

SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOME EDUCATION/
HOME SCHOOLING PROGRAMS

ADOPTED: November 11, 2002

REVISED: June 9, 2015

<p>Replaces policy 5112.2</p>	<p>137. HOME EDUCATION/HOME SCHOOLING PROGRAMS</p>
<p>1. Authority SC 1327, 1327.1</p>	<p>The Board shall approve a program of home education, pursuant to the School Code, permitting students to study at home in accordance with the Board policy.</p>
<p>2. Definition SC 1327.1 (a)</p>	<p>Home Education Program - a program conducted in compliance with the School Code by the parent or guardian or person having legal custody of a child. A home education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of this law.</p> <p>Department shall mean the Department of Education of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Supervisor - the parent or guardian or person having legal custody of a child who shall be responsible for providing instruction, provided that such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.</p> <p>Hearing Examiner - shall not be an officer, employee or agent of the Department of Education or of the school district or intermediate unit of residence of the child in the home education program.</p> <p>Appropriate Education - a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required by law and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.</p>
<p>3. Guidelines SC 1327.1 (b) (1)</p>	<p><u>Eligibility/Affidavits</u></p> <p>A notarized affidavit of the parent or guardian or person having legal custody of the child shall be filed prior to commencement of the home education program and annually thereafter on August 1 with the Superintendent of the school district. The affidavit shall set forth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name of the supervisor of the home education program who shall be responsible for the provision of instruction. 2. Name and age of each child who shall participate in the home education program.

<p>Pol. 203, 209</p>	<p>3. Address and telephone number of the home education program site.</p> <p>4. That subjects required by law are offered in the English language, including an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area.</p> <p>5. Evidence that the child has been immunized and has received the health and medical services required for students of the child's age or grade level.</p>
<p>SC 111</p>	<p>The affidavit shall contain certification signed by the supervisor that the supervisor, all adults in the home, and persons having legal custody of a child in the home education program have not been convicted of criminal offenses as enumerated in the School Code within five years immediately preceding the date of the affidavit.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (b) (2)</p>	<p><u>Transfers</u></p> <p>When a home education program site is relocating to another school district within the Commonwealth, the supervisor of the home education program must apply, by registered mail, thirty (30) days prior to the relocation, to the Superintendent of the district in which s/he currently resides, requesting a letter of transfer for the home education program to the district to which the home education program is relocating. The Superintendent will issue the letter of transfer no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the registered mail request of the home education program supervisor. If the home education program is not in compliance with Section 1327.1, the Superintendent will inform the home education supervisor and the Superintendent of the district to which the home education program is relocating the status of the home education program and the reason for the denial of the letter of transfer. If the home education program is in hearing procedures, the Superintendent will inform the home education supervisor, the assigned hearing examiner and the Superintendent of the district to which the home education program is relocating the status of the home education program and the reason for the denial of the letter of transfer. The letter of transfer must be filed by the supervisor of the home education program with the Superintendent of the new district of residence. In the case of pending proceedings, the new district of residence Superintendent shall continue the home education program until the appeal process is finalized.</p> <p><u>Program</u></p> <p>A student who is enrolled in a home education program shall be deemed to have met the requirements if the program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction, or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year at the secondary level.</p>

<p>SC 1327.1 (1)</p>	<p>At the elementary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography; history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires; health and physiology; physical education; music; and art.At the secondary level, the following courses shall be taught: English, to include language, literature, speech and composition; science; geography; social studies, to include civics, world history, history of the United States and Pennsylvania; mathematics, to include general mathematics, algebra and geometry; art; music; physical education; health; and safety education, including regular and continuous instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (2)</p>	<p>Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age appropriate courses required by the State Board of Education.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (1)</p>	<p><u>Requirements of Supervisor</u></p> <p>In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor shall provide and maintain on file for each student enrolled in the home education program a portfolio of records and materials.</p> <p>The portfolio shall consist of a log, made contemporaneously with the instruction, which designates by title the reading materials used; samples of any writings; worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student; and in grades three, five and eight results of nationally normed standardized achievement tests in reading, language arts and mathematics or results of statewide tests administered in these grade levels.</p> <p>For each child in grades three, five and eight, or the results obtained on a "nationally-normed standardized achievement test" approved by the Department for home school supervisors to choose. The supervisor shall ensure that the nationally normed standardized tests or the statewide tests are not administered by the child's parent or guardian. The Department has approved seven (7) nationally normed standardized tests for home school use. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iowa Test of Basic Skills. 2. Terra Nova Test (used by Southern Lehigh). 3. Stanford Achievement Test. 4. Metropolitan Achievement Test. 5. Science Research Associates.

	<p>6. Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills.</p> <p>7. Comprehensive Testing Program (CTPII).</p> <p>8. Wide Range Achievement Test.</p> <p>9. A Peabody Individual Test.</p> <p>At the request of the supervisor, the Southern Lehigh School District will administer an achievement test to the student, in a school classroom along with other students who are being tested.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Requirements</u></p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (e) (l) (i), (ii)</p>	<p>A teacher or administrator who evaluates a portfolio at the elementary level or secondary level shall meet the requirements established in the School Code.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (f)</p>	<p><u>Loan of Instructional Materials</u></p> <p>The district shall, at the request of the supervisor, lend to the home education program copies of the school district's planned courses, textbooks, and other curriculum materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.</p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (f.1)</p>	<p><u>Participation pursuant to school athletics, publications and organizations</u></p> <p><u>The district shall permit a child who is enrolled in a home education program to participate in any activity that is subject to the provisions of section 511, including, but not limited to, clubs, musical ensembles, athletics and theatrical productions, provided that the child:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>(i) Meets the eligibility criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the school district;</u> <u>(ii) Meets the tryout criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the school district; and</u> <u>(iii) Complies with all policies, rules and regulations or their equivalent of the governing organization of the activity.</u> <p><u>For this subsection, the district's program of interscholastic athletics, including varsity sports, shall be considered an activity and shall include all activities related to competitive sports contests, games, events or exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students whenever such activities occur between schools within the district or between schools outside of the district.</u></p> <p><u>Where the activity requires completion of a physical examination or medical test as a condition of participation and the district offers such physical examination or medical test to students enrolled in the school district, the district shall permit a child</u></p>

<p>SC 1327.1 (h.1)</p>	<p><u>who is enrolled in a home education program to access such physical examination or medical test. The district shall publish the dates and times of such physical examination or medical test in a publication of general circulation in the school district and on its publicly accessible Internet website.</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation documentation</u></p> <p><u>An evaluator’s certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring for the school year under review shall be provided by the supervisor to the superintendent of the public school district of residence by June 30 of each year. If the supervisor fails to submit the certification due on June 30 to the superintendent, the superintendent shall send a letter by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the supervisor of the home education program, stating that the certification is past due and notifying the supervisor to submit the certification within ten (10) days of receipt of the certified letter. If the certification is not submitted within that time, the board of school directors shall provide for a proper hearing in accordance with subsection (k).</u></p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (i.1)</p>	<p><u>If the superintendent has a reasonable belief, at any time during the school year, that appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program, he may submit a letter to the supervisor, by certified mail, return receipt requested, requiring that an evaluation be conducted in accordance with subsection (e)(2) and that an evaluator’s certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring the school year under review, be submitted to the district by the supervisor within thirty (3) days of the receipt of the certified letter. The certified letter shall include the basis for the superintendent’s reasonable belief. If the tests, as required in subsection (e)(l), have not been administered at the time of the receipt of the certified letter by the supervisor, the supervisor shall submit the other required documentation to the evaluator and shall submit the test results to the evaluator with the completed documentation at the conclusion of the school year. If the certification is not submitted to the superintendent within thirty (30) days of receipt of the certified letter, the board of school directors shall provide for a proper hearing in accordance with subsection (k).</u></p>
<p>SC 1327.1 (j.1)</p>	<p><u>If the superintendent has a reasonable belief that the home education program is out of compliance with any other provisions of this section, the superintendent shall submit a letter to the supervisor by certified mail, return receipt requested, requiring a certification to be submitted within thirty (30) days indicating that the program is in compliance. The certified letter shall include the basis for the superintendents’ reasonable belief. If the certification is not submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt of the certified letter, the board of school directors shall provide for a proper hearing in accordance with subsection (k).</u></p>

