

STATE OF OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HOME EDUCATION NOTIFICATION FORM
(Form Optional)

School District in which you reside: _____

A parent who elected to provide home education shall supply the following information to the superintendent:

1. School year for which notification is made: _____

2. Name of parent(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

3. Name, address, and telephone number of person who will be teaching the child the subjects set forth in #5 if other than the parent.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

4. Full name and birthdate of child(ren) to be educated at home:

Child's Name

Birthdate

(CONTINUED)

5. Assurance that home education will include the following, except that home education shall not be required to include any concept, topic, or practice that is in conflict with the sincerely held religious beliefs of the parent:
- (a) Language, reading, spelling, and writing;
 - (b) Geography, history of the United States and Ohio; and national, state, and local government;
 - (c) Mathematics;
 - (d) Science;
 - (e) Health;
 - (f) Physical education;
 - (g) Fine arts, including music; and
 - (h) First aid, safety, and fire prevention.
6. Brief outline of the intended curriculum for the current year. Such outline is for informational purposes only.
7. List of:
- _____ textbooks;
 - _____ correspondence course;
 - _____ commercial curricula; or
 - _____ other basic teaching materials that the parent intends to use for home education.
8. Assurance that the child will be provided a minimum of nine hundred (900) hours of home education each school year. _____
9. Assurance that the home teacher has one of the following qualifications:
- _____ a high school diploma; or
 - _____ the certificate of high school equivalence; or
 - _____ standardized test scores that demonstrate high school equivalence; or
 - _____ other equivalent credential found appropriate by the superintendent; or
 - _____ lacking the above, the home teacher must work under the direction of a person holding a baccalaureate degree from a recognized college until the child/children's test results demonstrate reasonable proficiency or until the home teacher obtains a high school diploma or the certificate of high school equivalence.
10. The parent(s) shall affirm the information supplied with his or her signature prior to providing it to the superintendent.

Date

Signature of Affirmation

Questions and Answers Regarding Home Education

In July 1989, the State Board of Education adopted Rules for Excuses from Compulsory Attendance for Home Education. These rules are contained in Chapter 3301-34 of the Administrative Code and were distributed after their adoption to all superintendents.

Over the past several years, a number of questions have been raised by superintendents concerning these rules. The following questions and answers are offered as guides to assist in implementing the standards and in working with home educating parents.

1. Does the word "may" in reference to attending part-time mean that a school district can refuse to take home educated students on a part-time basis?

Yes. Rule 3301-34-03(G) states "At the request of a parent, a child who has been excused from compulsory school attendance for the purpose of home education may be enrolled in a chartered public school in the school district of residence . . . on a part-time basis." The option to enroll the student on a part-time basis is the right of the school district.

There are two exceptions. It is the position of the Ohio Department of Education that school districts shall allow home educated students to enroll in driver's education programs. In addition, those students who qualify cannot be denied special education services.

2. May a superintendent request academic assessment information from the previous school year when the student was not in the district (home education, other public school, elsewhere)?

The standards state that the parent must provide an academic assessment report only when sending their subsequent notification for home education. If the academic assessment report is not sent with the subsequent notification, the superintendent may request, in writing, the missing information. Requests for the initial notification need not include assessment results for the previous year.

3. If assessment information is not available when home education begins, may testing be required to establish a starting point from which to gauge the home education progress?

No, the academic assessment report only needs to be sent when the parent is sending the subsequent notification for home education. The superintendent may not require an academic assessment report to establish a starting point from which to gauge academic proficiency.

7. Can home education parents declare themselves "08" schools?

There have been questions about non-chartered, non-tax supported schools which are also categorized as "08" schools. The State Board of Education has adopted standards for these schools. These rules are contained in Rule 3301-35-08 on pages 21 and 22 of the Minimum Standards for Elementary and Secondary Schools (1983). Superintendents are encouraged to review that particular section for the rules governing these schools.

8. How do missing children laws affect the information collected on home education families? (Check of driver's license, birth certificates, etc.)

School districts can only collect the data set forth in the State Board standards governing home education.

9. May superintendents request copies of high school diplomas, college diplomas, transcripts, etc. of home education parents, or home teachers to "affirm" that proper credentials are in place?

No. The standards do not require that the specific copy of a high school diploma or college diploma, etc. be sent with the notification for home education.

10. May superintendents require parents to come to a conference with district staff to discuss proposed educational programs submitted by parents?

No. Parents are not required to attend a conference with the superintendent or district staff to discuss the intended curriculum. They are required to provide the district with written notification.

11. How are high school credits awarded to students entering public schools during the high school years?

If parents enroll a student in one of the top four grade levels, the district should have for review the most recent assessment report, may require the student to take any standardized achievement tests that were given to other students of similar age during the time this student was on home education, and may use interviews with the student or parent as well as other evaluative methods.

12. May superintendents require periodic meetings with home education parents to review progress of student(s)?

No. Superintendents may not require parents to attend a meeting at the school site nor may school personnel require a visit take place at the home education site.

(3) Providing frequent opportunities for student to read and to re-read books and materials to practice and apply their understanding of phonics.

(4) Developing the ability of students to approximate word pronunciation by applying phonic generalizations.

(5) Demonstrating letter-sound relationships using familiar words as concrete examples.

(6) Showing students how to compare unknown words with similarly spelled familiar words to help recognize unknown words.

(7) Utilizing knowledge of letter-sound relationships, meaning of text, and structure of words to help students to recognize unknown words.

(E) Phonics instruction functions as a technique to help students construct meaning from text and to develop independence in learning.

(F) The state board of education shall provide inservice training programs for teachers on the use of phonics as a technique in the teaching of reading in grades kindergarten through three.

