



Dracut Public Schools
Application for Home Education

Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

2063 Lakeview Avenue

Dracut, Massachusetts 01826

(978)957-2617 / f (978)957-7435

<http://dracutps.org>

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please complete this form, attach the required supporting documentation, and forward it to the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Steven Stone, Dracut Public Schools, 2063 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA. 01826.

2. Please note that this application is intended to serve as a checklist for the School Committee policy on home education. Applicants are welcome to supplement this form with additional materials, or to use another form or report in submitting an application for a home education program. If another form or documentation is provided, please cross-reference with this document form to ensure that all pertinent information is provided.

Parent(s) and/or Guardian Information:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Work/Cell # _____

Work Address _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Work/Cell # _____

Work Address _____

Name of Student(s) /Grade

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Period of time for which application is sought:

Period beginning date: _____ to _____

Qualification(s) of Teacher(s)

Please provide a Statement of Intent providing the following information about the designated individuals responsible for teaching the students in this program:

- a. Name of Teacher
- b. Content area responsibility
- c. College/University degree(s)
- d. College/University minor and/or major
- e. Previous teaching experience
- f. Teaching certification
- g. Other evidence of experience

Home Schooled Educational Plan

Please provide a proposed attached home school educational plan for each student listed above. The plan should include the following:

- a. Subject to be taught with a description, including the scope and sequence, major goals and objectives and the materials/technology to be used.
- b. A description of the general schedule for instruction during the day. Include total number of hours per week per subject.
- c. A statement describing the tests/assessments to be used to assess and evaluate the student(s) performance during defined period.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Office Use Only

Name of Family _____ **Date** _____

Date Received by Office of the Superintendent _____

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment _____

Date Reviewed _____

NUTTALL, MACAVOY & JOYCE, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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Home School Education Approval

Massachusetts' compulsory school attendance law, M.G.L. c. 76, § I, requires all children residing in a Massachusetts town, who are between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16), to "attend a public day school in said town, or some other day school approved by the school committee." One exception to this attendance mandate is an approved home school program.

An approved home school program is one that satisfies the requirements of M.G.L. c. 76, § 1, as well as the case law interpreting the statute. *See Brunelle v. Lynn Public Schools*, 428 Mass. 512 (1998); *Care and Protection of Charles*, 399 Mass. 324 (1987); *Care and Protection of Ivan*, 48 Mass. App. Ct. 87 (1999). As a preliminary matter, any home school program must be "approved in advance by the superintendent or the school committee." M.G.L. c. 76, § 1; *Ivan*, 48 Mass. App. Ct. at 89. Therefore, school districts must review specific information about a proposed home school program, prior to implementation, to assess whether "the instruction will equal 'in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town.'" *Charles*, 399 Mass. at 337 (quoting *Matter of Kilroy*, 121 Misc. 2d 98, 101 (N.Y. Fam. Ct. 1983).

Consequently, parents seeking home school approval must first provide specific information to the district for its review and consideration. Massachusetts courts have deemed the following information to be relevant to a school district's analysis of a proposed home school program: (1) the subjects that the student will study; (2) the hours of instruction for each subject; (3) the length of the home school year; (4) the textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional aides to be used by the student; (5) the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parent; (6) the means to be used to assess the student; and (7) the academic credentials or other qualifications of each person who will be instructing the student. *Charles*, 399 Mass. at 338-340.

Note that, although it is appropriate for a school district to inquire as to the academic Credentials and other qualifications of a parent, there is no specific degree or certification required for a parent to be approved to home school his/her child. *Charles*, 399 Mass. at 339. Last, a school district may not require a home visit as a condition precedent to its approval of a proposed home school plan. *Brunelle*, 428 Mass. at 519. If a district denies a proposed plan, it must provide the parent with specific reasons for the denial so that the parent may revise the proposal and resubmit it.

NUTTALL, MACAVOY & JOYCE, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

As the Supreme Judicial Court noted in *Charles*, a school district must evaluate "the progress made therein," as part of its ongoing approval of a home school program. Pursuant to this directive, a school district may require home schooled students to engage in periodic standardized testing. Alternatively, a school district may opt to substitute formal testing with other evaluative measures, "such as periodic progress reports or dated work samples, subject to the approval of the parents." *Charles*, 399 Mass. at 340.

While the school district is legally required to evaluate and approve/deny all home school programs proposed for students within the district, and to do so in accordance with the requirements noted above, the burden is on the parent to demonstrate that the proposed program qualifies as one which is equal to the public school instruction provided in the district in its "thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein." *Charles*, 399 Mass. at 337 (quoting *Matter of Kilroy*, 121 Misc. 2d 98, IOI (N.Y. Fam. Ct. 1983)).