

HOME/HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

I. Background

Home and hospital instruction is designed to provide short term itinerant instruction to students who are unable to attend a regular school program due to a verified medical, physical, or emotional condition. Instructional services will be available to all qualified students during convalescence or treatment time in a medical institution, therapeutic treatment center, or the student's place of residence, or all of these.

~~The Talbot County Board of Education recognizes the need for home/hospital instruction in specific instances:~~

~~A. — Students who are unable to attend school regularly because of physical and/or emotional conditions are eligible to receive instruction at home or in a hospital.~~

~~B. — Students awaiting trial for certain criminal offenses in the community may also qualify if other alternative school programs and/or expulsion have been ruled out. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for determining the need and for providing the instruction.~~

The Talbot County Board of Education directs the administration to develop procedures that implement this policy and align with COMAR. The procedures should be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with COMAR and updated as necessary.

~~A. — Any homebound child who is a resident of Talbot County is eligible for home/hospital instruction regardless of whether or not he/she was incapacitated within or outside of Talbot County.~~

~~B. — The determination of need may be established through completion of an Application for Home/Hospital teaching by both the appropriate education authority and the appropriate medical authority.~~

~~H. — Applications for home instruction are to be signed by a medical specialist. This signature indicates that the child should not attend school because of his/her condition. Forms are provided in the office of the Superintendent.~~

- ~~A. The term “medical specialist” is interpreted as a person who has specific credentials for identifying and treating special health problems, (i.e., dermatologist, cardiologist, psychiatrist, orthopedist, etc.).~~
- ~~B. In cases where home instruction is considered for a child with emotional/behavioral problems, the initial application may be signed by a certified psychologist. In such cases, however, it will be assumed that a final application signed by an appropriate medical specialist (possibly a psychiatrist) is forthcoming.~~
- ~~C. Exceptions to H-A and H-B will only be allowed in those cases where a student has been charged as an adult for committing a crime off of school property or during non-school hours. Exceptions may also be made when the Superintendent receives notification of a reportable offense from a law enforcement agency. In such cases, if it is determined (by administrator) that the student’s presence in school will be detrimental or disruptive to school operations, then a Student Services Team review will be conducted immediately~~

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~~and recommendations shall be made to the Principal regarding home instruction vs. other alternative education options or expulsion. Final approval for placement must be granted by the Superintendent.~~

- ~~III. In situations where group instruction is feasible and desirable, a combination of individual and group instruction is recommended.~~

~~END~~