HISTORY: Eff. 4-27-90 (1989-90 OMR 1272)

CROSS REFERENCES

RC 3301.07, Powers of state board

Chapter 3301-34

Rules for Excuses From Compulsory Attendance for Home Education

Promulgated pursuant to RC Ch 119

3301-34-01	Definitions
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3301-34-01 Definitions

The following terms are defined as they are used in this chapter.

(A) "Certified teacher" means a person who holds a valid Ohio teaching certificate, excluding the certificate issued under section 3301.071 of the Revised Code.

(B) "Home education" means education primarily directed and provided by the parent or guardian of a child under division (A)(2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code which child is of compulsory school age and is not enrolled in a nonpublic school.

(C) "Parent" means a parent, guardian or other person having charge or care of a child as defined by section 3321.01 of the Revised Code.

(D) "School district of residence" means the public school district within which the parent resides.

(E) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of schools of the city, county, or exempted village school district in which the parent resides.

HISTORY: Eff. 8-1-89 (1989-90 OMR 17)

CROSS REFERENCES

RC 3321.04, Compulsory attendance

3301-34-02 Statement of purpose

The purpose of the rules in this chapter is to prescribe conditions governing the issuance of excuses from school attendance under section 3321.04 of the Revised Code, to provide for the consistent application thereof throughout the state by superintendents, and to safeguard the primary right of parents to provide the education for their child(ren). Home education must be in accordance with law.

HISTORY: Eff. 8-1-89 (1989-90 OMR 17)

CROSS REFERENCES

RC 3321.04, Compulsory attendance

3301-34-03 Notification

(A) A parent who elects to provide home education shall supply the following information to the superintendent:

(1) School year for which notification is made;

(2) Name of parent, address, and telephone number (telephone number optional);

(3) Name, address, and telephone number (telephone number optional) of person(s) who will be teaching the child the subjects set forth in paragraph (A)(5) of this rule, if other than the parent;

(4) Full name and birthdate of child to be educated at home;

(5) Assurance that home education will include the following, except that home education shall not be required to include any concept, topic, or practice that is in conflict with the sincerely held religious beliefs of the parent:

(a) Language, reading, spelling, and writing;

(b) Geography, history of the United States and Ohio; and national, state, and local government;

(c) Mathematics;

- (i) A certified teacher; or
- (ii) Another person mutually agreed upon by the parent(s) and the superintendent; or
- (iii) A person duly authorized by the publisher of the test.

(b) Results should demonstrate reasonable proficiency as compared to other children in the district at the same grade level. Any child that has a composite score at or above the twenty-fifth percentile shall be deemed to be performing at a level of reasonable proficiency.

(2) A written narrative indicating that a portfolio of samples of the child's work has been reviewed and that the child's academic progress for the year is in accordance with the child's abilities.

(a) The written narrative shall be prepared by:

- (i) A certified teacher; or
- (ii) Other person mutually agreed upon by the parent(s) and the superintendent.

(b) The parent(s) shall be responsible for the payment of fees charged for preparation of the narrative.

(3) An alternative academic assessment of the child's proficiency mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent.

(C) If the parent(s) chooses to have the standardized testing conducted as part of the school district scheduled testing program, there shall be no cost to the parent(s). The time and location for testing shall be established by the school district.

(D) If the parent(s) chooses to have the standardized testing conducted privately, the parent(s) shall pay for the testing. The time and location for testing shall be established by the parent(s).

HISTORY: Eff. 8-1-89 (1989-90 OMR 18)

CROSS REFERENCES

RC 3321.04, Compulsory attendance

3301-34-05 Remediation

(A) If the annual academic assessment indicates that the child is not demonstrating reasonable proficiency, the superintendent shall notify the parent(s) in writing that an appropriate plan of remediation shall be submitted by the parent(s) to the superintendent within thirty days after receipt of such notification.

(B) During remediation the parent(s) shall submit a quarterly report to the superintendent which includes:

- (1) A written narrative evaluating the child's progress, including an explanation if the child has made less than satisfactory progress in any subject; and

(2) An explanation if less than the intended curriculum planned for the quarter was covered.

(C) Remediation may be eliminated at any time during the year upon determination by the superintendent that the child is demonstrating reasonable proficiency. At the time of such determination, the superintendent shall notify the parent(s) in writing that remediation is no longer needed.

(D) If the child does not demonstrate reasonable progress during remediation, the superintendent may, subsequent to a due process hearing, under paragraph (D) of rule 3301-34-03 of the Administrative Code, if requested by the parent, revoke the child's excuse from attendance and notify the parent(s) in writing to enroll the child within thirty calendar days in a school that is in compliance with Chapter 3301-35 of the Administrative Code. The superintendent shall also notify the parent(s) in writing that the parent(s) has the right to appeal the superintendent's decision to the juvenile judge of the county, within ten calendar days, in accordance with section 3331.08 of the Revised Code.

HISTORY: Eff. 8-1-89 (1989-90 OMR 18)

CROSS REFERENCES

RC 3321.04, Compulsory attendance

3301-34-06 Placement in school

The school district of residence shall enroll or reenroll a child who has been home educated without discrimination or prejudice. The superintendent shall determine the appropriate placement of such child in accordance with section 3319.01 of the Revised Code. In making the placement decision, the superintendent shall consider:

(A) The child's most recent annual academic assessment report;

(B) Requiring the child to take any or all of the nationally normed, standardized achievement tests that are regularly scheduled for district pupils of similar age; and

(C) Other evaluation information that may include interviews with the child and/or parent(s).

HISTORY: Eff. 8-1-89 (1989-90 OMR 18)

CROSS REFERENCES

RC 3321.04, Compulsory attendance