

Arlington Public Schools provides a program of homebound instruction for students enrolled in the Arlington Public Schools who are unable to attend school because of a documented medical condition of the student.

Homebound Instructional Services should be considered when it becomes known that a student will be unable to attend school for an extended period of time, or if a student's medical condition causes intermittent absences of substantial lengths. Students who are experiencing difficulties attending school may be referred by staff or parent/guardian for consideration of eligibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)/Special Education or Section 504, if their medical condition appears to be having an impact on their ability to access a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). Such referrals should be directed to the school principal or designee.

Students must be enrolled in Arlington Public Schools and meet the following criteria:

1. The individual having custody and legal responsibility for the student must be a resident of Arlington County.
2. The student must have one of the following conditions that prevent him/her from attending the public school program:
  - a. A physical illness or accident which prevents attendance in any of the public school programs, as attested to by a licensed physician or licensed clinical psychologist.
  - b. A psychiatric condition which prevents attendance in any of the public school programs, as attested to by a licensed psychiatrist.

Approval of homebound instruction is for a finite period of time, and no more than nine weeks upon initial approval. Continuation of additional homebound instruction must be requested by the licensed physician, clinical psychologist, or licensed psychiatrist. For students receiving special education services, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) committee determines the duration of services.

Students hospitalized in the D.C. area may receive homebound instruction. Arlington students hospitalized outside this area may be instructed under contract with the local school system in the geographic area they are hospitalized.

Credit for the work completed by the student while receiving homebound services shall be awarded when it is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher, a person eligible to hold a Virginia license, or other appropriately licensed professional employed by Arlington Public Schools, and there is evidence that the instructional time requirements or alternative means of awarding credit adopted by the Arlington School Board have been met.

### **Appeals**

Appeals of Homebound Instruction Application Denial or Request for Extension of Homebound Instructional Services Denial

Parents/guardians who are denied homebound instructional services may appeal the decision to the Superintendent/designee. The timeline for the appeal process will be provided in the denial letter sent to the parent/guardian. The appeal should be made in writing within ten (10) business days of the date of the receipt of the denial letter and include any additional medical

documentation from a licensed physician, clinical psychologist, or licensed psychiatrist. Should additional time be necessary to gather required medical documentation from the provider, the parent/guardian should contact the Superintendent/designee in writing. The Superintendent/designee may extend this timeline for no more than ten (10) business days. While an appeal is pending, students shall remain enrolled in Arlington Public Schools. For students already enrolled in homebound instruction who are requesting an extension, homebound instruction may be extended up to five (5) business days beyond the original end date if an appeal is pending. The Superintendent/designee shall respond to the appeal within ten (10) business days of receipt of the written appeal.

For a student with a disability, the appeals process should be in accordance with state regulations governing special education. All due process and IEP procedures will be followed.

The School Board shall monitor the implementation of this policy through monitoring reports to ensure that reasonable progress is being made toward achieving the School Board's goals and that operation of the school division is consistent with its policies.

#### **References**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Code of Virginia §8VAC20-131-180

School Board Policy I-7.2.1 Special Education Programs and Services

School Board Policy Implementation Procedure I-7.2.7 PIP-1 Homebound Instruction

#### **Policy Adoption and Revision History**

Adopted May 2003

Renumbered (former Policy 25-4.2) effective July 1, 2018

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