

# POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date Submitted:**

January 17, 1989

**Date Reviewed:**

July 19, 1994

January 20, 2009

March 16, 2010

February 19, 2019

**Number:**

500-28

**Subject:**

Home and Hospital  
Instruction

**Date Approved:**

February 21, 1989

February 17, 2009

April 20, 2010

February 19, 2019

**Date Revised:**

August 16, 1994

January 20, 2009

March 09, 2010

September 19, 2013

January 24, 2019

**Date Effective:**

August 16, 1994

February 17, 2009

April 20, 2010

February 19, 2019

## 1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the provision of home and hospital instructional services to Somerset County Public School students who are unable to participate in their school due to a verified medical physical or emotional condition.

## 2. Background

- A. Home/Hospital Teaching is designed to provide short-term itinerant instruction to students, at home or in hospitals, who are unable to attend a regular school program due to a verified medical, physical or emotional condition. Instructional services will be available to all qualified students during convalescence or treatment time in a medical institution, or therapeutic treatment center, or at the student's place of residence.

Instructional services shall be provided to an identified student with disabilities in accordance with federal and state special education law and regulations, including COMAR 13.A.05.01 and COMAR 13A.03.05. Services will also comply with, *IDEA 2004*, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as appropriate. The student and parents shall be involved in the process and are entitled to all rights and due process procedures within these laws and regulations.

**3. POLICY**

The Board of Education establishes the following guidelines and procedures to be in the provision of home and hospital instruction:

- A. Home and hospital instruction services shall be provided for a student whose verified medical, physical or emotional condition prevents the student from attending school:
  - (1) an extended period of time or,
  - (2) an intermittent basis for conditions such as kidney failure, cancer, asthma, cystic fibrosis, or sickle cell anemia
- B. Instructional services shall be available to all students during convalescence or treatment time in a medical institution, or therapeutic treatment center (any day or residential facility, licensed by a unit of the State Government, providing treatment for medical, physical or emotional conditions including drug and alcohol dependency or both), at the student's place of residence or at a mutually agreeable neutral site such as a public library, or all of the above.
- C. Initial service needs shall be determined by:
  - (1) Verification of the *medical or* physical condition, including drug & alcohol dependency, by a licensed physician, or verification of emotional condition by a certified school *psychologist*, or licensed psychologist or a licensed psychiatrist.
  - (2) A statement by the physician or psychologist verifying that the current *medical*, physical or emotional condition prevents the student from participating in the student's school of enrollment.
  - (3) Verification must include the reasons home and hospital instructional services are requested and/or the diagnosis, the anticipated date the student will return to the regular school program, and the physician's signature, address, telephone number, and date.
- D. Duration of Services
  - (1) The period of time that services will be provided may vary from student to student, depending upon the severity of the medical, physical or emotional condition.
  - (2) Home/Hospital services will not continue beyond 60 calendar days after the initial determination of eligibility unless written re-verification of the need is provided from a certified school psychologist, licensed physician, licensed psychologist or licensed psychiatrist.

- (3) A doctor's note is required for a student, receiving Home/Hospital Teaching to return to school earlier than the date on the approved Home/Hospital form.
- (4) A student with a disability may not receive Home/Hospital teaching for more than 60 consecutive school days based on an emotional condition.
- (5) A student who is pregnant may receive Home/Hospital tutoring for 6 weeks after delivery.

**E. Attendance:**

The student will be counted as present from time of verification, except when a student is not available for scheduled instructional service, in which event the student is counted absent.

**F. Services Provided:**

- (1) The length of instruction for students in a full day program must be at least six (6) hours per week.
- (2) The length of instruction for students in a half day program must be at least three (3) hours per week.
- (3) The instructional service shall begin as soon as possible, but at least within ten (10) school calendar days following the:
  - (a) notification to the local school system of the inability of the student to attend the school of enrollment; and
  - (b) receipt of the verification of the need for services as provided in Regulation C of this policy.

**G. The Superintendent or his designee will determine the delivery option. The options may include:**

- (1) providing direct instructional services to the students;
- (2) contract with private provider to deliver instructional services;
- (3) contract with other local school systems to provide instructional services, or
- (4) combine any of the delivery options described in H of this policy.

**H. When instructional services are provided at the student's place of residence an adult over the age of 18 must be present or if the student is over the age of 18, a third individual over the age of eighteen must be present.**

**I. The student's assigned teachers at the home school are responsible for grading the work provided. The assigned teachers should also provide feedback to the student and to the Home & Hospital Teacher.**

**J. In the event a student is permanently disabled and his or her condition so severe, as verified**

**Somerset County Board of Education**  
**Policy # 500-28**

**Page 4**

by a licensed physician, that there is little or no possibility of the student leaving the hospital or home environment, a referral will be made to the appropriate home school Admission, Review and Dismissal Committee to determine if there is a need for special education services.

- K. In the event a disagreement arises in the implementation of this policy, the student, parent, legal guardian, or school system may seek a review before the schools ARD Committee or Pupil Services Team.
- L. Excluded from these regulations are the home-based programs operated through the Office for Children, Youth and Families and the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program for the birth through 2-year old disabled population and Home Instruction as defined in COMAR 13A.10.01.01.