

## HOME EDUCATION PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

### 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Home schooler" shall mean a "child as defined in RSA 193-A who is a resident of Londonderry and who is a participant in a bona fine home education program pursuant to RSA 193-A. However, this regulation may, in the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, apply to students who are over sixteen years of age.
- B. "Parent" shall mean the parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child.
- C. "Applicable school" shall mean the Londonderry School which the home schooler would be attending but for his or her participation in a home education program.
- D. "Applicable principal" shall mean the principal of the applicable school or his/her designee.
- E. "Educational program" shall mean a course, class, co-curricular activity, field trip, use of the information center, or other program or resource offered by or sponsored by the Londonderry School District.
- F. "The District" shall mean the Londonderry School District.
- G. "Town" shall mean the town of Londonderry where a home schooler resides.
- H. "Board" shall mean the School Board for the town of Londonderry
- I. "Superintendent" shall mean the Superintendent of SAU 12 or designee.
- J. "Interscholastic activities" shall mean the competitive athletic teams organized at Londonderry Middle School and/or Londonderry High School under the auspices of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association and shall also be deemed to include the school sponsored clubs and other competitive activities which have games or contest with other schools not within the Londonderry School District.

### 2. REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION

- A. All requests by a home schooler to participate in an educational program or interscholastic activities shall be made in writing by the parent to the Superintendent of Schools.
- B. After counseling with the Principal of the applicable school (who shall consult with appropriate staff), the Superintendent (or designee) shall grant or deny the request in writing, based upon the following criteria:
  - i. Whether granting the request would involve any expenses (other than normal expenses) to the Londonderry School District.
  - ii. Whether granting the request would require a substantial administrative or staff burden.
  - iii. Whether granting the request is administratively and academically feasible.
  - iv. Availability of space in an educational program.
  - v. Whether there are any scheduling difficulties with the request.
  - vi. Whether the parent and home schooler agree to comply with the rules and regulations of the Londonderry School District, including those rules and regulations included herein.
  - vii. Whether or not the request for participation is academically appropriate for the home schooler as well as for other students who will also be participating in the educational activity.
  - viii. Whether the home schooler would require special services of any type.

- ix. Whether the request for participation is so extensive that the home schooler should be enrolled as a full time student in the District.
  - x. The timeliness of the request.
  - xi. Whether any other factor exists why the request should be granted or denied.
- C. The parent may appeal the decision of the Superintendent or designee, in writing, within ten days of the date of the Superintendent's decision. The Board shall, at its next regularly scheduled meeting, hear the appeal. In addition to relevant documentary materials, the only evidence permitted before the Board shall be the oral or written testimony of the parent and/or, if appropriate, the home schooler plus the oral or written testimony of the applicable Principal, or his/her designee and the Superintendent. The decision of the Londonderry School Board shall be final.

3. WAIVERS, PERMISSION, NOTICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All home schoolers participating in an educational program or interscholastic activities must follow all applicable rules, policies and procedures, specifically including requirements of immunization. During his or her period of participation in school activities, each home schooler shall abide by all rules of the school as the rules pertain to all students; and the parents of the home schooler shall execute standard waivers and permissions and shall be subject to the rules, regulations and notices as are in effect for all children and parents.
- B. The Londonderry School District shall cause, at the request of a parent, the parent to be placed on the mailing list for any applicable school to receive such notices as are ordinarily distributed either by the mail or through students.
- C. The Londonderry School District shall not be responsible for providing transportation for any home schooler unless such can be done at no additional cost to the Londonderry School District and without undue administrative burden to the Londonderry School District.
- D. The Londonderry School District shall not be responsible to investigate or to notify the parent in the event that a home schooler does not attend an educational program. It is the responsibility of the parents of the home schooler to assure the attendance of the home schooler at an educational program. The Londonderry School District is not responsible for the consequences, direct or indirect, of any home schooler's failure to attend or participate in an educational program.

4. DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION

- A. Home schoolers participating in educational programs shall be subject to the same standards and code of conduct as any other participant in programs of the Londonderry School District.
- B. The Londonderry School District reserves the right to terminate the participation of a home schooler in educational programs at any time for the reasons set forth below. An appeal by a parent under this paragraph shall be handled in the same fashion as an original request for participation. As in that matter, the decision of the Londonderry School Board shall be final.
  - i. Failure of the home schooler to abide by all applicable rules and regulations, including all rules of student conduct.

