

SUPERINTENDENT'S REGULATION 7-2.1(B)

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE: HOME INSTRUCTION

Annual notification of intent to educate children at home shall be provided by parents to the division superintendent by August 15 prior to the opening of school. Such notification shall include evidence of meeting one of the four legal requirements for providing home instruction:

1. holding a high school diploma;
2. being a teacher with qualifications prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education;
3. providing a program of study which may be delivered through a correspondence course or distance learning program or in any other manner; or
4. provides evidence that the parent is able to provide an adequate education for the child.

The notification shall also include a description of the curriculum to be followed for the coming year.

Parents who begin home instruction or who establish residence in the school division during the school year shall provide written notice of their intention to educate their children at home as soon as practicable. Within thirty (30) days of providing such notice, the parents shall provide a description of the curriculum of the subjects to be studied during the coming year and to be followed for the remainder of the school year, and evidence of meeting one of the four legal requirements for providing home instruction listed above.

Within thirty (30) days of notification of intention to instruct at home, the division superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that the parents have submitted evidence of having met one of the four requirements listed above. At a minimum, the following information is required:

1. child's name and date of birth; and
2. a description of the curriculum.

Instruction in certain courses is required for a regular high school diploma should a student who has previously received home instruction return to the Poquoson City Public Schools. All graduates shall have earned the standard and verified credits as required by the Standards of Quality and prescribed by the State Board of Education.

Parents who anticipate their home-instructed child will return to the school division and proceed to graduate should include these subject areas in their home schooling curriculum and are encouraged to confer annually with the director of student services to ensure compliance with the most current course requirements.

The Poquoson City Public Schools will not be required to place home-instructed students who subsequently seek public school enrollment in specific grade level classes unless the required subject areas have been satisfactorily mastered, nor will the Poquoson City Public Schools be responsible for enforcing such course requirements on home-instructed students who may, at some future point, seek a regular high school diploma.

By August 1 following the school year in which children have received home instruction, the parents shall submit either:

1. evidence that the children have attained a composite score in or above the fourth stannine on any nationally normed standardized achievement test; or
2. an evaluation or assessment which the division superintendent determines to indicate that the children are achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress including but not limited to:
 - a. an evaluation letter from a person licensed to teach in any state, or a person with a master's degree or higher in an academic discipline, having knowledge of the child's academic progress, stating that the child is achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress; or
 - b. a report card or transcript from a community college or college, college distance learning program, or home-education correspondence school.

If evidence of satisfactory achievement or growth is not provided by the parent, the home instruction program for that child may be placed on probation for one year. Parents shall file with the division superintendent evidence of their ability to provide an adequate education for their child in compliance with this regulation and a remediation plan for the probationary year which indicates their program is designed to address any educational deficiency. Upon acceptance of such evidence and plan by the division superintendent, the home instruction may continue for one probationary year. If the remediation plan and evidence are not accepted or the required evidence of progress is not provided by August 1 following the probationary year, the division superintendent shall advise the parents that home instruction shall cease and the parents shall otherwise comply with § 22.1-254 of the Code of Virginia for the education of the child. These requirements shall not apply to children who are under the age of six (6) as of September 30 of the school year.

Any parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of a child being home instructed shall comply with immunization requirements provided in §§ 32.1-46 and 22.1-271.4 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the child has been enrolled and is attending school. Upon the request of the division superintendent, the parent shall submit to him/her documentary proof of immunization in compliance with Virginia Code §§ 32.1-46 and 22.1-271.4, Code of Virginia, and Poquoson City School Board Policy 7-2.3.

Students receiving home instruction and their parents will be notified of the availability of Advanced Placement (AP) and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude (PSAT) examinations and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take these examinations. The School Board will implement a plan to make these examinations available to students receiving home instruction. The notice required by this paragraph will be given when the parent notifies the division that the student will receive home instruction.

Any parent aggrieved by a decision of the division superintendent may appeal his/her decision to an independent hearing officer in accordance with § 22.1-254.1(E) of the Code of Virginia.