

Q. What would be the process if I should decide to place my child back in school at some future date?

A. Your child will be most welcome to enroll. A Pupil Personnel Worker may assist to arrange a conference with the appropriate school principal to make placement decisions. An evaluation will be made to determine proper placement. This evaluation could include standardized or school system tests to help determine grade level and ability grouping.

Q. Will a high school diploma be issued by Cecil County Public Schools if I elect to have my child remain on a home instruction program through grade 12?

A. No. Diplomas cannot be issued to students who are not enrolled in our school system.

Q. Can my child take part in some aspects of the school instructional or extracurricular programs while receiving home schooling?

A. No. Students receiving Home Instruction are not permitted to participate in courses or activities in public school programs other than the standardized testing program.

Q. May my child participate in the standardized testing program offered by the school system even though not enrolled?

A. Yes. Upon request of a parent or guardian, a child receiving home schooling may participate in the regularly scheduled standardized testing programs that are administered in the public school where the child is eligible to attend. Arrangements must be made prior to testing dates and the child must be brought to the assigned school by the parent. Parents are reminded that not each grade level is tested each year. Schedules are available upon request.

Q. Do I need to annually verify the continuation of home instruction for my child with the school system?

A. Yes. A parent or guardian must verify before beginning each school year the continuation of home instruction for his or her child with the local school system.

Q. Do I need to annually verify and advise the school system if the status of my child being home instruction changes during the school year?

A. Yes. You are required to notify us if you change your home address, move out of the county, change the program of home instruction or enroll your child in a public or non-public school. Please address such letters to Mr. Berkeley C. Orr, acting Program Supervisor for Special Programs, **Cecil County Public Schools, George Washington Carver Education Leadership Center, 201 Booth Street, Elkton, Maryland 21921.**

(4/19)

HOME INSTRUCTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT

HOME INSTRUCTION



Serving Learners, Families, and the Community

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Questions and Answers

Q. What must I do if I plan to have children in a program of Home Instruction?

A. You must complete a Home Instruction Notification and return it to Cecil County Public Schools.

Q. Do I have to be my children's teacher? May I hire a tutor to do the instruction?

A. The Bylaw states clearly that the parent is to be the primary provider of the instruction. Other adults may assist with a special area of interest, but may not replace the parent. Teaching by another adult or group of adults constitutes a school which must seek accreditation approval through the Maryland State of Department of Education.

Q. Am I required to be a certified teacher?

A. No, not under the present regulations.

Q. How much time should be spent on instruction each day?

A. Generally, a minimum of five (5) hours of daily instruction, Monday through Friday, is recommended for a period of at least 36 weeks (180 days) of instruction.

Q. Can the instruction take place on a regular basis in a place other than my home?

A. No, not under the present regulations.

Q. Am I obliged to follow the public school calendar?

A. You need to specify the hours, days and length of your instructional year during the portfolio review. Weekend, evening hours and summertime may also be a part of the schedule if you desire. A minimum of 180 days of instruction is expected.

Q. Should I develop a planning book for instruction?

A. Evidence of planning by you is part of the portfolio review.

Q. Should I keep a record of attendance and evaluations or grades given to my child?

A. Yes.

Q. What areas of instruction are mandatory in my program?

A. Evidence of instruction in all of the following areas is required: English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Health, and Physical Education.

Q. Will I receive curriculum guidelines as to what should be covered within each subject area each year?

A. No, not under the present regulations.

Q. What samples of my child's work should be available during the portfolio review?

A. Examples of the child's writing, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials and tests must be saved for the review. All work should be dated as it is completed.

Q. How often are portfolio reviews to take place?

A. Generally, such reviews occur two (2) times per school year. There can be a maximum of three (3) reviews permitted by the Bylaw each academic year.

Q. What happens if the school system personnel are dissatisfied with my home schooling program?

A. If there are deficiencies in the program resulting in the child not receiving a regular, thorough instructional program conforming with the Bylaw, the parent will be notified and must provide evidence within 30 days that the deficiencies have been corrected. If the deficiencies are not corrected, the parent must enroll the child promptly in a public or nonpublic school.

Q. Can my child receive special education services?

A. Children with disabilities who are home schooled do not have an individualized entitlement to special education services. Free appropriate public education (FAPE) is offered in accordance with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to all students with disabilities if the parent decides to enroll the student in our public school system. If you believe your child should be evaluated to determine eligibility for special education services, contact the Special Education Office for more information by calling 410-996-5460