

## **HOME/HOSPITAL/OUT-OF-SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT INSTRUCTION**

Hardy County Board of Education believes that a student's regular attendance in the classroom is crucial for optimal learning. Time lost from the classroom is irretrievable in terms of opportunities for instructional interactions. Home/hospital/out-of-school environment instructional services are designed to provide a student with an adequate opportunity to continue his/her learning towards the mastery of grade-level content standards and objectives while temporarily confined to the home or a hospital. These services may not replace full-time instruction on an ongoing basis. The expectation is that a student will return to the regular classroom. Consequently, homebound/hospital/out-of-school environment services in Hardy County Schools are guided by West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2510.

**Unless specifically waived** by the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, the following conditions apply to home/hospital/out-of-school environment instruction:

1. To be considered for home/hospital/out-of-school instruction, an application must be completed and approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee.
2. The need for home/hospital/out-of-school environment instruction MUST be initially certified by a **licensed physician who specializes (i.e.—a “specialist”) in the health condition** that may temporarily confine a student to the home/hospital for a period that has lasted or will last more than three consecutive weeks. For psychiatric conditions, the physician must be a **licensed psychiatrist** who must provide a treatment plan indicating a specific transition plan for the student to return to school. Applications completed by physician's assistants or nurse practitioners will not be accepted.
  - a. In the application, the specialist must include the specific reasons and period of time the student must remain at home or in the hospital, the criteria or conditions under which the student will return to school, and the expected date of such return.
  - b. The Hardy County Board of Education may require the parent and/or guardian to obtain an opinion from a second licensed physician who specializes in the health condition at the expense of the county board.
  - c. Home/hospital/out-of-school environment services are to be recertified every **three months** in writing by the specialist. For psychiatric conditions, the recertification AND an updated treatment plan must be submitted by a psychiatrist. Failure to provide the recertification may result in the termination of home/hospital/out-of-school instructional services. The recertification statement must be provided to the Superintendent of Schools or designee.
3. Home/hospital/out-of-school environment services may be provided temporarily at the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, for students who have not met the immunization requirements of W. Va. Code §16-3-4.
4. Home/hospital/out-of-school environment services that are provided for an exceptional student who is unable to attend school temporarily because of an injury, illness or health condition will require a change in the student's placement to Out-of-School Environment (hereinafter OSE) as

defined by W. Va. 126CSR16, WVBE Policy 2419: Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities (hereinafter WVBE Policy 2419), Section 5.1.5.g.E. The change of placement to OSE must be addressed by the student's IEP Team and implemented in accordance with the requirements of WVBE Policy 2419.

5. The home/hospital/OSE instructor is expected to collaborate with appropriate school personnel to secure and understand units/lessons, instructional plans, instructional resources (including approved online and virtual options), and establish methods for the collection of assignments for feedback and assessment. At a minimum, the instructors are responsible for facilitating instruction for the core classes of English language arts, math, science, and social studies.
6. The instructor is required to provide monthly updates to the supervising director using the homebound instruction portfolio form. This form along with the instructor's timesheet and mileage reimbursement form is due to appropriate central office personnel by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Failure to submit these forms may result in non-payment.
7. Home/hospital/OSE instruction is to be provided at a time by the instructor when an additional responsible adult is available. Instruction may be provided at the student's home, the hospital, or at a public site agreed upon by the parent/guardian and the instructor.
8. Instructional session beginning and end times in the home, the hospital, or at the agreed-upon location will be established by the instructor, the parent/guardian, and, only when necessary, by a designated central office administrator.
9. Due to the nature of home/hospital/OSE instruction, regular attendance at agreed-upon sessions is expected. Issues with absenteeism will be addressed by the Hardy County Schools Director of Attendance or other appropriate central office administrators, and may be subject to truancy regulations.
10. Cooperation among the instructor, the parent (and/or responsible adult), and the student is expected. Disruptive or uncooperative behavior during instructional sessions or during consultations may result in home/hospital/OSE services being terminated.
11. A student receiving home/hospital/OSE instruction is not allowed to participate in school extra-curricular activities.
12. No work permits will be issued to a student receiving home/hospital/OSE instruction. A student receiving home/hospital/OSE services is not allowed to work at any place of employment during the length of the services.

SOURCE: Board of Education Minutes

LEGAL REFERENCE: West Virginia Code: §16-3-4, WVDE Policy 2419, 2510

DATE: May 2, 2016 – July 5, 2022