

SEDGWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE

POLICY NUMBER: 9.18

Adopted: 8/727/91

Previous Revision: 10/30/96, 10/19/04

Revised: 1/19/10

HOME SCHOOLING

Parents/guardians who wish to have their children fulfill the compulsory school attendance law through equivalent education by home schooling must comply with the provisions of 20-A MRSA § 5001-A(3)(A)(4).

- A. The student's parent/guardian must provide a written notice of intent to provide home instruction simultaneously to the Superintendent of Schools and to the Commissioner of the Department of Education within ten calendar days of the beginning of home instruction. The notice must contain the following information:
1. The name, signature and address of the student's parent/guardian;
 2. The name and age of the student;
 3. The date the home instruction program will begin;
 4. A statement of assurance that indicates the home instruction program will provide at least 175 days annually of instruction and will provide instruction in: English and language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education, health education, library skills, and fine arts. In at least one grade from grade 6 to 12, the student shall be provided with a course in Maine studies. At one grade level from grade 7 to 12, the student will demonstrate proficiency in the use of computers;
 5. A statement of assurance that indicates that the home instruction program will include an annual assessment of the student's academic progress that includes at least one of the forms of assessment described in 20-A MRSA § 5001-A(3)(A)(4)(b) and paragraph B below.
- B. On or before September 1 of each subsequent year of home instruction, the student's parent/guardian must file a letter with the Superintendent and to the Commissioner stating the intention to continue providing home instruction and enclose a copy of one of the following forms of annual assessment of the student's academic progress:
1. A standardized achievement test administered through the Sedgwick Elementary School or through other arrangements approved by the Commissioner. If the test is administered through the Sedgwick School that administration must be agreed to by the Superintendent prior to submission of the written notice of intent to provide home instruction;
 2. A test developed by the Superintendent/designee appropriate to the student's home instruction program, which must be agreed to by

student's parent/guardian prior to submission of the written notice of intent to provide home instruction;

3. A review and acceptance of the student's progress by an identified individual who holds a current Maine teacher's certificate;
 4. A review and acceptance of the student's progress based on, but not limited to, a presentation of an educational portfolio of the student to a local area home schooling support group whose membership for this purpose includes a currently certified Maine teacher or administrator.
- C. Dissemination of any information filed under 20-A MRSA § 5001-A(3)(A) (which applies to alternatives to attendance at public day school, including home schooling) is governed by the provisions of 20-A MRSA § 6001 (dissemination of information); the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC § 1232g (2002); and the federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, 20 USC § 1401-1487 (2002), except that "directory information" as defined by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is confidential and is not subject to public disclosure unless the parent/guardian specifically permits disclosure in writing or a judge orders otherwise. Copies of any information filed under 20-A MRSA § 5001-A(3)(A) must be maintained by the student's parent/guardian until the home instruction program concludes. The records must be made available to the Commissioner upon request.
- D. If the home instruction program is discontinued, students of compulsory school age must be enrolled in a public school or an equivalent instruction alternative as provided for by law. The Sedgwick School Committee accepts no responsibility for the application, review, approval, or oversight of home instruction programs except as provided for by law or this policy .
- E. Participation by home-schooled students in any public school programs shall be permitted when a homeschooled student's parents have complied with the requirements of paragraphs A. and B. of this policy.
- F. The Superintendent shall maintain a roster of all students eligible to attend the Sedgwick Elementary School who are receiving equivalent instruction, as provided in Department of Education rules.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 5001-A(3)
Ch. 125 § 12.02, Ch. 130 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Policy References: Sedgwick Truancy Policy 3.01A
Sedgwick Student Records Policy 3.02
Sedgwick Student Placement Including Transfer Students and Home Schooling
Students Policy 3.03