

## HOME SCHOOLING

Sweetwater County School District Number One, State of Wyoming, ("the District") recognizes that Wyoming law requires the compulsory attendance of children of a certain age or grade in school. Wyoming Statute §21-4-102(a) requires every parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of a child residing in this state to send that child to a public or private school each year, during the entire time that the public schools shall be in session in the school district in which the child resides. For purposes of the compulsory attendance law, a "private school" has been defined as any nonpublic, elementary or secondary school providing a basic academic educational program for children and may include home-based educational programs. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-101(a)(iii). The compulsory attendance law applies to every child whose seventh birthday falls on or before September 15 of any year and who has not yet attained his or her sixteenth birthday or completed the tenth grade. Wyo. Stat. § 21 -4- 102(a).

The Wyoming Legislature has provided, under certain conditions, that children may be educated at home and satisfy the requirements of the compulsory attendance law. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-102(a). The District acknowledges this statutory right to provide an appropriate home-based educational program.

A home-based educational program is a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child's parent, legal guardian or by a person designated by the parent or legal guardian. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-101(a)(v). An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based educational program under Wyoming law.

A home-based educational program must meet the requirements of providing a basic academic educational program. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-102(b). A "basic academic educational program" is one that provides a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, civics, history, literature and science. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-101(a)(vi). These curriculum requirements do not require any home-based educational program to include in its curriculum any concept, topic or practice in conflict with its religious doctrines or to exclude from its curriculum any concept, topic or practice consistent with its religious doctrines.

It shall be the responsibility of every person administering a home-based educational program within the District to submit a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction each year to the Board of Trustees of Sweetwater County School District Number One, State of Wyoming. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-102(b). The curriculum shall be submitted prior to the beginning of public school classes for the school year for students not enrolling in the District's schools. For students currently enrolled in the District's schools and beginning a home-based educational program during the school year, the curriculum shall be submitted prior to the time that the child is withdrawn from the District's schools.

Compliance with this curriculum requirement may be provided by submitting proof that the person administering a home-based educational program has enrolled the child in a correspondence, interactive-media or other commercially offered program which provides a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction appropriate to the educational level of the child. Compliance with this curriculum requirement may also be provided by submitting proof that the person administering a home-based educational program is providing by other means a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction appropriate to the educational level of the child. As a convenience, the District provides a form for the submission of curriculum information.

The District may regard any child of compulsory attendance age as a habitual truant if the curriculum for a home-based educational program is not timely filed. Failure to submit a curriculum showing compliance with the requirements for a "basic academic educational program" is prima facie evidence that the home-based educational program does not meet the requirements of Wyoming law. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-102(b).

Any child participating in a home-based educational program is eligible to enroll in individual classes offered by the District. Additionally, a child participating in a home-based educational program may participate in all extra-curricular activities on the same basis as students who are enrolled in the District schools, including the need to comply with immunization regulations. With the exception of these enumerated opportunities, the District does not provide other services to children in home-based educational programs except as required by applicable federal or state law.

Absent proof to the contrary, the District regards home-based educational programs as non-accredited schools. Therefore, children seeking to enroll in the District's schools from a home-based educational program may be required to take standardized achievement or competency tests in the core curriculum of the District to facilitate appropriate placement in a grade level or individual classes. The grade level or class placement determined by the District may or may not correspond with the level achieved by the child in the home-based educational program.

The person administering a home-based educational program of any child seeking to transfer from an independently accredited home-based education program to the District's schools will provide the District with all records concerning the courses taken by the child and the child's academic progress assessments. These records, along with any standardized achievement or competency tests that the District may at its discretion require, will be considered in placing the child in the appropriate grade level or classes.

No diplomas will be awarded to children in home-based educational programs by the District. Students must enroll in the District's high schools and complete all minimum graduation requirements to be eligible for a diploma from either Rock Springs High School or Farson High School. For instance, a child seeking to enroll in high school from a home-based educational program will be placed according to the results of any competency and achievement tests that may be required. The same resources will be used by the District and the Principal of the selected school to determine eligibility for any credits that may be awarded toward high school graduation.

Adopted 10/14/85 Revised 04/19/99

School District #1, Sweetwater County, Wyoming