

HOME SCHOOLING—PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Moosabec CSD Board of Directors acknowledges the provisions for home school education as spelled out in Title 20-A. This law states “that the term ‘equivalent’ education is intended to mean meeting the state standards for alternative or other instruction and is not intended to mean the same as the education delivered in the public school system.”

It is our intent to permit home schooled students participate in all extra-curricular activities as required by legislation; such involvement shall be limited to homeschooled students whose home instruction programs are in compliance with applicable Maine law and Department of Education regulations. This policy makes clear the requirements for a home schooled student to receive a diploma from Jonesport-Beals High School.

I. PROVISION OF INFORMATION

At the request of the student or the student’s parent/guardian, this school unit shall make available to home-schooled students, in a form determined by the school, information regarding access to public school activities and attendance at the school unit’s schools. This information must include:

- A. Requirements regarding initial health and developmental screening for motor skills, vision, hearing, and immunization; and
- B. Criteria for participation of home-schooled students in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.

II. PERMITTED PARTICIPATION

- A. **Participation in Regular Classes.** Home instruction students may enroll in specific, day-school classes provided that the student’s attendance is regular, the class is deemed to be age and grade appropriate, and all prerequisite course requirements are met. In addition, the following shall also apply.
 - 1. The student or the student’s parent/guardian, on the student’s behalf, shall apply in writing to and receive written approval from the Superintendent/designee. Approval may not be unreasonably withheld.
 - 2. The student shall demonstrate prior satisfactory academic achievement consistent with school unit policy and procedures applicable to all students.
 - 3. The student shall comply with behavioral, disciplinary, attendance and other classroom rules applicable to all students. If a student fails to comply, the school may withhold credit or terminate the student’s participation.
 - 4. Transportation must be provided by the parent/guardian or student. However, the student may use the same transportation as all other students

in the school unit as long as additional expenses are not incurred and vehicle capacity is not exceeded.

5. The student shall complete all assignments and tests as required of all students in the same class.

B. Course Auditing. Home instruction students may audit a course(s) provided the following conditions have been met.

1. The student or the student's parent/guardian, on behalf of the student, shall apply in writing to and receive written approval from the Superintendent/designee to audit a specific course or courses. Participation may not be unreasonably withheld.
2. The student agrees to meet established behavioral, disciplinary, attendance and other classroom rules applicable to all students. If a student fails to comply, the school may terminate participation.

III. SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Special Education Services will be available to eligible special education students in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

IV. ADMISSION TO REGULAR PROGRAM/PLACEMENT

A student who has been receiving home-school instruction and who seeks admission to the regular school program will be placed in a grade commensurate with the level of the student's academic achievement. Placement must be guided by the following.

- A. For students who transfer into school from an educational program that is not required to meet the standards of the system of Learning Results, the principal of the receiving school shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting these standards.
- B. Appropriate school staff may make recommendations concerning placement based on, but not limited to, factors such as the student's completed curricula and record of achievement, conferences with the student's parent/guardian, and administration of tests.
- C. The final grade placement decision shall be made by the principal. The principal's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

V. RE-ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Placement of home-schooled students who wish to be readmitted to the school program will be determined by the principal who shall consult with members of the professional staff to the extent appropriate and, as deemed necessary, to make a reasonable

determination that the requisite academic standards have been met, and collect from parents actual samples of coursework (e.g., homework, papers, examinations). The principal may also direct that a test or tests be administered to help determine the student's progress toward meeting the content standards of the Learning Results for the purpose of determining an appropriate grade level. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the Superintendent.

VI. USE OF SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Subject to availability, a student receiving home instruction may use school textbooks, if the number of particular copies is sufficient, and library books owned by the school unit, subject to the following conditions.

- A. The use does not disrupt regular student, staff or special program functions.
- B. The student's sign-out period for a library book is the same as that applicable to regularly enrolled students.
- C. The student may sign out a textbook for a period not to exceed one school year.
- D. The parent/guardian and student agree to reimburse the school unit for lost, unreturned or damaged library books and textbooks and for consumable supplies used.

VII. USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

A student receiving home-school instruction may use public school facilities and equipment on the same basis as regularly enrolled students if the following conditions are met.

- A. The use does not disrupt regular school activities.
- B. The use is approved by the school principal in accordance with established school policy.
- C. The use does not create additional expense to the school unit.
- D. The use is directly related to the student's academic program.
- E. The use of potentially hazardous areas, such as shops, laboratories, and gymnasiums, is supervised by a qualified employee of the school unit, approved and assigned by the Superintendent.

