

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 117

SECTION: 100 Programs

TITLE: Home and Hospital
Instruction

ADOPTED: September 21, 2011

REVISED: June 26, 2025

117 HOME AND HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this home and hospital instruction policy is to provide direction and guidance for students experiencing a permanent or temporary disability or illness requiring instruction outside of the school building.

This policy is intended to help staff, students and families determine if a student who is confined to the home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or psychological or psychiatric reasons should be receiving homebound instruction, Instruction Conducted in the Home (“ICH”), or Instruction for Students Confined to Hospitals.

Authority

The Board of Education provides, pursuant to law and regulations, homebound instruction, ICH, or services for students confined in hospitals.

Homebound instruction is a service the District *may* provide during a temporary period of excused absence not to exceed three (3) months when students are confined to home or hospital for physical disabilities, chronic medical conditions, illness, injury, urgent medical reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons expressly written by a board certified psychologist or psychiatrist. The term “urgent reasons” shall be strictly construed and does not permit irregular attendance. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

Instruction Conducted in the Home is a special education placement made by the IEP team for students with disabilities who, due to medical or physical conditions, are unable to attend school for the entire day. Instruction is provided in the home or another agreed-upon location. [\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]](#)

Instruction for Students Confined to Hospitals is a service the District provides to students who are unable to leave a hospital or long-term medical-care setting. Instruction for Students Confined to Hospitals should offer appropriate educational services consistent with state and federal law and regulations and Board Policies in order to increase successful educational re-engagement upon discharge. [\[2\]\[6\]\[10\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent, or their designee to develop procedures to implement this policy. These administrative procedures shall delineate the process through which students are determined to be eligible for homebound instruction, ICH, or to receive services for students confined to hospitals.

Mandatory Procedures

Homebound Instruction

The Board shall provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least ten (10) school days. Homebound services provide continuity of instruction to students who are unable to participate in their school of enrollment due to any of the following conditions:

1. A physical or medical condition as diagnosed and documented by a board-certified physician;
2. A mental or emotional condition as diagnosed and documented by a board certified psychiatrist;
3. Chronic medical conditions that, even with treatment, have episodes of exacerbation resulting in periodic absences; or
4. Other urgent reasons but the term ‘urgent reasons’ shall be strictly construed and does not permit irregular attendance [\[2\]](#)

Parents/caregivers who wish to request homebound instruction should contact their school nurse. The Administrative Procedures to this policy provide further information for families and staff regarding the procedures that apply to these requests.

Homebound instruction should be used as a last resort after all other options and/or alternative schedules have been exhausted.

Exceptions may be recommended by the Superintendent or designee as deemed advisable and in the best interests of the student and/or district and must be approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The program of homebound instruction provided to each student shall be in accordance with the standards established by the state. The Board reserves the right to withhold homebound instruction when any one (1) of the following occurs:

1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher.
2. A parent/caregiver or other adult in authority is not present with the student during the hours of instruction.
3. The medical, psychological, or psychiatric condition of the student precludes any benefit from the instructional session(s).

Intermittent Homebound Instruction

A student may be provided homebound instruction on an intermittent basis during short but repeated periods of absences due to exacerbation of a chronic medical condition. The student is expected to return to school when the exacerbation subsides. The approval for intermittent homebound instruction will be granted for no longer than one (1) school year and will expire at the end of any school year.

Instruction Conducted in the Home

Instruction in the Home is a special educational placement made by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. This educational placement is only for students who require full-time special education services and programs outside the school setting for the entire day. Ordinarily, these will be students who, because of a severe medical condition or mobility impairment, are unable to leave home to attend school. Although a student placed by their IEP team on Instruction Conducted in the Home does not receive their program in the school setting, he or she remains entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). [\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]](#)

Instruction for Students Confined to Hospitals

The District shall either provide or confirm that school aged students confined to hospital settings located in Philadelphia receive appropriate educational services pursuant to and consistent with state and federal law and regulations and District policies and procedures. [\[2\]\[6\]\[10\]](#)

Excusals from Attendance

If a condition exists which prevents a child from the ability to benefit from study, the student may be entered into the inactive roll with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's approval, until such time as the student may benefit from study. [\[11\]](#)

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. 1329](#)
2. [22 PA Code 11.25](#)
3. [22 PA Code 11.41](#)
4. [Pol. 204 - Attendance](#)
5. [34 CFR § 300.39](#)
6. [34 CFR § 300.115](#)
7. [Basic Education Circular - Instruction in the Home BEC](#)
8. [Board Policy 113 - Special Education](#)
9. [22 PA Code 11.18](#)
10. [24 P.S. 13-1306](#)
11. [24 P.S. 13-1330\(2\)](#)

Related Information:

[Pol. 234 - Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students](#)
[PDE Elementary and Secondary Education Homebound Instruction](#)