

Policy IGBI: HOME SCHOOLING

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/16/1999

24D UPDATE EXPLANATION

This policy was updated for clarity and to conform with legal changes under Senate Bill 727 and House Bill 2287 (2023).

These bills, read together, created a formal (and quite detailed) definition of home schooling for some legal purposes, but not all. Likewise, these bills created the term "Family Paced Education" or FPE, which is a home school that receives public funds through the state's tax-credit voucher program, the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. These vouchers can be used for tuition to attend private schools, but they can also be used by homeschooling families for curriculum, educational therapies, tutors, test fees, and other educational expenses.

The legislature adopted this term to separate home schools that accept public funds (FPEs) from home schools that do not because some homeschooling families are concerned that accepting vouchers will lead to more government regulation of students educated at home.

The difficulty with these definitions is that they do not apply to all state and federal statutes that reference homeschooling and have the potential to confuse district staff and the public who are not familiar with what an FPE is. For this reason, MSBA has decided to reference an FPE in this policy, as opposed to all of the policies that reference homeschooling in the district's manual.

In addition, §167.042, RSMo., allows parents/guardians, or custodians who are lawfully providing homeschooling instruction to their child the option to submit a declaration of enrollment to the local school district or local recorder of deeds to minimize any unnecessary investigations for educational neglect. It should be emphasized that this declaration is optional and is not required by law.

For many years, MSBA has had a sample declaration form (see IGBI-AF1). MSBA forms can be found on its website at <https://www.mosba.org/page/policy> under "Policy Samples." The standard forms are also available on MSBA's Simbli Core Manual.

The district recognizes the right of parents/guardians to choose to educate their children outside the public school system but encourages parents/guardians who homeschool their children to meet with district staff and explore educational opportunities within the district. District staff are directed to conduct outreach to homeschooling families to ensure that they have knowledge of all the district's programs.

In lieu of regular school attendance in the district, a child may be excused from compulsory school attendance if the child is provided with home schooling as authorized by Missouri law. Any alleged violation of the compulsory education law shall be referred to the prosecuting attorney of the county where the child legally resides. For the purposes of this policy, the term "home schooling" will include both formal education of a student in their home or other private setting by parents/guardians or a tutor as well as Family Paced Education (FPE), where the student is home schooled but also participates in the state's tax credit voucher program, the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

Written Declaration

To minimize unnecessary truancy investigations, parents/guardians or others who home school a child living in the district may provide the district with a written and signed declaration of enrollment. Such declaration should state their intent for the child to attend a home school, be provided to the district within 30 days of establishing the home school, and be resubmitted annually by September 1. District staff who receive a declaration of enrollment must forward it to the district's central office.

State References

§ 167.031, RSMo.

§ 167.042, RSMo.

§ 210.167, RSMo.

Cross References

JEA

JEA-AP(1)

Description

[State Statute](#)

[State Statute](#)

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Description

[COMPULSORY AND PART-TIME ATTENDANCE](#)

[COMPULSORY AND PART-TIME ATTENDANCE - \(Part-Time Attendance\)](#)

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