# 6111 - Home Schooling

#### 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 (Minn. Stat. 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 leadership. (Minn. Stat. 120.22, Subd. 1)

#### **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 Minn.Stat. 120A.22.

### **IV. IMMUNIZATION**

The parent of a home schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minn. Stat. 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, and 4, on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides, by October 1 of each school year. (Minn. Stat. 121A. 15)

## V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARDIZED TESTS

Upon formal request as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks, individualized instructional materials and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled child as provided in Minn. Stat. 123B.42 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 3540. The school district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. 123B.40 to 123B.48 for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the students 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 support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled child as provided by Minn. Stat. 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540. The school district is not required to expend any amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. 123B.40-123B.48 for any of these purposes.

# VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a *home school* (where 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. (Minn. Stat. 123B.36, Subd. 1, and 123B.49, Subd. 4)

## **VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAMS**

- 1. Students Eligibility
  - 1.1 Resident students who attend approved home schools full-time and are in compliance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law may apply for limited shared time enrollment privileges in I.S.D. #709.
  - 1.2 Students requesting shared time enrollment privileges must be enrolled at their home school for the majority of their usual school day. Shared time enrollment is limited to two courses per semester, one course at STC (Secondary Technical Center), one block class, unless the assistant superintendent makes an exception.
  - 1.3 Shared time students do not qualify for an I.S.D. #709 high school diploma, participation in honor rolls, class rank and other recognition available to full-time public school students.
  - 1.4 Home school students must be enrolled completely in the Duluth Public Schools their senior year to receive a Duluth Public Schools diploma. The home school transcript will need to be evaluated in order to award credit.
  - 1.4.1 If the transcript is from an accredited *home school* association or program, grades for credits may be given at face value.
  - 1.4.2 If the transcript is without validation from an accredited home school association or program, the grade value will need to be validated. In order to be validated, documentation of credit and grade value can be verified through indicating that required subject areas are in fact being taught; include class schedules, copies of materials used for instruction, student portfolio of work, description of methods used to assess student achievement, and methods for achieving the course outcomes. In the absence of documentation the district may request further assessment to determine grade level and credit value.
  - 1.4.3 Credits may be adjusted to equate them to the district's semester system.
  - 1.4.4 Summer school classes will be evaluated and equated to the district maximum of 1.0 credit per year.
  - 1.5 In order to be approved for a specific course, a student must have completed all prerequisite course requirements and may be required to demonstrate appropriate skill and/or knowledge levels.
  - 1.6 When participating in a shared-time course, shared time home school students will be subject to all the same school and district policies, regulations and rules which apply to public school students, including student rights and responsibilities, grading, and attendance and performance expectations.
- 2. Program Availability
  - 2.1 Shared time enrollment will be provided only as space is available in the program class, grade level and/or school building as determined by the high school principal in consultation with the assistant superintendent.
  - 2.2 Class hours will not be altered to provide for shared time students.
  - 2.3 Shared time students enrolled for two courses not offered consecutively

must leave school property when not in class or may attend a supervised study hall in between the two courses. (A study hall does not count as one of the two courses a home school student may enroll in each semester.)

- 2.4 If the school lunch period falls between the two courses, the shared time student may purchase a school lunch and eat in the student eating area. Shared time students whose families fall within the income guidelines for free or reduced-price meals may qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch. Inquiries should be directed to the Child Nutrition Services Department.
- 2.5 Home school shared time students may take the state Basic Standards Tests and MCA II's as arranged with the principal.
- 2.5.1 The *home school* will be charged for the cost of the test and the scoring.
- 2.5.2 *Home school* student test results will be reported separately from public school student test results.
- 2.6 All students who are expecting a public school diploma, must pass the required Minnesota Basic Standards Tests and the MCA II's (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment II's). (Minn. Stat. 120B.02)

### 3. Application Process

3.1 Students accepted for share time enrollment will be counted as enrolled in the district for the purpose of calculating state aid and must complete all applications and information accordingly.

#### 4. Attendance Area

- 4.1 Shared time students must attend public school at the high school in their attendance area.
- 4.2 If a course a home school student wants to take is only offered or only has space available at a different high school than the one in his or her attendance area, the assistant superintendent may allow the student to attend a public high school outside of the student's attendance area.
- 4.3 If a shared time student wants to take courses at a high school other than the high school in his or her attendance area, the student may r equest an intra-district transfer in the same manner as public school students.

### 5. Transportation

- 5.1 Students accepted for shared time enrollment are eligible for district transportation from home to school if they are at an existing bus stop at the regularly scheduled bus stop time, and if they meet district policy guidelines for distance from school.
- 5.2 Students accepted for shared time enrollment are eligible for district transportation from school to home if they are at the school bus departure location at the end of the school day, if they get off the bus at a regularly-scheduled bus stop, and if they meet district policy guidelines for distance from school.
- 5.3 Students must be eligible for state transportation aid. (Minn. Stat. 123B.92)
- 5.4 Transportation arrangements will be made by the Transportation Department, at the request of the home school.

### A. Activities

1. Minnesota State High School League sponsored activities (where 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 which 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 Bylaw 403.00. 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 where 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 non-regular 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 matters relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References: Minn. Stat 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)

- -Minn. Stat. 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
- Minn. Stat. 120A.24 (Reporting)
- Minn. Stat. 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
- Minn. Stat. 123B.49 (Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities)
- Minn. Stat. 121a.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)
- Minn. Stat. 123B.36 (School Boards May Require Fees)
- -Minn. Stat. 123B.41 (Definitions)
- -Minn. Stat. 123B.42 (Textbooks, Individual Instruction-

- Material, Standard Tests)
- -Minn. Stat. 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
- -Minn. Stat. 123B.86 (Equal Treatment-Transportation)
- -Minn. Stat. 123B.92 (Transportation Aid and Entitlement)
- Minn. Rules Chapter 3540 (Textbooks, Individualized-
- Instruction materials, Standardized Tests)

Adopted: <u>07-17-2007 ISD 709</u>