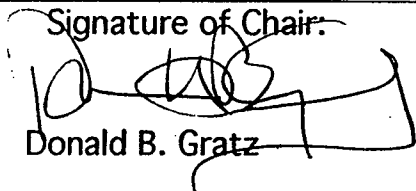


SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY  
NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FILE

IGBH

Policy for:  HOME SCHOOLING	Revision  1
Date Approved by School Committee:  April 1, 2008	Signature of Chair:  Donald B. Gratz

Page 1 of 2

The Needham School Committee recognizes both its obligation to maintain appropriate educational standards and programs for all children in the district and the rights of parents/guardians to educate their children at home.

The Massachusetts General Law requires the School Committee to determine that a Home Schooling program meets the minimum local standards prior to approving such a program.

When a parent or guardian of a student below the age of 16 wishes to establish a home-based educational program for his/her child, the following procedures will be followed in accordance with the law, prior to the removal of a child from public school by a parent/guardian and/or prior to commencing a home instruction program:

- The parent/guardian will submit written notification to the Superintendent 14 days before the program is established, and resubmit notification on an annual basis as long as the child or children are being educated in a home-based environment.
- The parent/guardian will submit in writing the name, age, place of residence, and a proposed curriculum of instruction addressing the factors outlined below, for each child in the program.


Factors to be considered by the Superintendent or School Committee in deciding whether or not to approve a home schooling proposal may include:

1. The proposed curriculum and the number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects.
2. The competency of the people educating the children.
3. The textbooks, workbooks and/or programs to be used.
4. Periodic evidence of achievement to ensure educational progress and the attainment of minimum standards.

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A student being educated in a home-based program may be granted access to public school activities of curricular, co-curricular and/or extracurricular nature if the class or activity is developmentally appropriate, scheduling is practical and space is available, established criteria for participation in the class or activity have been met by the student, and if participation has the prior approval of the school Principal and the Superintendent.

A home schooled student attending a school based activity must follow school rules or the student will lose the right to participate in the program or activity.

A home schooled student will not be granted a diploma in the Needham Public Schools.

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)