

## **611 HOME SCHOOLING**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Compulsory Instruction Law (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of a student is primarily responsible for assuring that the student acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 1)

### **III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING**

The person in charge of a home school and the school district must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minn. Stat. § 120A.22.

### **IV. IMMUNIZATION**

The parent or guardian of a student receiving instruction in a home school shall submit one of the statements set forth in Section III of Policy 530 (Immunization Requirements) on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form to the superintendent of the school district by October 1 of the first year of their home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subd. 8)

### **V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS**

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks, individualized instructional materials, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled student as provided in Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540. The district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40-123B.48 for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student, provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

### **VI. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide student support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled student as provided by Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540. The school district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives

pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40-123B.48.

## **VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students who are district residents and receive instruction in a home school (where five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other public school students. (Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.36, Subd. 1, and 123B.49, Subd. 4). Participation in extracurricular activities must be through a school within the attendance area of the student's residence.

## **VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAMS**

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home-schooled student who is a district resident may enroll in classes in the district as a shared-time student in accordance with district policy F-124 (Shared Time Programs).
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time students in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. The district retains sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared-time students to classes.

## **IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **A. Activities**

- 1. Minnesota State High School League sponsored activities (where six or more students receive instruction in the home school or the home-schooled students are not residents of the school district).

A home school which is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League Bylaw 403.00. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education.

- a. The home school must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
- b. The home school is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
- c. The home school is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.

2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities where six or more students receive instruction in the home school.

A home-schooled student may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the district to participate in the activity and the payment of any associated activity fees. However, home-schooled students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the district.

B. Transportation Services

1. Transportation services within the district for home-schooled students are the same as for other nonpublic students and set forth in Policy C-40 (Student Transportation).
2. When transportation is provided, the district, in concert with the bus contractor, shall be responsible for the scheduling of all student transportation, including the establishment of routes, bus stops, operational rules and regulations, and other matters related to the safe and efficient operation of the student transportation program.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School studentren)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Board of Education May Require Fees)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks, Individual Instruction Material, Standard Tests)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment - Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (Textbooks, Individualized Instruction Materials, Standardized Tests)