

The administration contacted the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and requested clarification on compulsory attendance statute that regulates home schooling practices. At this time, DESE does not have guidelines on this matter and the department is not involved in overseeing school district policies regarding home schooling.

The district legal council evaluated our policy and offered the following statement to replace the Home Schooling language in the policy handbook:

Replace entire Homeschooling section on pages 63 and 64 with:

Parents/guardians who choose to educate their children at home, as allowed under Massachusetts law, can fulfill the requirements of the compulsory attendance statute by having their education programs reviewed and accepted in advance by the Worcester Public Schools. The notifications to home-school (elementary and secondary versions) are available upon request from the office of the Child Study Department at (508) 799-3175.

Parents are expected to provide evidence of their child's homeschooling program once a year. Students completing high school through homeschooling programs are not eligible for a Worcester Public Schools Diploma.

A student being educated through home schooling may have access to public school activities of an extra-curricular nature (e.g. sports, clubs) with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

The district reserves the right to allow enrolled students to have precedence or priority over the home-schooled student with regard to placement on sports teams and activities that have limited enrollment. With approval of the Superintendent or designee, and in consultation with the Principal, a home-schooled student may participate in sports teams and activities that have limited enrollment provided that he or she does not displace an enrolled student. Home-schooled students applying to participate in district-sponsored sports must follow the Athletic Eligibility guidelines described on page << TBD >>.