- ii. Failure of the home schooler to participate in scheduled activities, or violation of the District's attendance policy (JED, JED-R).
- iii. If an unforeseen significant expense occurs or comes to light related to the home schooler's participation.
- iv. Failure of the home schooler to progress academically or to put forth reasonable effort in an academic program.
- v. Failure of a home schooler or parent to abide by the procedures set forth herein.
- vi. If the participation of a home schooler has significant detrimental impact on, or is disruptive to, other students.
- vii. Such other reason deemed sufficient by the Superintendent as occurs in the course of the home schooler's participation.

## 5. DIPLOMAS AND RELATED MATTERS

A. The Londonderry School District shall not issue a diploma, certificate of graduation or similar document for any home schooler unless the home schooler has complied with the following:

- i. The parent/guardian will meet with the Londonderry High School Principal prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the student's freshman (grade 9) year. At this time the parent/guardian and the Principal or his/her designee will review the requirements for graduation from Londonderry High School.
- ii. The parent/guardian shall prepare a home education plan for grades nine (9) and ten (10) including evaluation procedures which meets or exceeds the Londonderry High School graduation requirements. The proposed plan will be submitted to the SAU #12 Home School Liaison with a copy to the Principal of the Londonderry High School prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the student's freshman (grade 9) year.
- iii. The parent/guardian will also meet with the Londonderry High School Principal or designee prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the student's sophomore (grade 10) year. At this meeting the parent/guardian and the Principal or designee will review progress towards satisfactory completion of the home program.
- iv. By age sixteen (16) or at the completion of the student's sophomore (grade 10) year, and before April 1<sup>st</sup>, the parent/guardian will meet with the Principal, or designee. This meeting is for the purpose of selecting and/or specifying the desired course of study to be followed at Londonderry High School. The parent/guardian will also enroll their child for the Junior (grade 11) and Senior (grade 12) years of schooling at this meeting.
- v. It is understood that the enrolled student must comply with all State of New Hampshire laws, all Londonderry School District policies and all rules and regulations of Londonderry High School.
- vi. It is further understood that the enrolled student will complete the course of study as specified in step #4 above with passing grades.

B. Only students who are enrolled for four or more classes shall be eligible to be listed on the Honor Roll. Only full-time students shall be eligible for the National Honor Society. A home schooler shall be eligible for a scholarship or academic award based only on academic or other work done within a Londonderry School District program.

## 6. SPECIAL RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES.

The following rules shall apply to a home schooler's request to participate in an interscholastic activity:

- A. A home schooler requesting to participate in an interscholastic activity shall be subject to the same standards of eligibility as a student in the Londonderry School System who wishes to participate, including health requirements, the requirements of physical examinations, and standards of ability as set by the applicable coach or other Londonderry School District agent or official.
- B. A home schooler shall be permitted to participate in any interscholastic activity held on a school day, including practice or training, only if his or her parent executes a written statement on the day of each such event indicating that the home schooler has participated in home schooling educational activities for at least four hours on the day of the event. The appropriate coach or other official shall not permit a student to participate unless this requirement is met.
- C. A home schooler shall be permitted to participate in an interscholastic activity only after the Superintendent or designee is provided with sufficient proof that the home schooler has been and continues to make appropriate achievement in the home educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall determine and be the sole judge of what constitutes reasonable and acceptable proof of academic progress.

7. SPECIFIC MATTERS

- A. Request for participation in specific academic programs shall generally be granted unless there is no regularly scheduled time for that activity.
- B. The Superintendent or designee may request an appropriate academic assessment of the home schooler, at the parents' expense, prior to granting or denying the request. Placement within any academic program shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee, in his/her sole discretion. (For example, a student would ordinarily not be allowed to participate in French III until it is established that he/she has demonstrated sufficient proficiency in the French language to do so.)
- C. The decision of a coach or other official as to whether or not a home schooler is entitled to participate in an interscholastic activity based upon ability or any other factor that the coach or other official deems appropriate shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- D. Requests for counseling, psychological services, guidance services, and the like shall generally be denied unless such request pertains to advice on post-secondary educational options.
- E. Requests for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and other special services shall be denied.
- F. Requests to participate in interscholastic activities and/or intramural sports and games, and/or other co-curricular activities shall generally be granted. In activities where the number of interested students is greater than available positions, home schooled students shall be eligible to try out for a position.

G. Requests for participation in activities which are purely social, such as school dances, will be determined in accordance with the school's guest policies or practices.

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD

Adopted: May 9, 1995

Amended: November 19, 2002