

Arlington Public Schools makes available to all students in attendance a variety of opportunities to participate in rich and rigorous educational experiences. A parent of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the eighteenth birthday may elect to provide home instruction in lieu of school attendance. Parents must notify the Superintendent (c/o School Liaison or Home Instruction) annually in writing by August 15 of his or her intent to do so.

Parents who elect to provide home instruction shall provide the Superintendent, by August 1 following the school year in which the child received home instruction, with either (1) evidence that the child has attained a composite score in or above the fourth stanine on any nationally normed standardized achievement test or (2) an evaluation or assessment which in the division Superintendent determines to indicate that the child is achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress.

Parents who elect to provide home instruction must meet one or more of the following qualifications:

1. Hold a high school diploma or higher credential.
2. Meet qualifications for a teacher prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.
3. Provide a program of study or curriculum which may be delivered through a correspondence school or a distance learning program or in any other manner.
4. Provide evidence that he/she is able to provide an adequate education for the student.

In the event that the parent does not provide the required evidence of progress, home instruction for the student may be placed on probation for one year. Parents must file with the Superintendent evidence of their ability to provide an adequate education for their child and a remediation plan. Upon acceptance of the evidence and the plan by the Superintendent, home instruction may continue for one probationary year. If the evidence and plan are not accepted or the required evidence of the 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 state regulations.

High school students who are approved for home instruction based on the Code of Virginia requirements, may complete an application for partial enrollment in the Arlington Public Schools on a part-time basis, in up to two credit-bearing courses per school year on a space available basis with priority given to full- time students. Course enrollment shall be limited to core courses (English, mathematics, science, social studies, or foreign language). Enrollment in courses will be done within a specified time period and scheduled after the regular course selection process for full- time students. Partially enrolled students will limit their presence on school grounds to the times of their scheduled classes. Students who are partially-enrolled may have access to the library during school hours as part of their class work. They may also use the school library during regular designated after school times. Students who are partially-enrolled may not use the library or any school facility during the school day unless the activity is during class time under the teacher's supervision.

Partially-enrolled students will be eligible for regularly-scheduled transportation services to school for classes that commence at the beginning of the school day. Students may use regularly- scheduled transportation from school if their classes are scheduled the last period of the school day. Partially-enrolled students must meet Office of Transportation Services eligibility guidelines to receive school transportation services.

Partially-enrolled students are not eligible to participate in Virginia High School League designated school-sponsored athletics, student organizations, and clubs. Partial enrollment is limited to the student's attendance area school. Alternative and countywide programs are not an option for partially-enrolled students on home instruction.

In the event that a partially-enrolled student fails to comply with registration, behavior and course requirements, Arlington Public Schools reserves the right to limit or withdraw the opportunity for enrollment pending a conference with the parent, student, home school liaison and school administrator or designee.

School-age students on home instruction may enroll or re-enroll in the Arlington Public Schools at any time.

Students in grades K through 8 on home instruction are not permitted to dual enroll in Arlington Public Schools. However, any student who is a resident of Arlington County may enroll on a tuition basis and under the same rules applicable to Arlington Public Schools students in the Summer School Program, the Extended Day Program, and the Career Center Enrichment Program.

Upon enrollment in Arlington Public Schools, students in grades K through 8 may submit a portfolio of work for review to determine grade or course placement.

To receive high school credit towards a diploma from the Arlington Public Schools for courses taken by home instruction, students must be enrolled full- time in Arlington Public Schools. Upon enrollment in Arlington Public Schools, high school credit may be awarded for courses in which the student has received home instruction by completing assessments approved by the Superintendent or designee. An official record of course completion (transcript) will be kept for partially-enrolled students. However, partially-enrolled students on home instruction are not eligible to receive Arlington Public Schools diplomas or to participate in commencement activities.

Students engaging in home instruction may participate in the test administrations scheduled at the school within their attendance boundary for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Students must register through their respective school's counseling office no later than the second Friday of September.

Registration for Advanced Placement tests may also be done through the counseling office of a student's school (as determined by attendance boundary) no later than the last Friday of February of each school year.

Appeals

Decisions made under this policy may be appealed to the Superintendent or his/her designee. The appeal shall be submitted in writing, or by visiting the office of the Superintendent/designee and working with staff to complete an appeal. The Superintendent/designee will provide a written, clear and timely response to the appeal that is consistent with the policy. If families are dissatisfied with the response from the Superintendent/designee, they may appeal in writing to the School Board for consideration.

References

Code of Virginia § 22.1-254.1; 22.1-253.13.2N

VHSL Regulations

School Board Policy J-5.3.31 Full Day School Attendance

Policy Adoption and Revision History

Adopted June 29, 2017, Effective June 29, 2017

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