VIII. SMARTER BALANCE ASSESSMENT

If a parent of a student in an equivalent instruction program requests to have the student participate in the Smarter Balance Assessment, such request must be granted. Participation in such examinations must be in compliance with all rules and procedures governing testing conditions in the school unit.

IX. PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students receiving home-school instruction may participate in co-curricular activities such as field trips, assemblies, and academically-related fairs provided:

- A. Prior written permission is obtained from both the parent/guardian and the principal; and
- B. The student has agreed to meet established behavioral, disciplinary, attendance, and other rules applicable to all students.

X. PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students receiving home-school instruction are eligible to try out for extracurricular activities sponsored by JBHS, provided the student applies in writing to the principal and the following requirements are satisfied.

- A. The student agrees to abide by equivalent rules of participation as are applicable to regularly enrolled students at JBHS.
- B. The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students. All required documentation must be made available prior to any extracurricular activity. The school principal is authorized to review home school work and other educational artifacts in order to make the determination that the necessary academic standards have been met.
- C. The student must meet equivalent academic standards as those established for regularly enrolled students and provide evidence that such standards are being met.
- D. The student must abide by the same transportation policy for attending extracurricular activities as regularly enrolled students who are participating in the same activity.

XI. STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION WHEN TUITION PAYMENT TO ANOTHER UNIT IS REQUIRED

If and when the school unit does not provide academic instruction for specific grade levels, the following applies for students enrolled in an approved program of equivalent instruction.

- A. **Class participation.** The home-schooled student or the student's parent/guardian shall request authorization from the resident local school unit to apply to another school unit for permission to participate in classes or activities in that other school unit.
- B. **Tuition payment.** Tuition payments for home-schooled student participation in a local school unit, including attendance at an applied technology center or an applied technology region other than the applicant's resident district is the responsibility of the home-schooled student, the student's parent/guardian, or the student's resident school administrative unit, in accordance with school unit policy. Participation may not be unreasonably withheld.
- C. **Participation eligibility.** A tuitioned, home-schooled student is subject to the rules relating to eligibility for participation in co-curricular or extracurricular activities as may apply at the receiving school unit.
- D. **Interscholastic activities.** A tuitioned, home-schooled student attending classes in more than one receiving school unit is not eligible for participation in interscholastic activities at any local school unit.

XII. HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDITS AND DIPLOMA ELIGIBILITY

The following standards govern the awarding of course credits and a graduation diploma to a student receiving home school instruction who seeks admission or readmission to Jonesport-Beals High School.

- A. A student shall earn high school credits for satisfactory completion of courses in the high school pursuant to 20-A, MRSA 5021(2)(A).
- B. A student may earn credit for course work through home school instruction if the principal determines, both in advance and upon completion of the course, that the course satisfies the requirements for awarding the credit. The principal may direct that the student undergo a test or tests to assist in making a determination relative to the awarding of credit.
- C. Requests for transfer credit for equivalent instruction completed at non-approved private schools, a private schools that elect not to meet requirements under 20_A,

- MRSA 2901, or through equivalent instruction programs must be evaluated on the merits of the documentation provided. The principal and guidance staff shall conduct these evaluations on request made by the student or the student's parent or guardian.
- D. The principal may direct the student undergo a test or tests to assist in making a determination relative to the awarding of credit.
 - E. For homeschooled students who transfer into Jonesport-Beals High School, from another state or an educational program that is not required to meet the standards of the state Learning Results, the principal shall determine the value of the prior educational experience toward meeting the standards through the local assessment system.
 - F. Homeschooled students must earn a minimum of eleven (11) credits taken in residence at Jonesport-Beals High School in order to be eligible for a diploma from JBHS. Homeschool students who do not earn eleven (11) credits as a resident student at JBHS are also not permitted to participate in the high school graduation ceremonies at Jonesport-Beals High School.

XIII. APPEALS

Appeals from administration and application of the Board policy are heard by the Board, whose decision is final and binding. Appeals that question the Board policy compliance with legal requirements must be made to the Commissioner, whose decision is final and binding.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 5001-A(3), 5021-5025
Ch. 127, 130 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference: IHBG – Home Schooling
IHBGB – Statement of Rights for Private School/ Home Schooling
Students with Disabilities

Date Adopted: July 1, 2003

Revised: February 5, 2004; December 10, 2015