

BOARD POLICY

No. 6005

6005 HOME INSTRUCTION / HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS

Policy Statement:

The Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education (the “Board”) considers that the most appropriate educational setting for students is within a formal school structure. The Board believes that the formal school structure provides students with the opportunity to interact with other students and with professionally trained adults that is difficult to emulate in the home setting.

Rights and Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians:

Nonetheless, the Board acknowledges the right of parents/guardians to instruct their children at home as an alternative to public school attendance. The Board recognizes state law and Connecticut State Board of Education policy and guidance relating to home instruction. Accordingly, the Board permits home instruction of a child who would otherwise be attending public school if the person having control of such school-aged child is able to show that the child is receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools elsewhere.

Parents/guardians intending to provide home instruction for their children are required to contact the Superintendent to make the appropriate arrangements. Failure to do so may result in a non-enrolled child being considered truant from school.

Partial Enrollment Requests:

Due to practical difficulties and concerns regarding equitable treatment of students, the Board does not operate a hybrid home instruction/formal school program. Accordingly, the Board does not permit resident homeschooled students to enroll in the school district on a part-time basis.

Placement of Home School Students:

Enrolling in Region 8 Public Schools: The school principal, in consultation with the members of the school's instructional team, will make the decision about the students' grade and/or course level placement based on the student's performance on district assessments and/or universal screening tools. The principal will also review and consider any current standardized student assessment results provided by the parent/guardian. The final decision for grade and/or course level placement will be made by the school principal.

Award of Credit for Home Instruction:

1. Course credit. The Board will generally not award credit for courses taken in home instruction. The Superintendent is authorized to grant exceptions to this policy under the following circumstances:

- a. such exception is recommended by the Principal and the Director of Guidance; and
- b. the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements; and
- c. one of the following conditions is met:
 - i. the student has successfully completed online coursework from an accredited institution in accordance with applicable Board policy; or
 - ii. the student has successfully completed the coursework provided through a home instruction program that is accredited by accrediting agencies such as: New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or
 - iii. the student has achieved a passing grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved by the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education.

Credits will only be awarded to students enrolled at RHAM High School.

2. Award of Diploma. The Board will not award high school diplomas to students who are not enrolled in the school district.

ADOPTED: June 20, 2022