

HOME SCHOOLING

Chapter 76, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws, states that:

Every child. . .shall. . .attend [a public or private].. school ... but such attendance shall not be required ... of a child who is being otherwise instructed in a manner approved in advance by the superintendent or the school committee....

The Acton Public Schools and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools recognize the right of parents/guardians to educate their children at home as an alternative to public school enrollment.

Parents/guardians who wish to home school their children should review the districts' Home Education Administrative Procedure, as well as the districts' "Instructions for Submitting a Proposal for Home Education." These documents are available from the Superintendent's Office.

Parents/guardians bear the responsibility of demonstrating that their home education proposal will provide their child with instruction that is equal to public schooling in its "thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein." Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Mass. 324, 337-338 (1987). To determine whether the proposed plan meets this standard, the Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools require that parents/guardians complete a proposal for home education and submit it for the Superintendent's consideration.

Parents/guardians planning to educate their child at home must notify the Superintendent of Schools before removing their child from public school. The home education program cannot begin unless and until the Superintendent or designee approves the parents'/guardians' home education proposal. Consequently, the school districts urge parents/guardians who wish to home school their children to submit their home education proposals no later than August of the fall in which home schooling is to begin.