required to take state assessments)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (3)(f) (scores on nationally standardized tests or evaluations required in paragraph 4 above, are not considered when the state awards academic performance grades to each school)
C.R.S. 22-33-107 (compulsory attendance law)
C.R.S. 22-32-116.5(2) (extracurricular and interscholastic activities)

CROSS REFS.: JGA, Assignment of New Students to Classes and Grade Levels
JHB, Truancy
JJJ, Extracurricular Activity Eligibility

NOTE: The parent/guardian of a student who wants to establish a home-based education program may choose any public school district in the state to be the student's district of residence by notifying the district as set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this policy. C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (3)(e) and C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (5)(a)(II)(A).