Option A: Supervision by Anne Arundel County Public Schools

A Closer Look at Option A: Supervision by Anne Arundel County Public Schools

To ensure compliance with state regulations, the AACPS Home School Office conducts two, annual reviews of every home-schooled student’s program. A review is similar to a conference in which the parent meets one-on-one with a staff member from the Home School Office for approximately 30 minutes per child. Typically, these reviews are conducted at the end of the first semester (late January/February) and at the end of the school year (late May/June). Parents—particularly those new to home schooling—who desire to have a review conducted prior to the end of semester one, may request an "early-bird" review in the fall (October/November). Early-bird reviews enable parents to receive feedback regarding their program early on, to determine if they are on the right track.

Reviews are conducted at:

- selected public libraries (Broadneck, Crofton, Odenton, North County, Rivera Beach, Severna Park)
- Ft. Meade Child, Youth, and School Services Building (1900 Reece Road, Ft. Meade, MD 20755)
- Board of Education (2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401)

Parents are informed of the dates and locations via email and USPS mail and may select a date and location most convenient for them. Students are welcomed, but not required, to attend. In conducting reviews, AACPS follows COMAR regulations. The reviewer is looking for documentation of regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the curricular subjects usually taught in the public school to students 5-17 years old. The curricular subjects required for elementary students include:

1. Language Arts/Reading (English)
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Art
6. Music
7. Physical Education
8. Health

Secondary students are required to study the four core subjects--English, math, science, and social studies, as well as three electives of choice.

The parent must show concrete evidence that instruction in these subjects occurs on a regular basis during the school year and be of sufficient duration to implement the instructional program. To provide evidence of regular, thorough instruction, parents prepare a portfolio that includes dated, relevant materials such as:

- Instructional materials
- Curriculum documents
- Sample of reading materials (or lists of books read)
- Student writing samples

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- Student assignments
- Worksheets
- Workbooks
- Photos of activities showing student engagement
- Research Projects
- Creative projects
- Assessments (test/quizzes)

Keep in mind that the purpose of the review is not to judge the quality of your instruction, but to document evidence of compliance with COMAR. During the conference, the reviewer will use an iPad to complete a Review Evaluation form that documents the evidence parents present. If there are any deficiencies noted during the first review, the parent will be asked to provide the needed documentation at the second review.

**Top Ten Tips for Creating a Portfolio**