

# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOME EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS

ADOPTED: May 10, 2010

REVISED: August 18, 2014  
August 17, 2015

<p>1. Authority SC 1327, 1327.1 Title 22 Sec. 11.31a</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1327.1</p> <p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>4. Guidelines  SC 1327.1 137-AR, 137-AR-1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">137. HOME EDUCATION PROGRAMS</p> <p>Home education programs for students of compulsory school age residing in the school district shall be conducted in accordance with state law and regulations.</p> <p><b>Appropriate Education</b> - a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required by law and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.</p> <p><b>Hearing Examiner</b> - shall not be an officer, employee or agent of the Department of Education or of the school district or intermediate unit of residence of the child in the home education program.</p> <p><b>Home Education Program</b> - a program conducted in compliance with law by the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child. A home education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of law.</p> <p><b>Supervisor</b> - the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child who is responsible for providing instruction, provided that such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop and distribute administrative regulations for registering and monitoring home education programs.</p> <p><u>Notarized Affidavits</u></p> <p>A notarized affidavit of the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of the child or children shall be filed prior to commencement of the home education program and annually thereafter on August 1 with the Superintendent or designee setting forth the information required by law.</p> <p>The affidavit shall set forth:</p>
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<p>Pol. 203, 209</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of the supervisor of the home education program who will be responsible for the provision of instruction.</li> <li>2. Name and age of each child who will participate in the home education program.</li> <li>3. Address and telephone number of the home education program site.</li> <li>4. Confirmation that subjects required by law are offered in the English language, including an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area.</li> <li>5. Evidence that the child has been immunized and has received the health and medical services required for students of the child's age or grade level.</li> <li>6. An acknowledgment that the home education program will comply with applicable law.</li> </ol>
<p>SC 111</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. A Certification signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults living in the home and persons having legal custody of a child or children in the home education program have not been convicted of criminal offenses as enumerated in Section 111(e) of the PA School Code.</li> <li>8. If a child in the home education program has been identified as a student with a disability in need of special education services, the affidavit must also include written approval from a teacher with a valid Pennsylvania certificate to teach special education, a licensed clinical psychologist or a certified school psychologist that the program addresses the specific needs of the student.</li> </ol>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Transfers</u></p> <p>When a home education program is relocating to another school district, the supervisor is responsible to follow the requirements of law.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Instructional Program</u></p> <p>A student who is enrolled in a home education program shall be deemed to have met the requirements if the program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction, or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year at the secondary level.</p> <p>At the elementary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.</p> <p>At the secondary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include</p>

	<p>language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires.</p> <p>Courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor: economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age-appropriate courses contained in Chapter 4 of the State Board of Education Regulations.</p> <p><u>Requirements Of Supervisor</u></p> <p>In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor shall provide and maintain on file for each student enrolled in the home education program a portfolio of records and materials.</p> <p>The portfolio shall consist of a log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, that designates by title the reading materials used; samples of any writings; worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student; and in grades three (3), five (5) and eight (8) results of nationally normed standardized achievement tests in reading, language arts and mathematics or results of statewide tests administered in these grade levels.</p> <p>The supervisor shall ensure that the nationally normed standardized tests or the statewide tests from a list established by the PA Department of Education are not administered by the child's parent/guardian.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Evaluation Requirements</u></p> <p>A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level or secondary level shall meet the requirements established in law.</p> <p>An annual written evaluation of the student's educational progress as determined by a licensed clinical or school psychologist; a Pennsylvania certified teacher with experience at the elementary level to evaluate elementary students or with experience at the secondary level to evaluate secondary students; or a nonpublic school teacher or administrator with two (2) years of teaching experience in a Pennsylvania public or nonpublic school within the last ten (10) years, the required experience must be at the elementary level to evaluate elementary students or at the secondary level to evaluate secondary students.</p> <p>The evaluation will be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio and will certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring.</p>

At the request of the supervisor, persons with other qualifications may conduct the evaluation with the prior consent of the Superintendent.

In no event shall the evaluator be the supervisor or his/her spouse.

