

The Westford School Committee recognizes and respects the right of parents or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The school committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable.

The Westford Public Schools and Westford School Committee wish to work with parents or guardians in a collaborative manner. In the interest of protecting the constitutional rights of parents or guardians while at the same time ensuring the Commonwealth's interest that all children be educated, the approval of home schools shall be consistent with the statutory requirements of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 76, Section 1 and applicable case law.

The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for approving home schools. In obtaining the approval of the superintendent or designee, the parents or guardians bear the responsibility of demonstrating that the home school proposal meets the requirements of G.L. c. 76, Sec. 1, in that the instruction will equal "in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town."

The following factors may be considered by the superintendent or designee in determining whether or not to approve a home school proposal:

1. The proposed curriculum
2. The number of hours of instruction in each of the proposed subjects
3. The competency of the parents or guardians to teach the child(ren)
4. The textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children and the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents or guardians
5. The proposed means of evaluating the progress of the child(ren)

As part of the approval process, the superintendent or designee shall provide the parents or guardians with an opportunity to explain their proposed plan and present witnesses on their behalf.

A student being educated in a home school within the Westford Public School district may have access to the extracurricular and interscholastic activities upon approval of the Superintendent or designee. Whenever home school students participate in Westford Public School activities, they shall abide by the rules and regulations of Westford schools.

## HOME SCHOOLING

**P6202**  
**Page 2 of 2**

### Massachusetts Case Law References

Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Mass. 324 (1987)

Brunelle v. Lynn Public Schools 428 Mass. 512 (1988)

Care and Protection of Ivan, 48 Mass. App. 87 (1999)

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