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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 611

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611 HOME SCHOOLING

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Compulsory Attendance Law (Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of a child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship.

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

The person in charge of a home school and the education district must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minn. Stat. § 120A.22.

IV. IMMUNIZATION

The parent or guardian of a home-schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minnesota Statutes section 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 12, on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the executive director of the education district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year.

V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS

Upon formal request, as required by law, the education district will provide textbooks (including a teacher's edition, guide, or other materials that accompany a textbook when the edition, guide, or materials are packaged physically or electronically with textbooks for student use), individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials (including teacher materials that accompany pupil materials), software or other educational technology, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled child as provided under state law. The education district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to state law for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the education district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student provided that the education district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

VI. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES

Upon formal request, as required by law, the education district will provide pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled child as provided under state law. The education district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to state law.

VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a home school (in which five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the education district on the same basis as other public school students.

VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAMS

Enrollment in class offerings of the education district.

- A. A home-schooled child who is a resident of the education district may enroll in classes in the education district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the education district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The education district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. The education district board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

[Note: The provisions of Article VIII. - Shared Time Programs do not determine whether Shared Time Programs should be offered to any pupil. However, home-schooled children are required to be treated the same as all other nonpublic school children.]

IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

- 1. Minnesota State High School League-sponsored activities (in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school or the home school students are not residents of the education district).

A home school that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the education district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League bylaws. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the education district board.

- a. The home school must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
 - b. The home school is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
 - c. The home school is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any education district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.
2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school.

A home-schooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the education district upon application and approval from the education district board to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However, home school students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the education district board.

B. Transportation Services

1. The education district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a home-schooled child.
2. The education district board of the education district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instruction or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment - Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)

Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (Nonpublic Schools)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 510 (School Activities)