

SECTION: PROGRAMS  
 TITLE: HOME EDUCATION  
 ADOPTED: Jan 19, 2000  
 REVISED:

# CALIFORNIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

137. HOME EDUCATION	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board shall approve a program of home instruction, pursuant to Section 1327.1 of the School Code, permitting students to study at home in accordance with the following regulations.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 1327.1, teachers employed by the California Area School District will not be assigned by the School District to provide any services to the students participating in such a home school program.</p>
2. Definition SC 1327.1	<p><b>Home Education Program</b> – a program conducted in compliance with this section, by the parent or guardian or such person having legal custody of the child or children. A Home Education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of this act.</p> <p><b>Supervisor</b> – the parent or guardian or such person having legal custody of the child or children who shall be responsible for the provision of instruction, provided that such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.</p> <p><b>Hearing Examiner</b> – shall not be an officer, employee or agent of the Department of Education or of the school district or intermediate unit of residence of the child in the home education program.</p> <p><b>Appropriate Education</b> – a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required in this Act and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <p>A notarized affidavit of the parent or guardian or other person having legal custody of the child or children, shall be filed prior to the commencement of the Home Education program and annually thereafter</p>

on August 1 with the Superintendent of the school district and which sets forth:

1. The name of the supervisor of the home education program who shall be responsible for the provision of instruction.
2. The name and age of each child who shall participate in the Home Education program.
3. The address and telephone number of the Home Education program site.
4. That such subjects as required by law are offered in the English language, including an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area.
5. Evidence that the child has been immunized and has received the health and medical services required for students of the child's age or grade level.

The affidavit shall contain a certification to be signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults in the home and persons having legal custody of a child or children in the Home Education program has not been convicted of criminal offenses as enumerated in Sec. 111 of the School Code.

In the event of the Home Education program relocating to another school district, the supervisor must apply, by registered mail, to the Superintendent of the district in which s/he currently resides, requesting a letter of transfer for the Home Education program to the district to which the Home Education program is relocating. The letter of transfer must be filed by the supervisor of the Home Education program with the Superintendent of the new district of residence. The letter of transfer shall be issued no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the registered mail request of the Home Education program supervisor.

#### Program

A child who is enrolled in a home education program and whose education is therefore under the direct supervision of his/her parent, guardian or other person having legal custody shall be deemed to have met the requirements if the program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year at the secondary level.

At the elementary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography;

history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.

At the secondary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; and health and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires.

Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age appropriate course requirements of the State Board of Education.

#### Graduation Requirements

The following minimum courses in grades 9 through 12 are established as a requirement for graduation in a Home Education program: four years of English; three years of mathematics; three years of science; three years of social studies; two years of arts and humanities.

#### Requirements of Supervisor

In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor shall provide and maintain on file the following documentation for each student enrolled in the Home Education program: a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall consist of a log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, which designates by title the reading materials used, samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student and in grades three, five and eight results of nationally normed standardized achievement tests in reading, language arts and mathematics or results of statewide tests administered in these grade levels. The supervisor shall ensure that the nationally normed standardized tests or the statewide tests not be administered by the child's parent or guardian.

#### Evaluation Requirements

1. A teacher (other than a teacher employed by the California Area School District) or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level shall have at least two years of experience in grading any of the following subjects: English, to include spelling, reading, and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania: and civics.
2. A teacher (other than a teacher employed by the California Area School District) or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the

secondary level shall have at least two years of experience in grading any of the following subjects: English, to include language, literature, speech, reading and composition; science, to include biology, chemistry and physics; geography; social studies, to include economics, civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; foreign language; and mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra, trigonometry, calculus and geometry.

3. An annual written evaluation of the student's education progress as determined by a licensed clinical or school psychologist, or by a non-public school teacher or administrator, or by a teacher certified by the Commonwealth (other than a California Area School District teacher) is required. The evaluation shall also be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring. At the request of the supervisor, persons with other qualifications may conduct the evaluation with the prior consent of the Superintendent. In no event shall the evaluator be the supervisor or their spouse.
4. Documentation required by this policy shall be provided to the school district Superintendent or designee at the conclusion of each school year. If the Superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that, at any time during the school year, appropriate education may not be occurring in the Home Education program, s/he may require documentation pertaining to the portfolio, to be submitted to the district by certified mail (with return receipt requested) within fifteen (15) days, and the evaluation to be submitted within thirty (30) days.

