

**611 HOME SCHOOLING**

***[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]***

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Compulsory Attendance Law (Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of a child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship.

**III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING**

The person in charge of a home school and the school district must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22.

**IV. IMMUNIZATION**

The parent or guardian of a home-schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minnesota Statutes section 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 12, on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year.

**V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS**

Upon formal request, as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks (including a teacher's edition, guide, or other materials that accompany a textbook when the edition, guide, or materials are packaged physically or electronically with textbooks for student use), individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials (including teacher materials that accompany pupil materials), software or other educational technology, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled child as provided under state law. The school district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to state law for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

**VI. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES**

Upon formal request, as required by law, the school district will provide pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled child as provided under state law. The school district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to state law.

**VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a home school (in which five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other public school students.

## VIII. SHARED-TIME PROGRAMS

### A. Student Eligibility

1. Resident students who attend nonpublic or home schools and are in compliance with the MN Compulsory Instruction Law may apply for limited shared time enrollment in grades K through 12 in Waconia Public Schools.
2. Shared-time privileges are available to nonpublic or home school students in grades K-12 per the following limitations. Students in grades 6-12 may access any curricular offering and students in grades K-5 may access specialists.
3. Students enrolled as shared-time must remain in attendance at their nonpublic school or home school for the majority of their education and must be in compliance with the Minnesota Compulsory Attendance Law.
4. A student in shared-time enrollment must be enrolled in nonpublic or home school for 50% or greater of the school day.
5. Shared-time students do not qualify for a Waconia high school diploma, participation in honor rolls, class rank, and other recognition available to full-time Waconia High School students.
6. A student must have completed all prerequisite courses prior to being approved for a specific public school course.
7. Shared-time students shall abide by all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures governing the conduct of regular full-time students.
8. Shared-time non-public students are not eligible to participate in Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) activities or other district student activities unless their enrollment in the non-public school is governed by MSHSL By-Law 104.00.

### B. Program Availability

Academic shared-time enrollment will be provided only on a seat available basis. Course sections will not be added to provide additional seats. Priority for course enrollment will be given to full-time public school students. Academic shared-time enrollment will be provided only in courses at regular times within the normal schedule of classes. Class hours will not be altered to provide for shared-time enrollment.

Shared-time students must attend public school at the school within their attendance boundary. The district may, at their (its) discretion, assign the student to a different school for reasons such as (but not limited to) building capacity, program capacity, or if a course is only offered in a school outside the student's attendance area.

Shared-time students are eligible for district transportation if space is available on an existing bus route to the student's boundary school and if they meet the district policy guidelines for distance from school. The district's transportation department will determine the bus assignment.

School science laboratories and media centers are available for shared time students only as part of the public school course taken by the shared time student.

### C. Enrollment Process

Parents must complete a "Shared Time Student Application" form and submit it to the principal of the school they wish for their child to attend.

If approved, the parent(s) and student must contact the school (as assigned) to register for classes.

***[Note: The provisions of Article VIII. - Shared Time Programs do not determine whether Shared Time Programs should be offered to any pupil. However, home-schooled children are required to be treated the same as all other nonpublic school children.]***

## **IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **A. Activities**

1. Minnesota State High School League-sponsored activities (In which six or more students receive instruction in the home school or the home school students are not residents of the school district).

A home school that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League bylaws. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the school board.

- a. The home school must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
  - b. The home school is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
  - c. The home school is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.
2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school.

A home-schooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the school board to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However, home school students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the school board.

### **B. Transportation Services**

1. The school district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a home-schooled child.
2. The school board of the school district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops,

manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instruction or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment - Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (Nonpublic Schools)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 510 (School Activities)

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Independent School District No. 110  
Waconia, MN