

Home Education

The Bedford School Committee recognizes the right of parents/guardians to educate their children outside of a school setting as provided by General Laws Chapter 76, Section 1. The law requires, however, that a child being educated outside of school must also be instructed in a manner approved, in advance, by the Superintendent or designee or the School Committee. The Bedford Public Schools does not approve home education programs for anything less than a full time instructional program. *

The following guidelines are to be followed in considering home education plans:

A. Procedure:

1. Parents/guardians must obtain approval from the Superintendent of Schools or designee prior to beginning a home education program.
2. If the home education plan is rejected, the Superintendent must detail the reasons for the decision, and allow the parents/guardians to revise their proposal to remedy its inadequacies. Responses by both parties should not exceed a two week period
3. If the home education plan is rejected, the Superintendent must provide the parents/guardians with an opportunity to explain their proposed plan and present witnesses on their behalf.
4. Any home education plan must be approved by the Superintendent or designee annually if the student is to continue in a home education program for more than one school year.

B. Home Education Plan Requirements:

In obtaining approval from the Superintendent, the parents/ guardians must submit the following information:

1. Evidence that the proposed home education plan provides a structured learning time that equals in thoroughness and efficiency that of the Bedford Public Schools.
2. The proposed curriculum and content in each of the proposed subjects. This will include a listing of subjects to be taught.
3. The general qualifications of the parent/ guardian / tutor who will be teaching the child.
4. The textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional aids to be used by the child, along with sample lesson plans and/or examples of learning experiences.
5. Plans for progress reports to be provided to the Principal of the school district in which the child resides for review. These may include sample work from

* For purposes of understanding a home schooled child is not enrolled in the public schools.

each subject area instructed. Progress reports may entail a log, journal or portfolio or other written, oral or videotaped report or dated work samples; an independent evaluation made by someone acceptable to both school and parents, or a standardized test agreeable to parents and administrators; or any other method agreed to by both school officials and parents.

This information must be provided with a letter requesting approval for a home education program.

C. Review:

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall periodically review each home education program for compliance with the approved plan. Should a home education program be found to be not in compliance, approval may be withdrawn. Failure of a home educator to abide in good faith by the procedures outlined may result in the School Committee taking action under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, sections 2 and/or 4, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. CHINS proceedings pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 119, section 21, will not be invoked for any child involved in an approved home education program.

D. Diploma:

Home schoolers are not issued diplomas by the Bedford School District.

Legal Reference: Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court case entitled Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Mass. 324 (1987).

M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 1