

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS: HOME EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

The School Committees recognize the right of parents to have a home education alternative to public school for their child. This right is not absolute but subject to reasonable regulation by the local school authorities. Parents have the right to propose a home education alternative and the School Committee or Superintendent has the right, under Section I of Chapter 76 of the Massachusetts General Laws to approve or to disapprove it. Such approval must be obtained in advance of its implementation.

In evaluating each proposed home education alternative, the school authorities will consider the following factors:

1. The competency of the teachers. Though certification is not required, the presence or absence of the requirements that would lead to certification may be considered.
2. The teaching of subjects required by state law, Chapter 71, Sections 1, 2 and 3, or regulation; the manner in which they are taught so as to impart comparable knowledge as given in the local schools.
3. The number of hours and days devoted to teaching to meet the minimum requirements of the state.
4. The adequacy of the texts, materials, methods and programs being used.
5. The availability of periodic tests and measurements of the child's educational growth.

The recommendations of the Superintendent will be considered important whenever the School Committee is the approving authority.

Parents have the right to a hearing before the school authorities to allow them an opportunity to explain their plan and answer questions about it. They may be represented by counsel and shall be provided reasonable notice of the time and place of such a hearing.

If a plan is approved, there will be a periodic evaluation of the child's progress under guidelines and standards set by the School Committee to measure whether adequate educational progress has been made.

**AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME EDUCATION PROPOSAL**

1. Please read the attached School Committee policy on Home Education.
2. Complete this form, attach supporting documents, and forward it to Dr. Wendy Kohler, 170 Chestnut Street, Amherst MA 01002, at least 20 days prior to the planned start of a home education program. If you have any questions please call (413) 362-1828 or e-mail to Sharon Gross at GrossS@arps.org.

Parents/Guardian Name(s) _____
and Address(es):

Phone Number: _____

Name(s) of student(s) who will be taught at above designated home and current comparable public school grade level(s):

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade _____

Period of time for which approval is sought: _____ through _____

Teachers: Attach a statement providing the following information about any persons who will serve as teachers in this program including: name, teaching responsibility, college degrees (if any), college major and minor, past teaching experience (if any), teaching certification (if any) and any other evidence to describe their teaching competence for the task to be assigned.

Subjects to be Taught: Attach a description of each subject to be taught including the scope, major goals and objectives for the child, the major materials and methods to be used in each area.

Schedule of Instruction: Attach a description of the schedule you plan for instruction during the period for which approval is requested. Include the number of hours and days planned.

Evaluation: Attach a statement describing the tests or measurements that you plan to use to evaluate your child's educational growth during this period. If this home education plan is approved, the School Department will expect to review a periodic evaluation of the child's progress and may set guidelines and standards for this purpose to insure the evaluation of reasonable educational progress.

Response by School Authorities: Every effort will be made to respond to your proposed plan within 20 days from receipt of your application.

Date of Application _____ Signature of Applicant: _____