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Policy 9270 EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all children of school age resident in the district in public schools or in approved private schools so that they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment.

Every parent, legal guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall cause such child regularly to attend the public school or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school. The Board recognizes its responsibility for assuring that every child of school age resident in the district is enrolled in a public or private school or is offered an equivalent thorough and efficient education elsewhere than at school. The Board acknowledges that parents have a constitutional right to choose the type and character of education they feel is best suited for their children, be it secular or sectarian. Home schooling is an option that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose to educate their children. When parents choose this option the program will be carried out in the pupil's home rather than the school.

In the event a child is receiving an education outside the district schools, the Superintendent may report to the appropriate municipal authorities children whom he/she has reason to believe are not offered instruction outside the schools equivalent to that offered in the public schools for children of similar ages or attainments. If the Superintendent makes such report, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil receiving instruction elsewhere other than school may notify the Superintendent of their child's educational program status and provide sufficient information to satisfy the district that equivalent instruction is being offered.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or other person having charge and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen, who shall fail to comply with any of the compulsory education provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38 et seq. relating to his/her duties, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person and shall be subject to a fine.

If a child seeks admission to this school district from a program of home schooling, the school district will evaluate the work of the child to determine his/her appropriate grade placement. The Superintendent or designee will objectively evaluate the child's skill and achievement levels, as it would with any transfer student, before making a determination as to the acceptability of credits and/or the appropriate grade level placement.

When children are educated at home and are not enrolled in a school, the school district will not provide any of the entitlements or privileges of pupils enrolled in the school district unless specifically provided in the federal special education laws.

A child educated at home shall not receive a state endorsed high school diploma from the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25; 18A:38-25 through 18A:38-31

U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq.

Adopted: 11 June 1997

Revised: 10 April 2002