

HOME SCHOOLING

The Warwick School Committee recognizes that parents may utilize home schooling as an alternative method for complying with the State Compulsory Attendance Law. The State of Rhode Island provides certain requirements for the home schooling of students. The Warwick School Committee will approve home instruction that meets the requirements of current RI Law pertaining to private home instruction, including (Section 16-19-1, 16-19-2, 16-22-2, and 16-22-4) and delegates to the chairperson of the School Committee the authority to approve home instruction programs that meets these requirements.

The following guidelines shall be adhered to in requesting and approving a home schooling program.

1. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will submit written notification to the Superintendent of their intent to instruct their child or children at home for each school year. This letter will be termed the "Letter of Intent" and shall include: parent contact information (name, address, phone number and / or email address) the student's name, age, and grade, the subjects to be taught, a list of books for required subjects (title, author and publisher), the period of attendance and confirmation by the parent/guardian's of their intent to comply with current state law pertaining to private home instruction. If no textbook is to be used for a required subject, a brief overview of course content and resources to be used will be accepted.
2. If all of the required information is not included with the letter of intent, the Superintendent or his / her designee will contact said parent(s) or guardian(s) and request that the additional information be provided
3. The Superintendent will forward the letter of intent and his / her recommendation to approve or deny the request to homeschool to the chairperson of the Warwick School Committee within 30 days of receipt of said letter of intent.
4. If the School Committee chairperson does not approve a home school program, it will be presented to the full School Committee for consideration at the next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, with written notice to the parent(s) or guardian(s).
If the program is denied, it may be appealed to the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
5. The period of attendance shall be substantially equal to that required by law for public school students. Learning time may include direct student instruction, assessments, independent study, technology assisted learning, work-study programs, or presentations by a person other than their normal instructor.

6. The parent(s) or guardian(s) may request an informational meeting with the Superintendent or his / her designee, to review the requirements of home instruction.
7. Each school year, at no cost to the School Department, the parent(s) or guardian(s) shall submit an academic progress report in all appropriate curriculum areas and an attendance record in January and July. The School Committee will accommodate the preference of the parent(s) or guardian(s) for the mechanism for measurement of said progress report.
8. Provided that a letter of intent (as described in this policy) has been submitted to the Superintendent or his / her designee, a truancy petition will not be pursued during the pendency of the home instruction plan approval or while the appeal is pending through and including the appeal to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
9. No additional requirements will be imposed other than those specifically listed in this policy and or required by current state law pertaining to home instruction.
10. Upon written request to the Superintendent, support will be provided to homeschool students, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - i. Loan of current textbooks in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign language, English/language arts, and History/Social Studies. (Limited to the Published textbook list referred to in Title 16-23-3)
 - ii. Facilitate participation in curricular and extracurricular activities at the student's base school on a space available basis.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Student(s) must meet the same conditions, rules, regulations and policy requirements as those required of regularly enrolled students in the Warwick Public Schools including without limitation the Student Attendance Policy (JE), the Student Conduct Policy (JFC), the Student Discipline Policy (JG) and the Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities Policy (IGD).

Students must also comply with all Interscholastic League rules for athletics

Students requesting curricular courses must meet all of the prerequisite course requirements for entrance into the course. The student will be assigned to a guidance counselor for scheduling assistance. A maximum of two curricular courses taken simultaneously will be approved. Entry into any curricular courses will only be permitted if the addition of students does not exceed the contractual class size permitted in the collective bargaining agreement between the Warwick School Committee and the Warwick Teachers' Union.

It will be the parent(s) or guardian(s) responsibility to provide transportation to and from the base school. If a team / class activity takes place at an alternate location the student will be transported with the team / class, to and from that location.

Adopted: 1/9/06

LEGAL REFS: General Laws of R.I., § 16-19-1

CROSS REFS: Co curricular and Extracurricular Activities (IGD)
Student Attendance Policy (JE)
Student Conduct Policy (JFC)

Student Discipline Policy (JG)