

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The South Summit School District Board of Education recognizes that a quality education is the right of every school age child everywhere; that it is the desire and responsibility of the Board to ensure a quality education for every school-age child in the South Summit District in compliance with the compulsory education laws; that it is the duty of the Board to enforce the compulsory attendance laws by placing responsibility on parents to comply or to face penalty for noncompliance; that in all decisions, what is best for the individual child and/or the children within the district boundaries, will be the first consideration of decision-makers.

II. FREE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (F.A.P.E)

South Summit School District will make every effort to fulfill its obligation to the school age children within its jurisdiction by providing a free and appropriate public education (F.A.P.E.) that includes the courses prescribed by the Utah State Board of Education, as well as a broad range of electives, designed to equip students with the experiences to become academically, culturally, and consciously contributing citizens.

The South Summit School District Board of Education further believes the educational needs of its students can best be met in the classrooms of the South Summit School District schools where core curriculum and enrichment are taught by certificated teachers. However, the Board recognizes that if it is the wish of a parent to have his child/children educated in an alternative setting to public education, namely, home school, the District will cooperate in suggesting an educational plan that sincerely promotes what is best for the child.

III. CURRICULUM

State law mandates the curriculum requirements for Utah's Public Schools (UCA53A-11-101). The same required subjects would have to be taught in home school for the same required number of hours as in the public schools. The elective classes to fill out the student's daily/weekly schedule would be determined by the qualifications of the parent instructor and the facilities available.

Utah State Board of Education prescribes branches of learning as follows:

1. Elementary Schools - language arts, mathematics, science, arts, social studies, healthy lifestyles, and information technology.
2. Middle Schools - language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, information technology, healthy lifestyles, vocational education, and one elective.
3. High Schools - language arts (3 units), social studies (3 units), mathematics (2 units), science (2 units), healthy lifestyles (2 units), vocational education (1 unit), and electives (9 units).

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Home schools must be held at least 180 days each year. Time requirements are as follow:

1. Four and one-half hours per day or 22.5 hours per week for Grade One.
2. Five and one-half hours per day or 27.5 hours per week for grades two through twelve.

Note: The above hours are instructional times and do not include recess or break time.

IV. SHARED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (DUAL ENROLLMENT)

~~With the approval of the public school which the student would attend, the home schooled student may be enrolled there for some periods and/or particular activities in accordance with UCA 53A-11-102.5 (1993). This dual enrollment would provide the student with the opportunities for group participation that may not be available in the home school.~~ [A person having control of a minor who is enrolled in a home school may also enroll the minor in a public school for dual enrollment purposes (UCA 53G-6-702)]

~~V. ASSURANCE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS~~

~~The District may require assurance that reasonable academic progress is being (has been) made by the student. Evidence of this progress can be provided using one or more of the following methods.~~

- ~~1. Standardized testing.~~
- ~~2. End of level testing.~~
- ~~3. Summative tests.~~
- ~~4. Student portfolio with records of progress.~~
- ~~5. Samples of work to be reviewed by District personnel.~~
- ~~6. Interview with student by District personnel.~~
- ~~7. Other methods agreed upon by the District and home school instructor.~~

~~V.~~ APPLICATION

School districts are charged with the responsibility of providing the state required courses and ensuring they are taught the required hours by certificated teachers for all school age children residing within the district. When the districts release students from the compulsory attendance requirements to attend home schools, they do not relinquish the responsibility (assigned them by the Utah State Board of Education) to ensure the requirements of compulsory education are being provided. Therefore, the District reserves the right to:

1. Require an application from parents intending to operate a home school; the application may include:
 - a. Name and location of the school,

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- b. Name, age, present grade assignment in public school of each child to be taught in the home school.
 - c. Parents' names and addresses.
 - d. Reason(s) for the decision to home school (not required, but requested to help officials evaluate the public school program).
 - e. Subjects to be taught and the amount of time each will be taught.
 - f. Who the instructor will be and his/her competency to teach (training, level of education completed, school/work experience, degree earned, talents, etc.).
 - g. A course to be followed to reach academic goals (materials, methods, evaluation).
2. An annual re-application.

VII. PROCEDURES

The procedures to be followed by parents desiring to establish a home school and to teach their own children at home are outlined below.

1. The parent must notify the District of his intent to establish a home school. This may be done by letter or by going to the District Office.
2. The parent must obtain an application form provided by the District, complete the form and return to the District Office for consideration. The application must not be altered, nothing should be omitted and nothing should be changed on the form. Such action will invalidate the application making it ineligible to be considered.
3. The District Superintendent will consider the application, evaluating the information provided by the parent in his application. There must be evidence that the child/children will receive instruction in the required areas as mandated by law; that the schedule will provide for the required number of hours and meet for the required number of days in the school year; that the home school provider is trained and competent in the areas required by law to be taught.
4. After due consideration by the Superintendent, the parent will receive notification of the approval or rejection of the application to home school.
5. If the application has been approved, the parent will receive a certificate of exemption from the compulsory public school attendance law for the child/children to be home schooled. The parent should file this certificate after showing it to the principal of the school the child would be attending. The parent may then withdraw his child from the public school and place him in the home school.
 - a. Note: A parent who is planning to provide home schooling for his child may not legally withdraw his child from public school until the child is duly registered on the District form filed in the District Office. If withdrawn prematurely, the child is considered truant. If the child is not being instructed

in the home school within ten (10) days of the beginning date of the public school he would be attending, he is considered truant.

[VII. PLACEMENT OF A HOME SCHOOL STUDENT WHO TRANSFERS TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL (UCA 53G-6-706)]

- A. When a home school student transfers from a home school to a public school, the public school shall place the student in the grade levels, classes or courses that the student's parent and in consultation with the school administrator determine are appropriate based on the parent's assessment of the student's academic performance
- B. Within 30 days of a home school student's placement in a public school grade level, class or course, either the student's teacher or the student's parent may request a conference to consider changing the student's placement.
- C. If the student's teacher and the student's parent agree on a placement change, the public school shall place the student in the agreed upon grade level, class, or course.
- D. If the student's teacher and the student's parent do not agree on a placement change, the public school shall evaluate the student's subject matter mastery.
- E. After an evaluation of a student's subject matter master, a public school may change a student's placement in a grade level, class, or course.]