



Book	Policy Manual
Section	9000 Relations
Title	EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS (HOME EDUCATED)
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#### 9270 - EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS (HOME EDUCATED)

The Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all school age children resident in this District in public schools or in approved parochial or private schools so that they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment.

A parent electing to home educate a child shall provide the Superintendent with annual written notification as specified in the Ohio Administrative Code Regulations 3301-34-01 through 3301-34-06. The notification must include certain specific information and assurances concerning the home education program as set forth in State law, the State Department of Education Regulations, and AG 9270.

The Superintendent will excuse the child from attendance for home education purposes upon satisfactory showing that the child is being home educated by a person qualified to teach the branches in which instruction is required as referenced in AG 9270, and such additional branches, as the advancement and needs of the child may, in the opinion of the Superintendent, require. Students who are excused from attendance at school in accordance with the State Board of Education regulations will be withdrawn from enrollment in the Westerville City Schools during the period of home schooling.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative guidelines that ensure that, prior to a child being excused from attendance for home education purposes, all requirements specified in the State Department of Education regulations and the conditions established in Policy 5463 - Credits from State-Chartered, Special, and Nonchartered Schools have been met.

Home educated students will be permitted to take normed-referenced and standardized achievement tests that are regularly scheduled for the district students of similar age to fulfill one of the student academic assessment options prescribed by state rules. These tests are given at selected grade levels and must be taken during the regular administration of the tests. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements with the school of attendance. The Westerville City School District will not pay for testing outside the school district.

Information packets containing home education requirements, parent/guardian obligations and notification process are available through the Office of Assessment & Alternative Education Services.

Although students choosing home schooling are not the direct responsibility of the Westerville City Schools, the Board and staff share an interest in their education; therefore, the School District will permit students receiving home education access to certain services as follows:

Elementary Level, Grades K-5

Enrollment on a part-time basis all school year, up to a maximum of two (2) special subject area of art, music, orchestra and physical education.

Secondary Level, Grades 6-12

Enrollment on a part-time basis all school year, up to a maximum of four (4) courses generating a total of four (4) credits per year.

Students enrolling part-time must be residents of the district, provide their own transportation, follow regular school enrollment requirements, comply with and be held accountable to the district student code of conduct and be in accordance with the district guidelines as it relates to procedures for educating a child at home and procedures for enrolling part-time.

A student who is educated at home is permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity offered in the school district to which the student would otherwise be assigned during the school year. If the District operates more than one (1) school that serves the student's grade level (as determined by the student's age and academic performance), the student shall be permitted to participate in the extracurricular activities at the school to which the student would be assigned by the Superintendent pursuant to R.C. 3319.01. If the student elects to participate in an extracurricular activity offered by the District, the student is not allowed to participate in that activity at another school or school district to which the student is not entitled to attend.

Similarly, a student who is enrolled in a nonpublic school is entitled to participate in any extracurricular activity not offered by the nonpublic school in the school district to which the student would otherwise be assigned during the school year. If the District operates more than one (1) school that serves the student's grade level (as determined by the student's age and academic performance), the student shall be permitted to participate in that extracurricular activity at the school to which the student would be assigned by the Superintendent pursuant to R.C. 3319.01.

#### Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate in any extracurricular activity as detailed above, a student being educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school must be the appropriate age and grade level for the school that offers the extracurricular activity and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant as specified in Board policy, administrative guidelines, the student handbooks and/or the Athletic Handbook. A student educated at home must meet the following academic requirements:

- A. If the student received home instruction in the preceding grade period, the student shall meet any academic requirements established by the State Board of Education for the continuation of home instruction.
- B. If the student did not receive home instruction in the preceding grading period, the student's academic performance during the preceding grading period shall have met any academic standards for eligibility to participate in the program established by the District.
- C. Eligibility for a student who leaves a school district mid-year for home instruction shall be determined based on an interim academic assessment issued by the district in which the student was enrolled based on the student's work while enrolled in the District.
- D. Any student who commences home instruction after the beginning of a school year and who is, at the time home instruction commences, ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity due to failure to meet academic standards or any other requirements of the District shall not participate in the extracurricular activity until the student meets the academic requirements established by the State Board of Education for continuation of home instruction as verified by the Superintendent. No student shall be eligible to participate in the same semester in which the student as determined ineligible.

No eligible home schooled or nonpublic school student will be charged any fees in excess of those fees charged to other students for participation in the same extracurricular activity. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in college credit plus program as long as the student fulfills all academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements.

The district shall enroll or re-enroll a child who has been home educated without discrimination or prejudice. All students wishing to graduate from the Westerville City School District must pass the Ohio Graduation Test requirements and meet all other state and district graduation requirements.

The Superintendent shall determine the appropriate placement of such students in accordance with R.C. 3319.01 and follow the appropriate full-time enrollment or re-enrollment procedures, as follows:

- A. Placement will be made by the superintendent or designated building principal based upon:
  1. Review of the child's most recent annual academic assessment report.

2. The age of the child.
3. Require the child to take any or all of the nationally normed, standardized achievement tests that are regularly scheduled for the district students of similar age.
4. Other evaluation information that may include, but is not limited to, interviews with the child and/or parent(s)/guardians(s) and review of the student's work portfolio.

B. Returning students will be encouraged to re-enter at the beginning of a grading period.

C. The building principal, counselor, teacher and others as deemed appropriate by the building principal will review all pertinent information and make a decision concerning class placement and awarding credits for work completed while home educated.

A home educated student wishing to graduate with a Westerville City Schools diploma must meet all graduation requirements outlined in Policy 5460 – Graduation Requirements. Administrative Guideline 9270 – Procedure For Educating A Child At Home, describes the process for evaluating eligibility.

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