If the Superintendent or designee determines, based on documentation, that appropriate education is not occurring, the Superintendent or designee shall send a letter to the supervisor that in his/her opinion appropriate education is not occurring in the Home Education program and shall return all documentation, specifying what aspect or aspects of the documentation are inadequate.

The supervisor of the program shall have twenty (20) days from the receipt of the certified letter to submit additional documentation demonstrating that appropriate education is taking place. If documentation is not submitted within that time, the Home Education program shall be out of compliance, and the student shall be promptly enrolled in the public or a nonpublic school.

#### Right of Hearing

The Board shall provide for a proper hearing by a duly qualified and impartial hearing examiner within thirty (30) days. The examiner shall render a decision within fifteen (15) days of the hearing except that s/he may require the establishment of a remedial education plan mutually agreed to by the Superintendent and supervisor of the Home Education

program which shall continue the Home Education program. The decision of the examiner may be appealed by either the supervisor or the Superintendent, to the Secretary of Education or Commonwealth Court.

If the hearing examiner finds that the documentation does not indicate that appropriate education is taking place in the Home Education program, the Home Education program shall be out of compliance, and the student shall be promptly enrolled in a public or non-public school.

#### Loan of Instructional Materials

The district shall, at the request of the Supervisor, lend to the Home Education program copies of the school district's planned courses, textbooks, and other curriculum materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.

#### Access of Home Education Students to School Programs and Activities

The district recognizes that families have the constitutional right to home educate their child in compliance with (1) the Constitutions of the United States and Pennsylvania, (2) compulsory attendance laws of Pennsylvania, (3) Act 169 of 1988, P.S. 1327.1, (4) The Pennsylvania Department of Education BEC 6-89, and (5) January 17, 1989 memo (file #SS-4-89) from the Commission of Basic Education about New Home School Law (Act 169). A copy of each is available from the principals, the Home Education Coordinator and the Superintendent, in that certain discretion has been left for the local school district relevant to home education. By this policy, the Board addresses the participation by students that are instructed in their own home in the programs and activities of the California Area School District.

"Curriculum" as defined in this policy shall include all courses of study approved and adopted by the Board and regularly offered courses of instruction required under chapter 5 of Curriculum Regulations of the State Board of Education and/or offered for credit for graduation.

"Interscholastic athletics" shall be defined to include those programs and activities as defined by and established in accordance with California Area School District Policy 123.

For the purpose of this policy, "extra-curricular activities" shall be those activities as defined by and established in accordance with California Area School District Policy 122.

#### Curriculum

Those resident pupils of the California Area School District who have had submitted on their behalf a notarized affidavit for home instruction offered by the California Area School District and shall not be permitted to enroll

in schools of the district on any part-time or dual basis at the elementary or secondary school level. The Board finds such part-time or dual enrollment in the curriculum of the district to be disruptive of the educational process of students enrolled on a full-time basis, disruptive of established classes for each of the instructors, and disruptive to the educational program offered in the form of home education to the pupil under and affidavit filed in accordance with California Area School District.

Interscholastic

Those resident pupils of the California Area School District who have had submitted on their behalf a notarized affidavit of home instruction shall be ineligible for participation in any interscholastics offered by the California Area School District by reason of inability to meet established eligibility criteria of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, which eligibility criteria have been adopted by the district in determining student scholastic eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics.

Extra-curricular

Those resident pupils of the California Area School District who have had submitted on their behalf a notarized affidavit for home instruction shall be ineligible for participation in any extra-curricular activities offered by the schools of the district and for any extra-curricular activity which has established eligibility requirements which are unable to be verified or otherwise substantiated for resident pupils instruction in the home.

Commencement

Students who complete home education programs may not participate in the school district's commencement activities.