

Homebound Instruction

I. **Basic Responsibility:**

The Sharon Springs Central School District Board of Education recognizes its responsibility under the Education Law and other statutes, such as Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to provide appropriate instruction to students of compulsory attendance age and, under certain circumstances, other students who are physically unable to attend school. The Board recognizes that a student who is physically unable to attend school is one who is:

- A. Convalescing at home from physical, mental, or emotional illness or injury;
- B. Convalescing in a medical facility from illness or injury;
- C. Of compulsory attendance age but denied entrance to a school facility because of suspension;
- D. In custody within a legally authorized non-county facility pending court action.

II. **Suspended Students; Students In Care or Custody Institutions:**

Students on suspension shall be provided with alternative instruction pursuant to the requirements of Education Law Sec. 3214 and Board Policy, Student Suspension. Individuals in custody within a legally authorized non-county institution for the care, custody, or treatment of children, shall be provided with instruction pursuant to the requirements of Education Law Sec. 3202(6), 8 NYCRR 175.21, and all other applicable laws and regulations.

III. **Homebound Instruction for Students Ill or Disabled:**

A. **ELIGIBILITY**

A Student shall be eligible for homebound instruction after three absences of five (5) days from school due to an illness of unforeseen duration or immediately when the student is absent due to an illness that can be medically foreseen to necessitate an absence of more than five (5) days and for which medical documentation is available. (See 3.B below). The term "homebound instruction," as used in this section, shall denote instructional services provided by a tutor, or by such other means as determined to be appropriate in cooperation with the student's parents or guardian, health care provider, teachers, and the student.

B. PROCEDURE

1. **Submittal of Request Form:**

A form requesting homebound instruction shall be provided by the District, and shall be used by the student's physician or private health care provider to make said request. It shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to see to the completion of the form by the student's physician or private health care provider. The physician or health care provider shall sign the form upon its completion, as shall the student's parent or guardian. Said request form shall include the following information:

- a. The medical diagnosis or the condition being treated that necessitates the student's absence from school.
- b. The probable duration of the student's absence from school.
- c. Limitations, if any, on the kind and the duration of instruction to be provided, and;
- d. Precautions, if any, that the homebound teacher should take during the period of instruction.

2. **Approval of Request:**

Upon receipt of the completed and signed form, the Superintendent of Schools shall promptly and duly consider the request. In determining the appropriateness of the request and the format for providing homebound instruction to the student, the Superintendent shall consider whether:

- a. The instructional needs of the student can best be met from such instruction, and whether such instruction can be anticipated to benefit the student.
- b. There is a likelihood that continued or future absences will occur, and
- c. The student's environment during his/her extended absence from school is suitable for conducting instruction.

Upon making a determination that homebound instruction should be provided, the Superintendent shall see to the proper commencement of such instruction.

C. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The parent or guardian of any student shall provide the Superintendent or her/his designee with advance notice, if possible, of the probability of a foreseen extended absence, and request homebound instruction in advance of the student's actual absence, according to the procedure stated in 3.B, above. The parent or guardian of a student in need of homebound instruction shall, in addition to seeing to the completion of all documentation described in III.B, above, notify the Superintendent or her/his designee of changes in the condition of the convalescing student that might affect or postpone daily instruction. In addition, the parent or guardian shall ensure that an adult is home at all times during instructional sessions. If this cannot be assured then alternative instructional arrangements shall be made.

D. NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The parent or guardian of a student attending a non-public school shall notify both the school the student attends and the Superintendent or her/his designee of the student's extended absence, and shall request the provision of a tutor or other suitable means of instruction in the manner described in III.B, above.

E. INSTRUCTION PROVIDED

A student receiving homebound instruction shall, in accordance with standards established by the Commissioner's Regulations, receive:

1. Not less than five (5) hours of instruction per week if the student is in grades K-6, and, if possible, not less than one (1) hour of instruction per day; or
2. Not less than ten (10) hours of instruction per week if the student is in grades 7-12, and, if possible, not less than two (2) hours of instruction per day.

References:

29 U.S.C. Sec. 794 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec 504)
Educational Law Secs. 3202(1), (6); 3204; 3205; 3210(2)'3214(3)(e) 8 NYCRR
175.21