

Policy 611 Home Schooling has been revised to add criteria for accepting credits that will apply toward BHS graduation. Credits transferred from a home school will be reviewed and equalized by the Home School Credit Review Committee. Credits of comparable rigor and content to BHS will be accepted toward graduation. The first reading of the policy was last month. Per school board discussion at the last meeting, the requirements that at least 80% of credits be earned from BHS to receive honors and that students attend BHS full-time their junior and senior year to receive honors were removed from the policy.

I recommend approving Policy 611 Home Schooling as modified.

Adopted: February 9, 2004

Revised: September 10, 2012

611 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 citizenship. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.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, 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, STANDARD 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 Minn. Rules Ch. 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.40-123B.48 for this purpose.

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 by Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540. The school district is not required to expend an 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

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home-schooled child who is a resident of the school district may enroll in classes in the school district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the school district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. The school board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

- 1. Minnesota State High School League sponsored activities (where six or more students receive instruction in the home school).

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 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.

X. ACADEMIC CREDITS

A. Students who transfer home school credits into ISD #726 will have their high school graduation credits equalized by the Home School Credit Review Committee.

1. Credits shall be accepted that are of comparable rigor and content in comparison to the credits earned in ISD #726

2. Credits from home schools will be evaluated considering clock hours, instructional calendar, instructional materials, summative test results, student work portfolio, standardized tests, graduation standards, and other pertinent data as determined by the Home School Credit Review Committee.

3. Proficiency tests may be administered by the home school credit review committee to evaluate the validity of home school transcripts.

4. All grades, accepted as credits from home schools, will be equalized by the Home School Credit Review Committee. In equalizing grades, The Committee will consider clock hours, instructional calendar,

instructional materials, summative test results, student work portfolio, standardized tests, graduation standards, and other pertinent data as determined by the Home School Credit Review Committee.

B. Home School Review Committee will consist of the high school principal and/or curriculum director, high school guidance counselor, other staff members involved with the learning area as appointed by the principal, and the superintendent. The principal may appoint other individuals or experts from outside the school to the committee.

C. Academic Honors: The grade point average requirement for students using home school credits to graduate are the same as the grade point average requirements for other students.

~~1. The grade point average requirement for students using home school credits to graduate are the same as the grade point average requirements for other students.~~

~~2. At least 80% of a student's required graduation credits must be earned from ISD #726 to receive academic honors.~~

~~3. To receive academic honors, students must attend ISD #726 full-time Their junior and senior year.~~

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 (Extracurricular Activities)
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 Material, Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)
Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (Textbooks, Individualized Instruction Materials, Standardized Tests)

Cross References:

I.S.D #726 Becker Model Policy Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
I.S.D #726 Becker Model Policy 510 (School Activities)