



DECATUR
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
STRONG ROOTS, POWERFUL WINGS

UIL Homeschool Participation

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Background Information

Enter in law: HB 547

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/html/HB00547F.htm>

The law allows home school students to participate in UIL activities and districts have the right to opt in or opt-out of participating. This law went into effect May 22, 2021.

Since taking effect only 35 schools allow homeschool participation.



DISD Policy: FD(LOCAL)

Students Not Enrolled

A student enrolled in a private school, including a homeschool, shall not be eligible for concurrent enrollment in the District nor for participation in curricular or extracurricular activities, except as required by law.

Adopted 5.20.23



Participation Regulations

A non-enrolled student who seeks to participate or participates in a league activity on behalf of a school is subject to the following relevant policies that apply to students enrolled in the school:

- (1) registration for league activities;
- (2) age eligibility;
- (3) fees;
- (4) insurance;
- (5) transportation;
- (6) physical condition;
- (7) qualifications;
- (8) responsibilities;
- (9) event schedules;
- (10) standards of behavior; and
- (11) performance.



Decatur ISD Eligibility requirements:

- Academics:
 - TEKS- state mandated - all curriculum and resources must be TEKS aligned with a specific scope and sequence as to what is covered throughout a school year.
- Beginning in 3rd grade students are assessed using STAAR to determine yearly progress on the TEKS.
- All athletes must meet the “no pass, no play” expectations of the UIL.
 - Each athlete must pass all classes each six weeks to maintain academic eligibility unless specified by the UIL or TEA.
 - A student that fails a class will be ineligible for three weeks. After three weeks the athletes grades will be checked to determine if the athlete is passing all classes to regain eligibility.



Homeschool Requirements

According to the Leeper case, the only legal requirements to homeschool in Texas are:

- The instruction must be bona fide (i.e., not a sham).
- The curriculum must be in visual form (e.g., books, workbooks, video monitor).
- The curriculum must include the five basic subjects:
 - reading
 - spelling
 - grammar
 - mathematics
 - Good citizenship.
 - i. Good citizenship is similar to civics. Public schools teach one semester of civics, usually in the senior year of high school.
 - ii. Teaching U.S. and Texas history, government (theoretical and practical)
 - iii. the Pledge of Allegiance, and similar activities will also help meet this requirement.

As a condition of eligibility to participate in a league activity during the first six weeks of a school year, a non-enrolled student must demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California Achievement Test, or Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills.



Attendance

DISD students and families are expected to follow Texas School Compulsory Attendance laws

TEC: 25.086

Homeschool students are considered private school and are exempt from these requirements



Things to consider....

In order to be eligible DISD Students:

1. Must adhere to a student Code of Conduct
2. Must Pass all classes: state mandated standards and state approved curriculum
3. Must comply with Compulsory Attendance laws

Homeschool Students:

1. Parental Expectations of Behavior
2. The instruction must be bona fide (i.e., not a sham).
3. Exempt from Compulsory Attendance laws

Coaching/Faculty Implications:

1. External participation and eligibility tracking by coaches
2. Multiple practice classes/periods, after school practice, and extra-curricular participation for students

