

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IFQ

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF ADVANCED STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

HOME INSTRUCTION

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to determine if a child participating in a home instruction program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age.

B. BACKGROUND

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) to establish procedures to determine if a child participating in a home instruction program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age.

In accordance with COMAR, parents/guardians may choose to educate their children at home rather than enrolling them in AACPS. Accordingly, AACPS supports home instruction as set forth in State regulations.

C. PROCEDURES

1. Inquiries Regarding Home Instruction

Inquiries regarding home instruction shall be referred to the Office of Home Instruction in AACPS.

2. Notification

- a. A parent(s)/guardian(s) who chooses to provide home instruction to the individual's own child shall notify the Office of Home Instruction and initially sign a written agreement as prescribed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- b. Upon the request of a parent(s)/guardian(s), the Office of Home Instruction shall provide the parent(s)/guardian(s) with a copy of the AACPS *Guidelines for Home Instruction* as well as the AACPS *Home Instruction Notification* form which is aligned with the requirements set forth by MSDE.

- c. Notification for home instruction shall consist of a completed AACPS *Home Instruction Notification* form which the parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit either electronically or by mail to the Office of Home Instruction at least 15 days prior to beginning a home instruction program.

3. **Home Instruction Program**

- a. The home instruction program provided by a parent(s)/guardian(s) shall:
 - i. Provide regular, thorough instruction in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age;
 - ii. Include instruction in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education; and
 - iii. Take place on a regular basis during the school year and be of sufficient duration to implement the instruction program.
- b. The home instruction program may include enrollment on a part-time or full-time basis in courses offered by accredited or unaccredited colleges.

4. **Educational Materials**

A parent(s)/guardian(s) who provides home instruction shall maintain a portfolio of materials which:

- a. Demonstrates the parent(s)/guardian(s) is providing regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the areas specified in subsection 3.a.ii. of this regulation;
- b. Includes relevant materials such as instructional materials, reading materials, and examples of the child's writings, worksheets, workbooks, creative materials, and tests; and
- c. Shall be reviewed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee at the conclusion of each semester of the AACPS school year at such times as are mutually agreeable to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s).

5. **Review and Verification of Home Instruction**

- a. Enrollment in a home instruction program is complete once the notification is reviewed and verified by the Manager for Home Instruction.
- b. A parent(s)/guardian(s) must annually confirm the intent to continue home instruction, including any change in supervision status.

- c. The Office of Home Instruction shall verify which AACPS school the child would attend if the child were to attend a public school. Once the school has been verified, the Office of Home Instruction shall notify the principal.
- d. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) chooses to include the child in the AACPS standardized testing program, the Office of Home Instruction shall notify the principal of the school the child would attend if the child were to attend a public school.
- e. A principal shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of all testing dates and locations where the child must report for testing.

6. **Renewal of Home Instruction**

- a. Enrollment in home instruction shall remain valid unless rescinded by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee determines on the review of the home instruction program or inspection of the portfolio that a child is not receiving a regular, thorough instruction program in accordance with the provisions in this regulation and in accordance with State law and regulations.
- b.
 - i. If the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee determines on the review of the home instruction program or inspection of the portfolio that the child is not receiving a regular, thorough instruction during the school year in studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age in accordance with State law and regulations, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the deficiencies in the program.
 - ii. Within 30 days of receipt of notification of deficiencies, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall provide evidence to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee and the Office of Home Instruction showing that the deficiency has been or is being corrected.
 - iii. If the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee determines that there is not a satisfactory plan to correct a deficiency or if a deficiency is not corrected, the child shall be enrolled promptly in a public school or a nonpublic school in accordance with State regulations.
- c. If a parent(s)/guardian(s) does not agree to the requirements set forth in this regulation and COMAR, the child shall be enrolled promptly in a public school or nonpublic school in accordance with State regulations.

Regulation History: Issued 09/06/06; Revised 09/01/21

Note Previous Regulation History: Replaces AR605.17, adopted 11/07/84 and revised 01/17/90
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Legal References: Sections 2-205 and 7-301 of the Education Article; Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.10.01 Home Instruction