



Homeschool

In Colorado, homeschool is considered nonpublic and is not regulated by the state of Colorado. This means the parent is taking on all of the responsibility for the student's education. Since homeschool is not a public school, it is also not regulated by laws that govern public schools. When a parent chooses to homeschool they are no longer eligible to receive special education services, with the exception of evaluation to determine eligibility.

Getting Started-Letter of Intent to Home School

Pursuant to Colorado law, parents who wish to begin home schooling must provide written notification of the establishment of the home school program 14 days before beginning the home school program to a Colorado school district. The written notification must include the name, age, place of residence, and number of attendance hours for each child that will be participating in the home school program. Written notification must be re-submitted to a Colorado school district each year.

If a school district receives a Letter of Intent to Homeschool on a student with an IEP, they must issue a Prior Written Notice of Special Education Action, notifying the parents of a change in FAPE since no services will be provided while the student is being homeschooled.

Subjects to Teach

Colorado law states that home school programs must include, but are not limited to, the subjects of communication skills of reading, writing, and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the constitution of the United States. The selection of curriculum is at the discretion of the parent who is overseeing the home schooling program. The state cannot offer any guidance in this area, and encourages contacting the district that received the written notification if there are further questions.

Attendance Requirements

Home school programs must have no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging 4 contact hours per day.

Record Keeping

Records for each child participating in a home school program must be kept on a permanent basis by the parent who is overseeing the home school program. The records must include, but are not limited to, attendance, test and evaluation results,

and immunization records as required by C.R.S sections 25-4-901, 25-4-902, and 25-4-903. The records must be produced and provided to the school district that received the written notification, not the state of Colorado, at the school district's request.

Assessment/Evaluation

Students that are participating in a home school program must have academic progress evaluated in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Students can take a nationally standardized achievement test or a qualified person, as described in C.R.S. 22-33-104.5(3)(f), can be selected by the parent to evaluate the student's academic progress. The results of the evaluation, whether by assessment or qualified person, must be submitted to the school district that received the written notification.

Home School and Special Education

When a student with a disability dis-enrolls from your school to go to homeschool we need to send them a letter stating we are willing, ready, and able to serve the student upon their return. Please be sure to let the SPED office know ASAP that they are going to homeschool so we can send the letter from our office. In addition to notifying the SPED admin team, be sure to indicate the change on your monthly caseload sheet. While parents are homeschooling the student will NOT receive any special education or related service. The only service we are required to provide is special education identification (child find obligations) upon parent requests.

FAQ

1. *What if the parent wants to bring their child to school for speech services only?*

Even though many service providers would be happy to serve students who are homeschooled, we need to remain consistent across all our districts. If a parent chooses to homeschool they can no longer receive any special education or related services.

2. *What do we do when a student returns to public school from a home school setting?*

As long as parent did not revoke consent for special education services the same rules apply as with a transfer from out of district. If the student's most recent IEP is still active and the student did not attend any public school (online school is a public school option) than we can reactive the student upon return and continue the IEP as written. If the IEP is expired but eligibility is still within 3 years, we need to do a transfer in state on the most recent IEP and NOT accept the IEP, document interim services, and within 30 days write a new IEP. If both the IEP

and Eligibility are out of date, we would treat the student as an Initial and begin an evaluation upon reenrollment.

3. *Is online school the same as homeschool?*

No, it is important that you clarify with parents whether they are planning on homeschooling their child or enrolling them in a public online school which can be done from home. These are very different and if they are attending an online school while at home, the student most likely has a new IEP from the online school. When a student transfers from online to a brick and mortar school it is a significant change of placement so the procedures will be very different.

4. *What if a student is too sick to attend school? Is that homeschool?*

No, homebound/hospital and homeschool are very different. A student who is placed at home due to medical concerns should have an IEP that reflects that need for service.