



**HOMESCHOOL
PPSD POLICY**

<p>General Belief</p>	<p>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 16-19-1, 16-19-2, 16-22-2, 16-22-4, and 16-23-2.</p>
<p>Purpose and Scope</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to outline the process by which the Board approves Homeschool candidates.</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>The following definitions are provided to assist in understanding this policy and the legal obligations of the District.</p> <p>Providence School Board/Board: The local School Committee as it is referred to in Rhode Island General Law.</p> <p>Candidate/Candidates: Children being considered for Homeschooling.</p> <p>Homeschool/Homeschooling: Education program that is provided by or at the discretion of a child's parent/legal guardian.</p> <p>Student Support Services Office: The Providence School District Staff responsible for the processing of homeschool applications. This office will provide support for parents/legal guardians to ensure students receive regular and quality instruction.</p> <p>Parent/Legal Guardian: Any individual who has legal custody over a student living within the District.</p> <p>Truant: Student absence or leave without explanation or exemption.</p> <p>Letter of Intent: a form used to notify school departments that a child will be homeschooled instead of attending a public or private educational institution. Included in the Letter of Intent is a <i>Home School Written Agreement</i> outlining a family's choice to handle their child’s education privately. Parents/ legal guardians must agree and provide their signature that they will abide by RIDE Laws 16-19-1, 16-19-2, 16-22-2 and 16-22-4.</p> <p>Educational Plan (optional): The proposed educational plan that outlines a parents/legal guardians plan of action. The District may require an Education Plan if concerns arise in regards to a particular application. This optional proposal</p>

	<p>will include the hours of instruction, subjects to be taught, materials/resources utilized, and planned assessments. Yearly submission is required if a parent/legal guardian chooses to submit an Educational Plan.</p>
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	<p>Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE): The right to a Free Appropriate Public Education is an educational entitlement of all students in the United States who are identified as having a disability, guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.</p>
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Guidelines and Implementation Strategies

Parents/Legal 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 of all parent/legal guardian(s) of the child(ren);
- The school year for which the homeschooling is intended to be provided;
- A submission of a mailing and email address so an application can be mailed and/or emailed (parent/legal guardian preference) to the parent/legal guardian of the child(ren);
- The name, age, and birth year of the child(ren) as well as approximate educational grade level for that school year;
- The number of days of instruction plus the approximate number of instructional hours daily to be provided which sum must be substantially equal to that required by law in public schools;
- Assurances that the parent/legal guardian 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 homeschool 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; civics, principles of American government; health and physical education; and the English language. The curriculum submitted for the homeschool candidate(s) must be approved by the PPSD Teaching and Learning Department.
- Assurances that the parent/legal guardian agrees to handle their child's education privately and provide their signature that they will abide by RIDE Laws 16-19-1, 16-19-2, 16-22-2 and 16-22-4.

- B. Students Identified as *receiving IEP Services*:**
Applications will be forwarded to the Department of Specialized Instruction & Exceptional Student Services. Once the Department of Specialized Instruction & Exceptional Student Services 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 homeschooling, 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 & Exceptional Student Services signs off on the application, the Superintendent's designee will submit the Letter of Intent and application to the School Board for approval.
- C.** The submission of an *Educational Plan* will be optional. The District may require an Education Plan if concerns arise in regards to a particular application. Plans may be submitted in conjunction or after the Letter of Intent (LOI) has been submitted. The submitted Educational Plans will be reviewed by the Providence School Department Office of Teaching & Learning. Plans will be sent to parents/legal guardians with feedback and/or suggestions. **Optional 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 optional *Educational Plan* should include the following:
- Hours of Instruction
 - Subjects to be Taught
 - Materials/Resources
 - Assessments
- D.** If a Parent/legal Guardian refuses to submit completed Homeschool documents, the Homeschool Office will submit the incomplete documents to the Board with a recommendation that it be denied 60 days after a parent/legal guardian expresses initial intent to homeschool. Parents/legal guardians will receive official notification of an approval and/or denial. Parents/legal guardians have the right to appeal a decision of the Board to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

E. Parents/legal guardians preferably submit the following to the Student Support Services (Homeschool) Office by July 1, annually:

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

F. Approved Homeschool Programs are subject to annual renewal approval by the School Board. Homeschool candidates must complete the items outlined in Sections A, B, C, & D of the Homeschool PPSD Policy.

G. Homeschooled students who reenter the district will be considered a transfer student. Upon their re-entry the student(s) will be placed by the PPSD Registration Department.

H. Students receiving homeschooling have the same rights that private school students have to be loaned textbooks in Science, Math, English and Modern Language. Requests for such books must be made following the procedure established for private school students.

I. Homeschool participation in extracurricular and/or interscholastic activities, will be directed through the Office of Student Support Services and is contingent upon the understanding that approval will be guided by the following considerations:

- a. Full-time enrollees in the Providence Public Schools shall have preference.
- b. The homeschool parent/legal guardian provides transportation to and from school-based activity.
- c. Homeschool student(s) follow all rules and meet the same requirements as established for public school students, including health records, and student information system data and other expectations as stated in the code of conduct.

	<p>J. Students wishing to participate in a sport must be approved based upon the criteria in Section 5 and meet all eligibility requirements of the Rhode Island Athletic Interscholastic League.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The principal of the middle school or high school must be provided with a copy of a listing of all academic grades earned for each quarter, signed by a parent/legal guardian or other principal provider of homeschool instruction. Grades must be provided to the principal no later than the end of each quarter beginning with the quarter prior to the start of practice for any sport and continuing for each quarter during which the student participates in the sport. A portfolio of student work in support of earned grades must be available for review. b. The principal of the middle school or high school must be provided with a copy of a log of dates and times of school attendance during each quarter, signed by a parent/legal guardian or other principal provider of homeschool instruction. Attendance statistics must be provided to the principal no later than the end of the quarter beginning with the quarter prior to the start of practice for any sport and continuing for each quarter during which the student participates in the sport. <p>K. A student who completes an approved program of homeschooling is not eligible to receive a Providence High School diploma.</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 § 16-19-1, 16-19-2, 16-22-2, 16-22-4, and 16-23-2. Approval of private schools – Requirements – Review.
History	Approved by Board: