

## HOME INSTRUCTION (HOME SCHOOLING)

This policy provides requisites for parents, or legal guardians, who elect to meet state compulsory attendance requirements by providing home instruction, also defined as home schooling, for their school age children. Instruction of children by their parent, or legal guardian, in their home has been declared an acceptable form of education provided that the parent, or legal guardian, qualify for home instruction per [§22.1-254.1](#) of the Code of Virginia. Parents, or legal guardians, who desire to provide home instruction for their children should contact the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, or designee.

A. Parent Obligations. Any parent, or legal guardian, who elects to provide home instruction in lieu of school attendance must annually notify the Division Superintendent, or designee, in August of their intention and must provide evidence of having met the requirements of state law and a description of the curriculum to be followed for the coming year. Any parent, or legal guardian, of any school-age child who does not meet the notification requirements by August 15 of any school year will be subject to other provisions of the state compulsory attendance law. Parents, or legal guardians, who move into the school division or begin home instruction after the school year has begun must notify the school division as soon as practicable and comply with the provisions of the law within 30 days of such notice.

In addition to compliance with [§22.1-254.1](#), any parent, legal guardian, or other person having control or charge of a child being home instructed, exempted, or excused from school attendance shall, upon request, submit to the Division Superintendent, or designee, documentary proof that the immunization requirements provided in [§32.1-46](#) of the Code of Virginia have been met. No proof of immunization shall be required of any child upon submission of:

1. an affidavit to the Division Superintendent that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the parent's or guardian's religious tenets or practices, or
2. a written certification from a licensed physician that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the child's health, indicating the specific nature of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicates immunization.

By August 1 of each succeeding year of home instruction the parent must provide the Division Superintendent, or designee, with either:

3. evidence that the child has attained a composite score in or above the fourth stanine on any nationally normed standardized achievement test or an equivalent score at or above the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile on the ACT, SAT, or PSAT test; or
4. an evaluation or assessment which the Division Superintendent, or designee, determines to indicate that the child is achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress, including but not limited to:

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- a. an evaluation letter from a person licensed to teach in any state, or a person with a master's degree or higher in an academic discipline, having knowledge of the child's academic progress, stating that the child is achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress. Parents, or legal guardians, who choose to have their children's achievement evaluated by another agency or person may seek approval in advance of the evaluation arrangements, which must be satisfactory to the Division Superintendent, or designee. The parents, or legal guardians, will pay all costs of evaluation by other agencies or persons; or
- b. a report card or transcript from a community college or college, college distance learning program, or home-education correspondence school.

If the parent does not provide such evidence of progress, the home instruction program for that child will be placed on probation for one year. Parents must file with the Division Superintendent, or designee, evidence of their ability to provide an adequate education for their child in compliance with the Code of Virginia [§22.1-254.1](#), subsection A, and a remediation plan for the probationary year which indicates that their program is designed to address any educational deficiency. Upon acceptance of such evidence and plan by the Division Superintendent, the home instruction may continue for one probationary year. If the remediation plan and evidence are not accepted or the required evidence of progress is not provided by August 1 following the probationary year, home instruction shall cease and the parent shall make other arrangements for the education of the child which comply with [§22.1-254](#) of the Code of Virginia. The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to children who are under the age of six as of September 30 of the school year.

B. Access to College Admissions Testing. Loudoun County Public Schools shall make Advanced Placement (AP), Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), and PreACT examinations available to students receiving home instruction. LCPS shall notify students receiving home instruction and their parents of the registration information and deadlines to participate in these examinations and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take such examinations. Any fees charged to home instructed students that meet Loudoun County residency requirements will be no more than those charged to regularly enrolled Loudoun County Public School students. Per Policy 4020, students who qualify shall be eligible to have fees waived.

C. Admission of Home Instruction Students to Loudoun County Public Schools. Students who have received home instruction and seek to enroll in Loudoun County Public Schools will be admitted and placed in accordance with Policy 8125 and with the following provisions:

1. Students will be admitted only at the beginning of the school year unless otherwise approved by the Division Superintendent, or designee.

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2. All students may be tested by Loudoun County Public Schools to determine their appropriate grade level.
3. Students will be placed in the appropriate grade by the principal of the school they enter.
4. High school credits will be accepted from home instruction only when documentation is provided from:
  - a. a school/program from an accredited organization recognized by Loudoun County Public Schools,
  - b. a school/program recognized by the Virginia Council for Private Education, or
  - c. a review of the official transcript by the principal, or designee, and Director of School Counseling which may result in the awarding of pass/fail final grades for courses taken during home instruction. Pass/fail grades are not calculated into the student's grade point average.

D. Admission of Home Instructed (Home-Schooled) Students as Part-time LCPS Students. No student on home instruction, except those enrolled on a part-time basis in accordance with Regulation 8115, will be permitted to participate in instructional or co-curricular activities. No student on home instruction will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities, per Regulation 8115.

E. Referral for Evaluation for Special Education Services. Upon verification of the notice of intent to provide home instruction, LCPS will inform the parents, or legal guardians, that if the parents, or legal guardians, have reason to suspect that their child may have a disability, then the parents, or legal guardians, may refer their child for evaluation for special education services by contacting the principal or designee of the child's LCPS school of residence.

F. Diploma Status. No student on home instruction will be granted a diploma from Loudoun County Public Schools or be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies.

G. Appeal. Any party aggrieved by a decision of the division superintendent may appeal the decision to an independent hearing officer within 30 days of the decision by providing a written request for an appeal to the school division superintendent's office. The school division must contact the Supreme Court of Virginia, secure the name of a hearing officer, and notify the parent/guardian of the hearing officer's appointment. The costs of the hearing shall be apportioned among the parties by the hearing officer in a manner consistent with their findings.

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Leg Refs: Code of Virginia §§[22.1-254](#), [22.1-254.1](#), [22.1-271.4](#), [32.1-46](#)

Cross Refs: Policy [8125](#), Admission Requirements; Regulation [8115](#), Individuals Who May Be Admitted Free; Policy [4020](#), Student Fees and Charges; [Guidelines for Home Instruction in Virginia, 2018](#); Policy [5330](#), [Special Education Student Eligibility and Transfer Procedures](#)