

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL/UNION#38 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

HOME EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

BACKGROUND: Massachusetts General Laws 76, Section 1, the compulsory school attendance law, provides standards by which a judge may determine that a child is in need of educational care. MGL Chapter 71, Sections 1,2,3 and 38G provides a mandate for subjects that must be taught in public schools and sets forth qualifications for public school teachers.

The Frontier Regional/School Union #38 school committees, accordingly, recognize that home education may be an alternative to public school education for a child. This right is not absolute and is subject to reasonable regulation by the local school authorities. Parents have the right to propose a home education alternative and the superintendent has the responsibility under MGL Chapter 76, Section 1, to approve or disapprove the proposal. This policy describes the procedures to be followed in such approval process.

A. Approval Procedures

1. Parents must obtain approval from the Superintendent of Schools prior to removing the children from the public school and beginning the home education program. Approval must be renewed annually.
2. The parents must demonstrate that the home education proposal will be equal in thoroughness and efficacy as that of the public schools and must follow the guidelines of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks standards.
3. The parents will fill out a form, herein attached, to receive approval.
4. If the home education plan is rejected, the superintendent must detail the reasons for the decision and allow the parents to revise their proposal to remedy its inadequacies. If they begin the home education program without the necessary approval, the superintendent may initiate a truancy proceeding or a care and protection petition which would have to show that the instruction in the home doesn't meet the statutory standards for thoroughness, efficiency and educational progress.

B. Approval Factors

The superintendent will consider the following factors in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal:

1. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
General Laws Chapter 71, Section 1, 2 and 3 lists the subjects of instruction that must be followed. The proposed home school year must be no less than 180 days.
2. The competency of the parents to teach the children.
General Laws Chapter 71, Section 1 provides that teachers shall be “of competent ability and good morals”. Parents need not be certified, nor must they have a college or advanced academic degree. However, the superintendent/principal may properly inquire as to the academic credentials or other qualifications of the parents who will be instructing the children.
3. The textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional aids to be used by the children and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents.
The superintendent needs access to this material to determine the type of subjects to be taught and the grade level of instruction for comparison purposes with the curriculum of the public schools. This is not to dictate the manner in which the subjects will be taught.
4. Periodic standardized testing of the children to ensure educational programs and the attainment of minimum standards.
The superintendent may require such testing, and in consultation with the parents may decide where the testing will occur and the type of testing instrument to be used. The superintendent and parents may agree to other means of measuring the children's progress, such as: daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios, or dated work samples. On-site visits by the principal/co-principal may be included. At the request of parents, such on-site visits may be replaced by interviews of the children at the public school site by the principal.

Frontier Regional/Union#38 School Districts, with certain restrictions, will make specific resources and programs available to parents and students participating in approved home education programs. Participation in extracurricular activities such as band and after school intramural sports, and club programs are permitted provided students meet academic, citizenship, health and any other requirements of the individual school. Students enrolled or participating in any on/off-site school program or activity must have their immunization records and an emergency card on file with the Frontier Regional/Union#38 School Districts' schools.

C. Diploma

A student who is home schooled in the district is ineligible to receive a diploma from Frontier Regional School.

Adopted:

Conway Grammar School	<u>05/18/06</u>
Deerfield Elementary School	<u>05/03/06</u>
Frontier Regional School	<u>03/14/06</u>
Sunderland Elementary School	<u>04/12/06</u>
Whately Elementary School	<u>05/01/06</u>