Appropriate Education/Compliance Determination

An evaluator's certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring for the school year under review will be provided by the supervisor to the Superintendent or designee by June 30 of each year. If the supervisor fails to submit the certification due on June 30 to the Superintendent or designee, the Superintendent or designee will send a letter by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the supervisor of the home education program, stating that the certification is past due and notifying the supervisor to submit the certification within ten (10) days of receipt of the certified letter. If the certification is not submitted within that time, the Board will provide for a proper hearing.

If the Superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief, at any time during the school year, that appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program, s/he may submit a letter to the supervisor, by certified mail, return receipt requested, requiring that an evaluation be conducted and that an evaluator's certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring for the school year under review be submitted to the district by the supervisor within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the certified letter. The certified letter will include the basis for the Superintendent's or designee's reasonable belief. If the statewide or nationally normed tests have not been administered at the time of the receipt of the certified letter by the supervisor, the supervisor will submit the other required documentation to the evaluator. The test results will be submitted with the completed documentation at the conclusion of the school year. If the certification is not submitted to the Superintendent or designee within thirty (30) days of receipt of the certified letter, the Board will provide for a proper hearing.

If the Superintendent or designee has a reasonable belief that the home education program is out of compliance with the requirements in section 1327.1 of the PA School Code, s/he will submit a letter to the supervisor, by certified mail, return receipt requested, requiring a certification to be submitted within thirty (30) days indicating that the program is in compliance. The certified letter will include the basis for the Superintendent's or designee's reasonable belief. If the certification is not submitted to the Superintendent within thirty (30) days of receipt of the certified letter, the Board will provide for a proper hearing.

Right Of Hearing

The Board shall provide for a proper hearing by a duly qualified and impartial hearing examiner within thirty (30) days. The examiner shall render a decision

	<p>within fifteen (15) days of the hearing, except that s/he may require the establishment of a remedial education plan, mutually agreed to by the Superintendent or designee and supervisor of the home education program, which shall continue the home education program. The decision of the examiner may be appealed by either the supervisor or the Superintendent to the Secretary of Education or Commonwealth Court or Court of Common Pleas.</p> <p>If the hearing examiner finds that the documentation does not indicate that appropriate education is taking place in the home education program, the home education program shall be out of compliance; and the student shall be promptly enrolled in the appropriate district school, a public or nonpublic school. The home education program may continue during the time of any appeal.</p> <p>If the child's home education program has been determined to be out of compliance, the supervisor or spouse of the supervisor of the home education program will not be eligible to supervise a home education program for that child for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of such determination.</p> <p><u>Loan Of Instructional Materials</u></p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p>The district shall, at the request of the supervisor, lend to the home education program copies of the school's planned courses, textbooks, and other curriculum materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.</p> <p><u>Graduation Requirements</u></p> <p>The following minimum courses in grades 9 through 12 are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program: four (4) years of English; three (3) years of mathematics; three (3) years of science; three (3) years of social studies; two (2) years of arts and humanities.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><b><u>Diplomas</u></b></p> <p>The completion of a student's education in a home education program shall not result in graduation or the receipt of a diploma from Fox Chapel High School.</p> <p>Students who complete all of the graduation requirements of the home education program shall receive a high school diploma issued by the supervisor or an approved home education diploma-granting organization.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1</p>	<p><u>Students With A Disability</u></p> <p>A home education program shall meet compulsory attendance requirements for a student with a disability only when the program addresses the specific needs of the student and is approved by a teacher with a valid Pennsylvania certificate to teach</p>

SC 1327.1	<p>special education, or a licensed clinical psychologist or certified school psychologist. Written notice of such approval must be submitted with the required affidavit.</p> <p>The supervisor may request that the school district or intermediate unit of residence provide services that address the specific needs of a student with a disability.</p> <p>When the provision of services is agreed to by both the supervisor and the school district or intermediate unit, all services shall be provided in the public schools or in a private school licensed to provide such programs and services.</p>
SC 1327	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111, 1327, 1327.1</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.31a, 11.33</p> <p>Board Policy – 203, 209</p>