

HOMEBOUND EDUCATION

Background

Homebound education services are intended for students with medical conditions or other compelling reasons that prevent them from physically attending school for a period of time during a school year.

Homebound education services are designed to be a self-study program that allow students to maintain their coursework and studies while they are unable to attend school. These services allow the classroom teacher to help distribute course materials, deliver instruction, and monitor student progress in the course.

A key component of home-bound education is open and frequent communication between the teacher, Director or designate, and parents/guardians. Home-bound studies will be different for every enrolled student, so regular and direct communication is the best way to ensure the program's success..

Funding recognition is provided for costs incurred by the Division relating to the monitoring and provision of other educational services relating to these students.

Procedures

1. Eligibility

1.1 Students must be enrolled in a GSSD school in order to receive Homebound services. An enrolled student who is certified by his or her attending physician, hospital, or licensed treatment facility, as having a medical condition or another compelling reason that requires the student to be hospitalized or to be confined to the home during regular school hours for a period longer than five school days, is eligible for services. This includes students in psychiatric hospitals, substance abuse centers, or students placed in other medical facilities by the parent or medical practitioners. The Director or designate will make arrangements within five days (after being notified by a parent or legal guardian) to provide home-bound services if the following conditions are met:

1.1.1 The student is enrolled in the public school division and assigned to an appropriate general or special education program.

1.1.2 The student is unable to attend school because of a medical condition or another compelling reason. Students who are able to attend school part-time are expected to do so and do not qualify for homebound services.

1.1.3. The student's attending physician certifies a medical condition or another compelling reason that requires that the student be confined to the home or hospitalized during regular school hours.

1.1.4. The student is physically able to participate in instructional activities while at home or in the hospital.

1.1.5. It is anticipated that the student will be homebound or hospitalized for at least five consecutive school days.

2. Classroom Teacher Responsibility

2.1 The classroom teacher will identify for the Director or designate h the specific subject areas and content that the student should study while away from school. The classroom teacher will determine the priority of subject matter, considering the student's present level of achievement and instructional needs. The classroom teacher will maintain a record of assignments, quizzes, and other assessments.

2.2 Determination of the need for direct instruction will be based on the student's need and/or his/her IIP, and not school division or ministry standards. All students who require assistive technology should have assistive devices provided for homebound educational services.

2.3 In cases where the student will be absent for a period longer than 20 school days, the classroom teacher in consultation with the Director or designate may examine alternative delivery methods for some or all courses.

2.4 The classroom teacher should maintain close communication with the parents. If the parent feels assignments are too difficult, or feels the child does not have the prerequisite skills needed to carry out the assignments, the parent should discuss this with the classroom teacher and/or the Director.

3. Parent Responsibility

3.1 Parents are responsible for notifying the school division when the student is going to be homebound or hospitalized for a period longer than five school days. Parents should notify the school administrator in writing with the name of the attending physician or hospital, and authorize the release of sufficient information to allow the school division to determine eligibility.

3.2 When the student is homebound, the parent should:

3.2.1. Provide appropriate access to the student and help schedule homebound program coordinator or teacher visits (if necessary) that do not conflict with medical treatments.

3.2.2. Provide an appropriate environment and the necessary supervision for their child to complete assignments.

3.2.3. Help the child schedule time for study, ensuring appropriate instructional materials are available and at hand.

3.2.4. Support the child with learning activities to the extent possible as agreed upon with the teacher.

4. Student Responsibility

4.1 To ensure successful completion of the course or assignment(s), the student should:

4.1.1. Ask for assistance and/or clarification as needed to complete assignments.

4.1.2. Attend to the class activities to the extent that they are physically capable.

4.1.3. Return materials and supplies after completing assignments.

4.1.4. Continue to work with the teacher(s) of record to do any extra work needed so that the student has minimum competencies needed to complete the subject or grade, after returning to school.

Legal Reference: Section 85, 87, 109, 175 Education Act

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