

Home Schooling

Under Colorado law, a parent has the right to choose the proper education and training for children under his/her care and supervision and the Colorado legislature has deemed that home-based education is a legitimate alternative to classroom attendance for the instruction of children. The parent/guardian of a student who wants to establish a home-based education program may choose any public school district in the state to be the student's district of residence by notifying the district as described below. Mapleton Public Schools (the "District") shall support parents who choose Mapleton as their district of residence for a nonpublic home-based educational program to the fullest extent required by law.

When a parent/guardian of a student between the ages of seven and 16 wants to establish a home-based educational program for his/her child, the following procedures must be followed in accordance with law:

1. The parent/guardian must submit on an annual basis written notification of establishment of the home-based program to the District's Learning Services Department. The initial written notification shall be submitted at least 14 days before the program is established.
2. The parent/guardian must certify in writing the name, age, place of residence, and number of hours of attendance of each child enrolled in the program.
3. The Superintendent shall give the parent 14 days written notice to produce records required by law if there is probable cause to believe the program is not in compliance with the law.
4. Each student in a home-based program shall be evaluated when the student is in the third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and 11th grades. The student's academic progress shall be evaluated either by giving a nationally standardized achievement test or by submitting an evaluation of the student conducted by a qualified person as defined by state law.

The student's test or evaluation results shall be submitted to the District, or to an independent or parochial school in Colorado. If the test or evaluation results are submitted to an independent or parochial school, the name of the school shall be provided to the District.

5. If the student's composite score on the test is above the 13th percentile, the student shall continue to be eligible for the home-based educational program and exempt from compulsory attendance. If the score is at or below the 13th percentile, the

parent/guardian shall be given the opportunity to have the student re-tested using an alternate version of the same test or a different nationally standardized test selected by the parent/guardian from a list supplied by the Colorado State Board of Education.

6. If the evaluation conducted by a qualified person indicates that the student is making sufficient academic progress according to ability, the student shall continue to be exempt from compulsory attendance.
7. If the composite score on a retest continues to be at or below the 13th percentile or if the evaluation conducted by a qualified person indicates that the student is not making sufficient academic progress, the District shall take steps to require the parent/guardian to enroll the student in a public, independent, or parochial school.

Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities

Students participating in home-based educational programs have the same rights as Mapleton students to participate in District extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Such participation is subject to the same rules of any interscholastic organization or association of which the District is a member, applicable law, and the District's eligibility requirements. For extracurricular activities that are an extension of a course, such as a performing arts group, the student may be required to enroll in the course in order to participate.

If a student withdraws from the District more than 15 days after the start of the school year and enters a home-based educational program, the District shall remain the child's district of attendance for purposes of extracurricular and interscholastic activities. If the child was eligible to participate in extracurricular or interscholastic activities when he or she withdrew from the public school, the child remains eligible to participate at that school for the remainder of the academic year.

Habitually Truant Students

Any student who has been declared habitually truant at any time during the last six months of attending public school before the proposed enrollment in a home-based educational program may not be enrolled unless the parent/guardian first submits a written description of the curricula to be used along with the written notification required above (See #1).

Part-Time Enrollment

Subject to space and program resources, a home-based student may be permitted to enroll

on a part-time basis as long as the student is enrolled for at least 90 hours of teacher-pupil instruction and contact time during the semester. Part-time enrollment for less than 90 hours per semester will not be permitted.

Re-entering District Schools

A student from a home-based program may re-enter the District's schools at any time. With the consent of the student's parent/guardian, the District shall place the student at the grade level deemed most appropriate by the District. All students from home-based programs must demonstrate proficiency in the District's academic standards at their appropriate placement level. The District may test the student to determine placement.

The District shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with District requirements and academic standards, the District shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the District may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student's transcripts. The District may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing. See policy IKF: Graduation Requirements.

Adopted October 22, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

C.R.S. § 22-7-409(1.2)(d)(I)(B)(III) (*home school students not required to take state assessments*)

C.R.S. § 22-32-116.5 (*extracurricular and interscholastic activities*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-104.5 (*home-based education law*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-104.5(3)(f) (*scores on nationally standardized tests or evaluations are not considered when measuring school performance and determining accreditation*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-107 (*compulsory attendance law*)

1 CCR 301-39, 2254-R-5.13 (*when a district may count a home-study pupil in part-time membership*)

CROSS REFERENCES:

IKF: Graduation Requirements

JGA: Assignment of New Students to Classes and Grade Levels

JHB: Truancy

JJJ: Extracurricular Activity Eligibility