

HOME SCHOOLING

PURPOSE:

This policy shall serve to establish and communicate the School Department guidelines, procedures and expectations in relation to students' regular education program (in the home) outside the public school environment as provided by State Law.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee recognizes the right of parents to utilize home schooling as an alternative method for complying with the State Compulsory Attendance Law. Any parent intending to carry out their child or children's educational program through a home schooling program is expected to comply with state law.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Parents wishing to exercise their right to educate a child or children at home must submit written notification of intent to the North Kingstown School Committee, through the Superintendent of Schools, as soon as said intent is determined by the parents. Home Schooling parents are invited to meet with the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, or designee, to discuss an instructional plan that meets with RI Department of Education requirements. Parents may proceed with their chosen Home School Program subject to annual renewal approval by the School Committee each year thereafter.

The Superintendent (or his/her designee) will submit the Letter of Intent to the School Committee for approval at the next closest and appropriate School Committee Meeting date following receipt of the letter.

In carrying out a Home School Program, parents should to be able to demonstrate that their teaching is thorough and efficient.

POLICY STIPULATIONS:

1. The Letter of Intent will reflect that the parent(s) or guardian(s) shall comply with Title 16-19-2 requirements of the General Laws of Rhode Island. State law requires that "reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, history of Rhode Island, and principals of American government be taught in the English language substantially to the same extent as these subjects are required to be taught in the public schools, and that the teaching be thorough and efficient." Sections 16-22-2 and 16-22-4, respectively, require instruction in State and federal government, and health and physical education "substantially equivalent" to that required in the public schools.

The Letter of Intent should be submitted to the Central Office and provide the student's name, address, month and year of birth, last grade completed, parent name and contact information.

2. Parents must maintain instructional attendance records as required by State of Rhode Island Law and submit these records to the North Kingstown School Department upon request of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. A home schooling school year must be substantially equal to that required by law in public schools.

3. The School Committee requires some type of evaluation component that will accommodate the preferences of parents for certain mechanisms for measurement which may take the form of a report card, written evaluations, dated work samples, or other means of evaluation. Annual testing or standardized testing is not required by Rhode Island General Law, but may be used as a type of evaluation solely by choice of the parents. While the Commissioner of Education has ruled that local school districts have the authority to require some type of evaluation under their "approval" authority, they also must "accommodate the preferences of parents for certain mechanisms for measurement."

4. The North Kingstown School Department will loan textbooks to homeschooled students in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, English/language arts and history/social studies to all students in grades K-12 according to RIGL 16-23-3. Technology devices are not provided to any homeschooled student.

5. Home school participation in specific academic programs, enrollment in specific courses, participation in extracurricular activities, access to formal testing programs, and use of specific facilities of the Department is subject to the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee and contingent upon the understanding that approval will be guided by the following considerations:

- a. Space remains available within the set student participation level of the program/class etc.
- b. New enrollments in the School Department shall have preference.
- c. The parent provides transportation to and from the approved activity.
- d. Students follow all rules and meet the same requirements as established for public students, including health and other expectations.
- e. Participation requires no direct additional cost to the Department.
- f. Enrollment in specific courses offered by the Department, shall be limited to those specific course/classes students may need but are unable to obtain access to sufficient instructional opportunity through other means available within their approved Home School Program.

6. Home schooled students who formally enroll full time in North Kingstown High School will be awarded credits for courses on transcripts received from accredited educational institutions. Official transcripts should be submitted to the Assistant Principal overseeing the Guidance Department. All other courses will be reviewed by the high school staff for the potential awarding of credit. Courses accepted for inclusion on the transcript will be awarded credit commensurate with similar courses in the high school Program of Studies. Course grades will not be calculated into the student's rank or Grade Point Average. Parents of home school students entering elementary school should provide evidence of student achievement to assist in grade level placement.

7. Students wishing to participate in Interscholastic activities must meet all eligibility requirements of the Rhode Island Athletic Interscholastic League. The Rhode Island Athletic Interscholastic League requirements will be made available upon request.
8. In the event that the School Committee does not approve a parental intent to carry out a Home School Program, the Committee must provide a written explanation to the parent(s) specifying in detail its statutory basis for such denial. The Committee's decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.
9. If the child currently has an IEP, the parents will be required to attend an IEP meeting before the School Committee can act on a home school request. At the IEP meeting, the team will determine if the child can receive FAPE while the child is participating in a home school program.
10. Students who are home schooled will not receive a NKSD high school diploma at the end of 12th grade, nor do they participate in the graduation ceremonies.

First Reading: Nov. 13, 2002

Second Reading: Nov. 20, 2002

Adopted: Nov. 20, 2002

Revised: 3/24/09, 4/5/10, 2/9/16, 8/15/18, 8/13/19