

HOME SCHOOLING INFORMATION

Home schooling is permitted under Texas law. The following excerpt from the 17th Judicial District Court case, *Leeper vs. Arlington ISD*, may be helpful in understanding some basic expectations for home schooling:

“A school age child who is being educated in a bona fide manner by the parent, or those standing in parental authority, in or through the child’s home, using a curriculum which has been developed by any source, designed to meet basic educational goals of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship, is in attendance at a private or parochial school...and exempt from the requirements of compulsory attendance at a public school.”

As a result of Senate Bill I (1992) the Texas Education Code addresses exemptions to compulsory school attendance as follows: **Section 25.086**

- (a) *A child is exempt from the requirements of compulsory school attendance if the child:*
- (1) *attends a private or parochial school that includes in its course a study of good citizenship;*

Persons electing to home school is responsible for: assuring a curriculum consisting of books, workbooks, or other written or electronic materials designed to meet the basic educational goals of reading, spelling, grammar, math and a course in good citizenship shall be pursued in a bona fide manner.

The North East Independent School District may conduct an investigation and take action if the District has reasonable cause or some evidence to believe a child is not receiving an appropriate home schooling.

The Texas Education Agency directs schools to be consistent with placement of students who enroll in public schools after being home schooled as with placement of students from any unaccredited private school. State Board of Education rule S74.26(a)(2) stipulates: *“...The district may use a variety of methods to verify the content of courses for which a transfer student has earned credit.”* The Commissioner of Education authorizes that districts *“may assess such students for placement by administering valid and reliable assessment instruments.”*

If your child enrolls in NEISD from a home school setting, please be aware of the following:

1. An academic evaluation will be made for appropriate grade or course placement for the child. Based upon this assessment, the principal shall determine the final grade or course placement.
2. The parent/guardian of a student who has been home schooled is requested to present a transcript (documentation of the child’s educational experience to the school. Documentation should include:
 - a. A sample schedule of the student’s instructional day.
 - b. A list of curriculum materials used (name, author, publisher, and date of publication).
 - c. A description of the courses taught and specific requests for high school credit.
 - d. An estimation of the quality of the student’s work (grades).
 - e. Results of any standardized achievement test administered through the home school program.
3. Texas Education Code 25.002 (d) and NEISD Board Policy FD (LEGAL) state: *“When accepting a child for enrollment, the school district shall inform the parent or other person enrolling the child that presenting a false document or false records under this section is an offense under Section 37.10, Penal Code, and that enrollment of the child under false documents subjects the person to liability for tuition costs under Section 25.001 (h).”*