

Home Hospital Tutoring (HHT)

Tutoring services are available to Ipswich Public Schools students who, due to documented medical reasons, are confined to home or a hospital for fourteen (14) or more days during the school year. Students with chronic illnesses who have recurring home/hospital stays for less than 14 consecutive school days, when such recurrences have added up to or are expected to be more than 14 days in a school year, are also eligible for home or hospital educational services if they are requested and the medical need is documented by the physician. In this context, "Ipswich Public Schools student" means a student who is enrolled in the Ipswich Public Schools, including those who are attending publicly-funded special education programs outside of town. Once a physician determines that the student's medical condition requires hospitalization or home care of no less than 14 days, the physician must complete the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) *Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons* form. At a minimum, the physician's affirmation must include the following information:

- The date the student was hospitalized/confined to home
- Medical reason(s) for the confinement
- Any modifications to the educational program while in hospital or home that are based on the medical condition
- A projected date when the student is expected to return to school

Parents may submit a copy of the Physician's Affirmation either to their child's school, or directly to the Pupil Personnel Services office. The District then contracts with agencies providing educational tutoring in the nearby hospitals, or makes individualized tutoring arrangements when an agency is not available. In the case of tutoring agencies servicing hospitals, the District requires the agency, as a condition of the contract, to coordinate with the student's school counselor in order to ensure that services address the student's school program. While it is impossible to replicate the total school experience through the provision of home/hospital instruction, the District provides the instruction necessary to enable the student to keep up in his/her/their courses of study and minimize the educational loss that might occur during the period the student is confined at home or in a hospital.

The HHT services are provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue his or her educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The school principal seeks input from the student's counselor and teachers, coordinates the service delivery with the Administrator for Special Education. The HHT educational services are not considered special education services unless the student is a special education student, in which case the tutoring will include services on the student's IEP.