

Parent Checklist for Approval for Home Education Alternative Program

Student Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____ Gr.: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Plymouth Public Schools recognize a parent's rights to home educate their children as long as they are keeping in with Massachusetts Laws and Regulations and the Plymouth School Committee.

In order to assist parents in this process, we request that parents carefully read the Plymouth School Committee Policy Guidelines, and also to encourage them to contact the Director of Student Support Services for additional clarification.

The following checklist should be utilized in assisting you complete the request for approval of your child's home education alternative program.

- Original dated letter of intent with parent/guardian signature.
- Competency of the teacher(s) to include academic background, experience, or any other factors which may assist the Plymouth School Committee in judging competency of the instructor(s).
- A listing of the subjects to be taught.
- A time schedule indicating the number of minutes per day during which instruction will be allocated to each subject area.
- A calendar indicating the number of minutes per day during which instruction will be given.
- A listing of the textbooks and/or teaching materials to be employed and/or listing of objectives to be achieved by each child if these objectives are not listed in the teaching materials.
- Testing – Parents will also include as part of the child's education plan an outline describing the types of evaluative instruments and/or procedures to be utilized in periodically measuring the child's academic growth.

Helpful reminders for parents/guardians:

- Please be aware that home educated students are not awarded a Plymouth Public Schools high school diploma.
- Please be aware that home educated students do not participate in MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System).
- A student being educated through an approved home education plan shall be allowed to participate in public school activities of an extra-curricular nature. Home-educated students participating in extra-curricular activities are subject to the same participation fees, state and local regulations, and district policies and procedures as enrolled students.
- Please be as thorough as you can in completing each item. Incomplete information may delay the processing of your request.
- Do not assume that the school district is familiar with a particular curriculum or program that you propose using. While there are many “home school programs,” these programs can change annually and it is incumbent on the parent/guardian to provide the school district with a copy of the curriculum and/or program.
- Please note that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Plymouth Public Schools require that at a minimum, elementary students are to be educated for at least nine hundred (900) hours per year, while secondary students are to receive nine hundred and ninety (990) hours per year. While public school children attend school for one hundred and eighty (180) days per year in order to meet this requirement, we recognize that some parents may seek an alternative in days or hours in order to meet the total hour requirements. We will consider alternatives that may meet these requirements, including year round schooling.
- If at any point in time, you believe your child may have a disability that requires special education intervention you make a referral to the principal of the public school that your child might otherwise attend. If services are required, they would be at the public school.
- Your son/daughter’s educational progress is important to both you and the school district in monitoring their program. We suggest using the results to develop the following year’s program.

At any time you have a question or concern, please feel free to contact the Director of Student Support Services at 508-224-5086.