

SUMMARY OF HOME SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

(Act 169 of 1988 and Act 196 of 2014)

(See link for Pennsylvania Department of Education Home Education Guide / [SGASD Board Policy No. 137](#))

A. Notarized Home School Program Affidavit

A notarized affidavit of the parent/guardian or other person having legal custody of the child or children, will be filed **prior to the commencement** of the home education program and **annually thereafter on or before August 1** with the Superintendent of the school district (Dr. George W. Ioannidis, Superintendent, @ 100 East College Avenue, Spring Grove, PA, 17362), and which sets forth:

1. The name of the supervisor of the home education program who will be responsible for the provision of instruction.
2. The name and age of each child who will participate in the home education program.
3. The address and telephone number of the home education program site.
4. Written evidence that such subjects as required by law are offered in the English language, including an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area. (See Curriculum/Instructional Program section of SGASD Board Policy No. 137.)
5. Written 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.
6. The affidavit shall contain a certification to be signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults 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 Sec. 111 of the School Code.

B. Curriculum/Instructional Program / Home Education Program Objectives

The Affidavit for Home Education must include an instructional program (curriculum) and will list such courses as required by law. The curriculum must include an outline of proposed educational objectives by subject area:

1. 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.
2. At the secondary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include 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.

Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age appropriate courses required by the State Board of Education.

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C. Physically Disabled/Exceptional Students

Section 1327 provides that a home education program meets the compulsory attendance requirements for students identified pursuant to the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as needing special education services, excluding those students identified as gifted and/or talented, **only when the program addresses the specific needs of the exceptional student and is approved by a teacher with a valid certificate from the Commonwealth to teach special education or a licensed clinical or certified school psychologist. Written notice of such approval must be submitted with the notarized affidavit.**

D. Instructional Year

A child who is enrolled in a home education program and whose education is therefore under the direct supervision of his/her parent/guardian or other person having legal custody shall be deemed to have met the requirements if the program provides a minimum of 180 days of instruction or 900 hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or 990 hours per year at the secondary level.

E. Loan of Instructional Materials

The district will, at the request of the supervisor, lend to the home education program copies of the school district's planned courses, textbooks, and other curriculum materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.

F. Participation In Athletic/Co-Curricular Activities

The school district will, at the request of the home education program supervisor, make available the opportunity for participating in all district sponsored athletic/co-curricular activities. The home education program supervisor and the student wishing to participate must fully comply with Board Policies 116, 117, and 121. The home education program supervisor will make a request for the student to participate with a letter addressed to the Superintendent and submitted through the office of the Student Athletic Coordinator.

Following approval, the home education program supervisor will submit a weekly report of academic progress to the building principal while the student is participating in an athletic activity.

G. End of Year Evaluation of Home Education Program

At the close of each home education program school year, and no later than June 30th, the student's work must be evaluated by a private evaluator. One of the following persons must prepare an annual written evaluation of each student's educational progress:

1. A licensed clinical or school psychologist
2. A teacher certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who shall have experience at the elementary level to evaluate elementary students or at the secondary level to evaluate secondary students

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3. A non-public school teacher or administrator with at least two years experience within the past ten years in a Pennsylvania public or non-public who shall have experience at the elementary level to evaluate elementary students or at the secondary level to evaluate secondary students

The written evaluation must be submitted to the Superintendent, Dr. George W. Ioannidis, no later than June 30th, at 100 East College Avenue, Spring Grove, PA 17362.

The written evaluation must contain a certification of whether “an appropriate education is occurring” **based on an interview of the child and the results of the program review**. Any person selected by the supervisor who satisfies the above-listed requirements, or **has the prior approval of the Superintendent**, can conduct the annual review and evaluation, as long as he/she is **not** the parent or guardian of the child. The Evaluator **MUST** provide name, contact information and certificate number on the written evaluation.