

PRESTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**FILE: 11 - STUDENTS****File: 11-4 Home Schooling****Last Reviewed: 8-9-10****Next Review: 7-1-12**

The Preston County Board of Education recognizes the right of parents to choose the option of home instruction or private schooling for their children. West Virginia Code §18-8-1(c)(2) grants parents the legal status to home school their children once they have met the requirements outlined in the code. This policy will address that exemption to public school attendance.

R 11-4-1 Home Instruction under §18-8-1 (c) (2)**Requirements to be met by the Person Providing Home Instruction:**

- ❖ The parents must annually submit to the Superintendent or the Preston County Board of Education “The Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction” form (county developed) containing the name, age, grade level and address of any child of compulsory school age to be instructed. Such notice shall be given at least two weeks prior to the withdrawal of any child who is enrolled in a public school;
- ❖ The persons providing home instruction must submit satisfactory evidence of at least a high school diploma or equivalent;
- ❖ The persons providing home instruction must submit an annual plan of instruction; and
- ❖ The parent/guardian must notify the county Attendance Coordinator should home instruction be terminated in Preston County or the family moves from the county.
- ❖ The Superintendent may seek a court order denying home instruction only if s/he can show clear and convincing evidence that the child will suffer neglect in its education or that there are other compelling reasons to deny home instruction.

Academic Assessment of the Students:

On or before June 30 annually the person or persons providing home instruction shall obtain an academic assessment of the child for the previous school year and submit the results to the Superintendent. The parent or legal guardian shall pay the cost of the assessment if it takes place outside the Preston County Schools. The assessment requirement shall be satisfied in one of the following ways, as per WVC §18-8-1:

- ❖ The child receiving instruction in the home takes a nationally normed standardized test, to be administered under standardized conditions as set forth by the published instructions of the selected test in the subjects of reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies. The parent or the legal guardian may not administer the test. The publishing date of the test may not be more than 10 years from the date the test is administered. The child shall be considered to have made acceptable progress when the mean of his/her test results in the required subject areas for any single year meets or exceeds the 50th percentile or, if it is below the 50th percentile, shows improvement from the previous year’s results; or
- ❖ The child participates in the testing program currently in use in the Preston County Schools. The test shall be administered at a public school within the county at the scheduled time for testing in that school. Determination of acceptable progress will be based on current guidelines of the state-testing program; or

- ❖ The Superintendent is provided a written narrative indicating that a portfolio of samples of the child's work has been reviewed and that the child's academic progress for the year is in accordance with the child's abilities. If the narrative indicates that the child's academic progress for the year is in accordance with his/her abilities, s/he shall be considered to have made acceptable progress. A certified teacher whose certification number shall be provided shall prepare this narrative. The narrative shall include a statement about the child's progress in the areas of reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies and shall note any areas, which, in the professional opinion of the reviewer, show need for improvement or remediation; or
- ❖ The child completes an alternative academic assessment of proficiency that is mutually agreed upon by the parent or legal guardian and the Superintendent. The same parties shall agree upon criteria for acceptable progress.
- ❖ When the annual assessment fails to show acceptable progress as defined under the assessment options defined above, the person or persons providing home instruction shall initiate a remedial program to foster acceptable progress.
- ❖ The Preston County Board of Education shall notify the parents or legal guardian, in writing of the services available to assist in the assessment of the child's eligibility for special education services.
- ❖ The identification of a disability shall not preclude the continuation of home schooling.
- ❖ In the event a child fails to achieve acceptable progress for a second consecutive year, the person or persons providing instruction shall submit to the Superintendent additional evidence that appropriate instruction is being provided.

Providing County Assistance to Home School:

- ❖ The Superintendent or his/her designee shall offer such assistance, including instructional resources, other teaching materials and available resources, as may assist the person or persons providing home instruction subject to their availability
- ❖ Any child receiving home instruction may upon approval by the Board exercise the option to attend any class offered by the Preston County Schools that the person or persons providing home instruction may consider appropriate subject to normal registration and attendance requirements.
 - For the purpose of course enrollment, some core courses may have established prerequisite courses that must be completed prior to enrollment in advanced classes;
 - Home-school students may not enroll in public school courses until all public school students have been enrolled;
 - A home-schooled student's enrollment in Preston County Schools shall not exceed 50% of the instructional day. Home-schooled students who wish to enroll for more than 50% of the instructional day will be considered full-time Preston County students who must be enrolled in the core academic courses and making progress toward promotion to the next grade level or completing graduation requirements for grades 9-12; and
 - Home-schooled students enrolled in public school courses will be graded with the same grading scale used for regular public school students.

- ❖ Home schooled students may not be permitted to enroll in public school classes if their enrollment would cause the desired elementary grade level class to exceed the state mandated pupil-teacher-ratio or crowded conditions in a high school class.

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R 11-4-2 Admission of Students from Home Schooling and Private Schools

Students previously enrolled in home schools or private schools may apply for admission to the public schools of Preston County under the conditions set forth in the following procedures.

Students will be admitted at the semester change. Parents are to contact the Attendance Coordinator who will provide a county application form and discuss the scheduling of a placement meeting. Three weeks must be allowed from the time the county application form is received by the Attendance Coordinator and the time the students enter the public school system. Additional time must be allowed if application is made during summer months. Such admission shall be made upon meeting the following requirements:

Enrollment Requirements:

- ❖ Satisfactorily meet all residency requirements;
- ❖ Satisfactorily document that the requirements of *File: 11-2 Persons to Whom the Schools are Open*; *R 11-3-1 Age and Immunization Requirements* and *R 11-3-2 General Enrollment Requirements* have been met; and
- ❖ Satisfactorily meet all academic requirements.

Academic Requirements for County and/or State Residents:

- ❖ Students previously enrolled in private schools, located within West Virginia shall be considered for grade level placement based upon the following criteria:
 - A review of the private school's achievement records including academic assessments which have been conducted;
 - Students who enter Preston County Schools from accredited private schools shall have their records accepted at face value. Students entering from unaccredited private schools shall be required to "test out" to demonstrate a sufficient level of mastery for the grade level or course work being sought.
 - Interviews with the students and/or parents; and
 - The recommendation of the private school.

- ❖ Home schools operating under Exemption §18-8-1(c)(2) shall have appropriate grade level placement for students determined by the educational staff of Preston County Schools. While home school documents regarding credits earned may be useful in determining the appropriate grade placement for home schooled students in the public schools of Preston County, they will not be automatically accepted as the criteria for student placement. The determination of the appropriate placement for these students may include review of home school achievement records, administering academic assessments and interviews with the students and/or parents.
- ❖ Students previously enrolled in home schools or private schools located outside of Preston County, or receiving an education through any other legal exemption, shall have appropriate grade level placement determined by the educational staff of Preston County Schools. This determination may include review of home school or private school achievement records, academic achievement measurements which have been administered, and interviews with the students and/or parents.
(WVC §18-8-1 and §18-28-1thru 6)

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Adopted: August 9, 2010
Amended/Revised: