

HOME SCHOOLING

The Ipswich School Committee recognizes the right of parents to provide a home education as an alternative to public school education for their child. This right is not absolute but subject to reasonable regulation by the local school authorities for the student's and society's protection. Parents have the right to propose a home education alternative and the Superintendent of Schools has the right, under Section I of Chapter 76 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to approve or disapprove it. Such approval must be obtained in advance of its implementation.

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district may have access to either curricular or extracurricular public school activities subject to availability and approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee in consultation with the Building Principal. Home-educated students may participate in MIAA athletics as long as the student meets the standards for eligibility as outlined by the MIAA.

In evaluating each proposed home education alternative, the school authorities will consider the following factors:

- The competency of the parents to teach. Though certification is not required, the presence or absence of the requirements that would lead to certification have to be considered.
- The teaching of subjects required by state law, Chapter 71, Sections 1, 2 and 3, or regulation; the manner in which they are taught so as to impart comparable knowledge as given in the local schools.
- The number of hours and days devoted to teaching to meet the minimum requirements of the state.
- The adequacy of the texts, materials, methods and programs being used.
- The availability of periodic tests and measurement of the child's educational growth.

Parents have the right to a hearing before the school authorities to allow them an opportunity to explain their plan and answer questions about it. They may be represented by counsel and shall be provided reasonable notice of the time and place of such a hearing.

If a plan is approved, there will be a periodic evaluation and monitoring of the child's progress under guidelines and standards set by the Ipswich School Committee to reassure whether adequate educational progress has been made.

Adopted: 12/16/82

Reviewed by Policy Subcommittee on January 11, 1999

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