

Regulation IHBG Las Cruces Public Schools

Related Entries: IHBG
Responsible Office: Associate Superintendent for Instruction

HOME SCHOOLING

I. PURPOSE

To implement the policy of the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education to ensure that parents requesting information on home school procedures are provided with such information.

II. BACKGROUND

The state of New Mexico provides and the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) administers a program to provide parents and students residing in the school district with information on the eligibility and instructional requirements of home schooling.

III. PROCESS

A. Home School Eligibility Requirements and Responsibilities:

1. The parent or guardian of a student whom said parent or guardian wishes to enroll in a home school shall complete and submit the Notification of Establishment of a Home School Online Notification form, or Written Home School Notification form (which can be downloaded from the NMPED website and submitted via email, fax or regular mail) to the NMPED secretary within 30 days of the establishment of the home school and by April 1 of each subsequent year. The April 1 notice must identify the school district in which the student resides. New Mexico home schoolers are under no legal obligation to notify their local school district that they are home schooling. Families who are receiving public assistance may need to notify their school district in order to continue to receive public aid.
2. Home school students must meet state compulsory attendance age, which requires that students must be “at least five years of age prior to 12:01 a.m. on September 1 of the school year” to age 18 unless the person has graduated from high school (22-8-2(M), 22-12-2 NMSA 1978).
3. The parent or guardian must possess at least a high school diploma or its equivalent. (22-1-2.1(C) NMSU 1978) to be eligible under state law to provide instruction to a home schooled student.
4. The parent or guardian must maintain the student’s disease immunization records throughout the student’s attendance at home school. A waiver may be obtained from NMPED to this requirement due to religious objections.
5. A minimum of 180 days of instruction is required each school year for home schooled students, in compliance with state law, which states that the yearly required days of instruction must equal the “length of time of the school year that is established in the school district in which the person is a resident.” (22-

12-2(B) NMSA), which for LCPS is a minimum of 180 days for the 2012-13 school year.

6. Home schools shall teach the following subjects, including but not limited to, reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. (22-1-2(E) NMSA).
7. Home schools shall provide written notification to the NMPED secretary of Education of any changes in the information provided in the Notification of Establishment of a Home School Online Notification form or Written Home School Notification form within 30 days.
8. Home schools shall provide written notification to the NMPED Secretary in the event the home schooled student changes residence or ceases to be home schooled.
9. Home school students are not required to take standardized tests as mandated for public school students by NMPED and the United States Department of Education. (On March 15, 2001, New Mexico enacted SB 374, which specifically repealed testing requirements for home schoolers.)
10. The definition of “private school” specifically excludes home schools and home school satellite programs. (22-1-2(K)).
11. Twelfth-grade students who have been home schooled but wish to enroll in a public school and graduate are expected to successfully complete a full academic year in an LCPS high school in order to be considered eligible to receive a diploma from LCPS.
12. A student in a home school who meets the eligibility criteria in rules promulgated by the NMPED and the New Mexico Higher Education Department may apply for dual credit courses and online courses provided that the student pays the full cost of dual credit and/or online courses.

B. School District Responsibility to Home School Operators

1. The school district shall provide home school operators, if requested, with a copy of NMPED’s Procedures Manual for Home School Operators in New Mexico, which includes the Notification of Establishment of a Home School Online Notification form, or Written Home School Notification form.
2. The school district shall provide home school operators, if requested, with copies of local school board policies addressing placement, transfer of credits and issuance of diplomas.



Associate Superintendent for Instruction

November 5, 2012

Date Approved