

Excerpts From the Pennsylvania Home Education Law

Required Documentation

“In order to demonstrate that appropriate education is occurring, the supervisor of the home education program shall provide and maintain on file the following documentation for each student enrolled in the home education program...”

“Such documentation [the portfolio and evaluation] ...shall be provided to the public school district of residence superintendent at the conclusion of each public school year.”

The Portfolio

“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 the results of Statewide tests administered in these grade levels.”

The Evaluation

“The evaluation shall...be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio ... and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring.”

Definition of “Appropriate Education”

““Appropriate education” shall mean a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required in this act and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.”

Required Subjects

“At the elementary school level [grades 1-6], 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.”

Time Required

“A child who is enrolled in a home education program... shall be deemed to have met the requirements of section 1327 if that home education 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...”

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Required Documentation

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"Such documentation [the portfolio and evaluation] ...shall be provided to the public school district of residence superintendent at the conclusion of each public school year."

The Portfolio

"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 the results of Statewide tests administered in these grade levels."

The Evaluation

"The evaluation shall...be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio ... and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring."

Definition of "Appropriate Education"

"'Appropriate education' shall mean a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required in this act and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program."

Required Subjects

"At the secondary school level [grades 7-12], 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. Such courses of study may include, at the discretion of the supervisor of the home education program, economics; biology; chemistry; foreign languages; trigonometry; or other age-appropriate courses as contained in Chapter 5 (Curriculum Requirements) of the State Board of Education. "

Time Required

"A child who is enrolled in a home education program...shall be deemed to have met the requirements of section 1327 if that home education program provides a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction ... or nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year at the secondary level."