

AT-HOME INSTRUCTION

PURPOSE

This policy shall serve to establish and communicate the Coventry Public Schools guidelines, procedures and expectations in relation to students' regular education program (in the home) outside the public school environment as provided by state law.

PHILOSOPHY

The Coventry Public Schools recognize the right of parents to utilize at-home instruction as an alternative method for complying with the state compulsory attendance law. Some parents, for personal reasons, may choose to educate their children at home. Any parent(s) or guardian(s) intending to carry out their child's or children's educational program through an at-home instruction program is expected to comply with state law.

POLICY STATEMENT

Parents wishing to exercise their right to educate a child or children at home must submit a letter of intent (LOI) to the Coventry School Committee, through the Superintendent of Schools, prior to home schooling. At-home instruction parents are invited to meet with the Assistant Superintendent, or designee, to discuss an instructional plan in compliance with all R.I. General Laws. Parents may proceed with their chosen Home School Program upon annual submission of their LOI, and subject to approval by the School Committee each year.

Upon the receipt of the LOI by the Superintendent (or his/her designee), the name of the student will be submitted to the School Committee for approval at the next regular School Committee meeting. Student names and their specific details will not be posted in School Committee minutes or on any public site used by the district.

POLICY STIPULATIONS

1. The Letter of Intent will reflect that the parent(s) or guardian(s) shall comply with R.I.G.L. §16-19-2. The At-Home Instruction program shall be taught and must include subjects taught in the English language. Subjects must be taught to the same extent as subjects are required to be taught in the public schools. The program must include reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, history of Rhode Island, and the principals of American Government as these subjects are required to be taught in the public schools thoroughly and efficiently.

The LOI should be submitted through the Superintendent's Office and provide the student's name, address, month and year of birth, most recent grade completed, parent name and contact information.

2. Parents must maintain instructional attendance records as required by State of Rhode Island Law and submit these records to the Coventry Public Schools upon request of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. An at-home instruction school year must be substantially equal to that required by law in Coventry Public Schools.
3. The Coventry Public Schools requires some type of confirmation of academic progress that will accommodate the preferences of parent(s) or guardian(s) for certain mechanisms for measurement which may take the form of a report card, written evaluations, dated work samples, testing or other means of evaluation.
4. Children receiving home instruction have the same rights that private school students have to be loaned textbooks in science, math, English, and modern language. Requests for such books must be made following the procedure established for private school students.
5. At-home instruction participation in specific academic programs, enrollment in specific courses, participation in extracurricular and/or interscholastic activities, access to formal testing programs, and use of specific facilities of Coventry Public Schools will be directed through the office of the Assistant Superintendent or designee and is contingent upon the understanding that approval will be guided by the following considerations:
 - a. Availability of space within the established student participation level of the program/class, etc.
 - b. Full-time enrollees in the Coventry Public Schools shall have preference.
 - c. The parent provides transportation to and from school-based activity.
 - d. Students follow all rules and meet the same requirements as established for public school students, including health records, and student information system data and other expectations as stated in the student handbook.
 - e. Participation requires an additional cost to the Coventry Public Schools.
 - f. Enrollment in specific courses offered by the Coventry Public Schools, and at the middle and high school level only, shall be limited to those specific course/classes students may need but are unable to obtain access to sufficient instructional opportunity through other means available within their approved At-Home Instruction program.
6. Students wishing to participate in a sport must be approved based upon the criteria in Section 5 and meet all eligibility requirements of the Rhode Island Athletic Interscholastic League.
 - a. The principal of the middle school or high school must be provided with a copy of a listing of all academic grades earned for each quarter, signed by a parent or other principal provider of home instruction. Grades must be provided to the principal no later than the end of each quarter beginning with the quarter prior to the start of practice for any sport and continuing for each quarter during which

the student participates in the sport. A portfolio of student work in support of earned grades must be available for review.

- b. The principal of the middle school or high school must be provided with a copy of a log of dates and times of school attendance during each quarter, signed by a parent or other principal provider of home instruction. Attendance statistics must be provided to the principal no later than the end of the quarter beginning with the quarter prior to the start of practice for any sport and continuing for each quarter during which the student participates in the sport.

7. At-Home Instruction students who request to attend any academic program at Coventry Public Schools will:

- a. Take a placement test, if applicable.
- b. Not be included in class rank.

First Reading: 11/22/2016

Second Reading: 12/8/16

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