

Equivalent Education Under Parental Direction/Home Schooling

The Wallingford Board of Education believes that formal education in the public schools is highly beneficial for the child and for society. However, the Board recognizes the right of the parent(s) to educate a child at home. Should the parent(s) decide to have the child instructed at home, it is the obligation of the parent(s) to show that such child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools.

- I. **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** A parent, by filing a notice of intent to instruct a child at home, acknowledges full responsibility for the education of his child in accordance with the requirements of state law. Thus, the school district will not provide parents with books or other instructional materials. Also, students who are home schooled may not participate in any school classes, programs, or activities.

- II. **PROCEDURES:** To determine whether the education provided a child is equivalent to the instruction provided in the local schools, the following procedures will be observed.
 1. If the child who is to be home schooled has been a student of the Wallingford Public Schools, the parent must officially withdraw the child from his/her school prior to beginning home schooling.
 2. Parents must file with the superintendent of schools the district's notice of intent form that provides basic information. This notice of intent will be effective for up to one school year.
 3. Filing must occur within ten days of the start of the home instruction program.
 4. The school district will receive the notice of intent, check it for completeness, and keep it as part of the district's permanent records. A complete form will be one, which provides basic program information including name of teacher, subjects to be taught and days of instruction, and the teacher's method of assessment.
 5. If a parent fails to file a notice of intent or files an incomplete form, then a certified letter shall be sent to the parent requesting compliance within ten days.
 6. Receipt of a notice of intent in no way constitutes approval by a school district of the content or effectiveness of a program of home instruction.
 7. An annual portfolio review will be held with the parents and school officials to determine if instruction in the required courses has been given.
 8. Any continued refusal by the parent to comply with the reasonable request of the school district for completion and filing of the notice of intent or to participate in an annual portfolio review may cause the child to be considered truant.

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9. The school district will not require a notice of intent for any child younger than seven years of age or older than fifteen years of age.

III. REENROLLING STUDENTS: A parent who chooses to home school a child is encouraged to do so for the full school year. However, if a parent chooses to home school for only a portion of a school year and then wishes to reenroll the child, the school district will determine grade level placement of the child and what high school graduation credits will be granted, if any.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
10-184 Duties of parents
10-220 Duties of boards of education

Commissioner of Education
Circular Letter C-14, 7/15/94
"Revised Procedures Concerning Requests from Parents to
Educate Their Child at Home"

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