

TEMPORARY HOME/HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

The Board of Education (the Board) of the Bethlehem Central School District (the District) recognizes its responsibility to ensure that students who are unable to attend school because of a serious health condition are furnished with an appropriate educational program. Therefore, the Board will provide eligible students, including residents attending nonpublic schools, with temporary home/hospital instruction consistent with this policy.

Eligibility for Home/Hospital Instruction

A student who is temporarily unable to attend school for at least two weeks due to a serious health condition, after which he/she can reasonably be expected to return to regular day classes or an alternative education program, is eligible to be instructed at home or in the hospital by an appropriately certified teacher. Whenever appropriate, home instruction will be delivered at the Bethlehem Public Library or other suitable public location.

A parent requesting home/hospital instruction for his or her child must provide satisfactory evidence, in the form of a signed statement of a licensed physician or psychiatrist, that the condition of the child precludes attendance at school.

The physician or psychiatrist's request should provide the following information:

- A. the medical diagnosis being treated that necessitates this form of instruction;
- B. the probable duration of the student's absence from school;
- C. any limitations concerning the kind and duration of instruction; and
- D. possible precautions that the teacher providing instruction should take during the period of instruction.

Additional medical documentation regarding the continued need for home/hospital instruction may be required on a biweekly basis, and must be satisfactory to the District.

Eligibility for home/hospital instruction for regular education students shall be determined by the Home/Hospital Instruction Team. Eligibility for home/hospital instruction for students with disabilities shall be determined by the Home/Hospital Instruction Team in conjunction with the Committee on Special Education (CSE) in accordance with the student's Individual Education Program (IEP), with the services to be delivered in the least restrictive environment. For periods of home/hospital instruction, a public location such as the Bethlehem Public Library will be presumed to be the least restrictive environment, unless a public location for instruction is contraindicated by a student's demonstrated medical needs.

Parental Responsibilities for Arranging for Home/Hospital Instruction

Although the Board has the responsibility to ensure that every student receives an appropriate instructional program during periods of illness or injury, parents are expected to assist the Board. If

a parent knows in advance of a potential prolonged absence, the parent is expected to notify the appropriate school officials of the probable occurrence and request provision of home/hospital instruction. Where advance notice is not possible, parents should make every effort to obtain homework assignments until such a time as home/hospital instruction may begin.

Parents of resident students attending nonpublic schools should notify both the nonpublic and District school of the situation and request home instruction by the public school district of residence.

As soon as possible after receiving notice of a prolonged absence and approving a request for home/hospital instruction, the District will arrange for home instruction for the time periods prescribed by law. **Parents or another adult are expected to be present during all teaching sessions in the home. If an adult is not available at home, an alternative site will be sought. Additional information is included in #4327-R.**

The superintendent shall develop regulations specifying the procedures to follow to request home instruction and the procedures for providing such instruction.

Independent Medical Evaluation

The District reserves the right to obtain an Independent Medical Evaluation (IME) by a physician or psychiatrist of its choice whenever a student has been on home instruction for more than one month. Home instruction may cease to be provided if the parent does not reasonably cooperate in making the student available for the IME.

Applicability

This policy applies specifically to those students requesting home instruction due to a serious health condition. Arrangements for home instruction due to a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Article 89 of the Education Law, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or due to a student suspension will be provided consistent to applicable law, regulation, and District policy.

Cross-ref: 5100, Student Attendance

Ref: Education Law §1709(24)
Education Law §4401 et seq.
8 NYCRR §175.21
New York State Education Department: “Revised Handbook on Services to Pupils Attending Non-Public Schools” (2007)

Adoption date: June 19, 2002

Revised date: May 18, 2011

Revised date: September 3, 2014

Revised date: March 20, 2019