

Exemption to Compulsory School Attendance Requirement for Homeschooled Students

Scope

West Virginia Code requires all children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) to attend public school unless an exemption to this requirement has been granted. The purpose of this policy is to make clear the requirements for students receiving home school instruction to obtain and maintain an exemption to the statutory compulsory school attendance requirement.

Obtaining Exemption

A compulsory school attendance exemption shall be granted to students receiving home school instruction after a Notice of Intent containing the following information and accompanying documentation is submitted to McDowell County Board of Education:

- A. Student's Name
- B. Student's Address
- C. Student's Date of Birth
- D. Assurance that student will receive instruction in reading, language, mathematics, science, and social studies
- E. Assurance that the student will be assessed annually in the required areas of instruction
- F. Verification the person(s) providing home school instruction has obtained a high school diploma, or its equivalent, or a post-secondary degree or certificate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education that has been authorized to confer a post-secondary degree or certificate in West Virginia by WVCTC or HEPC.

McDowell County Board of Education cannot grant an exemption to the compulsory school attendance requirement to a student that has not properly submitted the information described in 2.A.

Maintaining Exemption

The individual providing home school instruction shall annually assess the academic progress of the student using one of the following methods:

1. **Nationally normed standardized test.**
The student receiving home instruction takes a nationally normed standardized achievement test published or normed not more than ten years from the date of administration and administered under the conditions as set forth by the published instructions of the selected test and by a person qualified in accordance with the test's published guidelines in the subjects of reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies. The student is considered to have made acceptable progress when the mean of the student's test results in the required subject areas for any single year is within or above the fourth stanine or, if below the fourth stanine, shows improvement from the previous year's results,
2. **WV General Summative Assessment.**
The student participates in the testing program currently in use in the state's public schools. The test shall be administered to the student at a public school in the county of residence. Determination of acceptable progress shall be based on current guidelines of the state testing program.
3. **Student portfolio.**
A portfolio of samples of the student's work is reviewed by a certified teacher who determines whether the student's academic progress for the year is in accordance with the student's abilities. The teacher shall provide a written narrative about the student's progress in the areas of reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies and shall note any areas which, in the professional opinion of the reviewer, show need for improvement or remediation. If the narrative indicates that the student's academic progress for the year is in accordance with the student's abilities, the student is considered to have made acceptable progress.

4. **Other appropriate assessment measure.**

The student completes an alternative academic assessment of proficiency that is mutually agreed upon by the parent or legal guardian and the county superintendent.

The parent/guardian of a home schooled student shall submit to McDowell County Board of Education the results of the student's academic assessment described in 3.A. by June 30th in the year the student completes the following grade levels: 3, 5, 8, and 11. Notwithstanding, a student's academic assessment must be submitted every three (3) years once the student reaches seven (7) years of age.

If a student moves from one West Virginia County to another, the individual providing home school instruction shall notify the previous county superintendent. The individual shall also submit a new Notice of Intent containing the same information described in Section 2.A. to the new superintendent.

Returning to Public School

All person or persons previously providing home instruction who wish to enroll a student into the McDowell County public schools will be required to submit a portfolio and/or provide sufficient documentation related to work completed by the child during the home schooling period. This portfolio documentation (e.g. standardized tests, course testing, placements tests provided for courses, etc.) will be used by a committee made up of a school administrator, guidance counselor and teacher at the school to determine the proper grade/class placement for the child.

- A. A child entering public school and placed in grades **kindergarten through eight** will not be assigned a letter grade for any work completed during the home school period. The child's permanent record will reflect the time during which home schooling occurred. The county schools will utilize reading and math assessments to determine the most appropriate placement for the incoming students.
- B. A child entering public school and placed in grades **nine through twelve** will not be assigned a letter grade in a course appropriate for determining class ranking, but will receive an acceptance or denial designation indicating "credit" to be given and used toward graduation or "no credit" that will not be included as part of student's transcript. Only those courses that have received the "credit" status will count toward graduation and listed on the student's official transcript. The "credit" or "no credit" status will be determined by a school administrator and an appropriate subject matter teacher of the school by administering and reviewing the results of the end of the semester specific subject matter tests given to the student to determine credit/no credit status of the course. Students who have been home schooled for a period of time in grades 9 through 12, and did not receive a grade, will not be given a class rank for graduation.

Authority: W.Va. Code 18-8-1; WVBE Policy 2510

Adopted: August 17, 2020