



**HOMESCHOOL  
PPSD POLICY**

<b>General Belief</b>	The Providence School Board (“Board”) recognizes the right of parents and legal guardians to utilize home schooling as an alternative method to comply with the State Compulsory Attendance Law. Some parents/guardians, either for personal or religious reasons, may choose to educate their children at home. Any parent/guardian intending to carry out their child or children’s educational program through home school is to comply with State Law, Chapter 16-19-2.
<b>Purpose and Scope</b>	The purpose of this policy is to outline the process by which the Board approves Homeschool candidates.
<b>Definitions</b>	<p>The following definitions are provided to assist in understanding this policy and the legal obligations of the District.</p> <p><b>Providence School Board/Board:</b> The local School Committee as its referred to in Rhode Island General Law</p> <p><b>Candidate/Candidates:</b> Children being considered for Homeschooling</p> <p><b>Homeschool/Homeschooling:</b> Education program that is provided by or at the discretion of a child's parent/guardian</p> <p><b>Homeschool Office:</b> The Providence School District Staff responsible for the processing of homeschool applications. This office will provide support for parents/guardians to ensure students receive regular and quality instruction.</p> <p><b>Parent/Guardian:</b> Any individual who has legal custody over a student living within the District</p> <p><b>Truant:</b> Student absence or leave without explanation or exemption</p> <p><b>Letter of Intent:</b> a form used to notify school departments that a child will be homeschooled instead of attending a public or private educational institution</p> <p><b>Educational Plan:</b> The proposed educational plan that outlines a parents/guardians plan of action. This proposal will include the hours of instruction, subjects to be taught, materials/resources utilized, and planned assessments.</p>

**Guidelines and Implementation Strategies**

Parents/Guardians wishing to exercise their right to educate a child or children at home must follow the below steps for obtaining approval.

**A. Submit a *Letter of Intent (LOI)*. Letter of Intent can be submitted for multiple children.**

**The Letter of Intent must include:**

- The names and addresses of all parent/guardian(s) of the child;
- The school year for which the home schooling is intended to be provided;
- A submission of an email address so an application can be emailed to the parent/guardian of the child;
- The name and age of the child as well as approximate educational grade level for that school year;
- The number of days of instruction to be provided, including the number of hours of instruction per day, which sum must be substantially equal to that required by law in public schools;
- Assurances that the parent shall keep and maintain registers of attendance and that such registers shall be made available to the Superintendent/designee, the School Board and the Department's attendance officer(s) upon request. Attendance forms will be made available by the school department;
- Assurances that the proposed home school program shall include the following content areas which shall be taught thoroughly and efficiently and in the English language: reading; writing; geography; arithmetic/math; history of the United States; history of Rhode Island; principles of American government; health and physical education; and the English language. The curriculum submitted for the home school candidate must be approved by the Division of Teaching and Learning.

**B. Parents/Guardians will receive homeschool *application* for completion and submission upon the receipt of a completed Letters of Intent.**

**Applications must be submitted for each individual child.**

**a. Students Identified as *receiving IEP Services*:**

Applications will be forwarded to the Department of Specialized Instruction. Once the Department of Specialized Instruction receives the letter of intent and application,

they must schedule an IEP meeting to discuss eligibility with the family within 10 days. In the event that the team determines that the student cannot be provided with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through the plan submitted for home schooling, the parent shall be required to withdraw the student from special education services. The team must be able to provide the full services of the IEP and not provide selected individual services. Once the Office of Specialized Instruction signs off on the application, the Superintendent's designee will submit the LOI and application to the School Board for approval.

**C.** An *Educational Plan* must be completed and submitted for approval. Educational Plans will be reviewed and approved by the Providence School Department Office of Teaching & Learning. Plans not receiving approval will be sent to parents/guardians with a revision request and feedback suggestions. **Educational Plans must be submitted for each individual child.** The form must reflect that the proposed educational plan will comply with Title 16-19-2 requirements of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

The **Educational Plan** must include the following:

- Hours of Instruction
- Subjects to be Taught
- Materials/Resources
- Assessments

**D.** Approved Homeschool Programs are subject to annual renewal approval by the Board. In order to receive approval, parents/guardians should submit the following to the Homeschool Office by July 1, annually:

- a. Instructional attendance records as required by State of RI Law
  - i. A home schooling year must be substantially equal to that required by law in public schools.
- b. Some type of evaluation component that will accommodate the preferences of parents/guardians for certain mechanisms for measurement.
  - i. This may take the form of a report card, written evaluation, dated work samples or other means of evaluation.

**E.** If a Parent/Guardian refuses to submit a completed Homeschool Application and Educational Plan, the Homeschool Office will submit

	<p>the incomplete Homeschool Application to the Board with a recommendation that it be denied 60 days after a parent/guardian expresses initial intent to homeschool. Parents/Guardians will receive official notification of an approval and/or denial. Parents/Guardians have the right to appeal a decision of the Board to the department of elementary and secondary education.</p> <p><b>F.</b> Homeschooled Students who reenter the district will be treated as transfer students.</p>
Compliance with Laws, Confidentiality Requirements	The Superintendent will ensure that all PPSD employees and all PPSD contractors comply fully with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and with all Board policies. In the event any part of any policy is unlawful, the Superintendent will report such an event to the Board as soon as practicable and request of the Board a modification of the policy.
Legal Reference	RIGL § 16-19-2. Approval of private schools – Requirements – Review.
History	Approved by Board: