

HOME EDUCATION

The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee recognizes and respects the right of parents or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The School Committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable. Therefore, the School Committee establishes this home education policy.

The decision of parents/guardians to home educate their children is governed by Chapter 71, Section 1 and the 1987 ruling of the Supreme Judicial Court known as the "Care and Protection of Charles."

Parents/guardians must obtain the annual approval of the Superintendent and committee before beginning the home education program.

Parents/guardians must demonstrate that the home education proposal will equal "in thoroughness and efficiency" the program in the district's schools. The program must minimally include those subjects required by Massachusetts General Law (Chapter 71, Sections 1,2,3) and those taught in the district's schools. The School Committee reserves the right to determine which subjects are to be taught.

The home education program must contain the following components:

- The length of the school year and the average number of weekly hours of instruction in each subject.
- Evidence of the academic competency of the home educators.
- A list or access to the textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional aids.
- An agreed-upon method of periodic assessment of student academic progress.
- A curriculum guide for each of the subjects.

The parents/guardians should give the Superintendent reasonable time to review the home education proposal to ensure that the proposal meets current requirements.

Before the School Committee takes formal action on the proposal, the Superintendent or School Committee will provide parents/guardians with an opportunity to explain their proposed plan and present witnesses on their behalf. If, after such a hearing, the Superintendent or School Committee deems the proposal unacceptable, the Superintendent or School Committee shall detail the reason(s) for the decision. The parents will be given an opportunity to revise the program or remedy its inadequacies.

Students may participate in the school district's extracurricular programs.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1, Care and Protection of Charles
Care and Protections of Charles - MASS. Supreme Judicial Court
399 Mass. 324 (1987)