

## Sylvan Heights Science Charter School

**Policy Number:** 117

**Policy Title:** Homebound Instruction

**Approved:** April 19, 2021

**Revised:**

### **Authority**

The Board of the Sylvan Heights Science Charter School (School) shall provide, pursuant to law and regulations, homebound instruction to students confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons.

The period of homebound instruction for an individual shall not exceed three (3) months.

### **Delegation**

Applications for homebound instruction shall include a copy of a written recommendation for such services by the licensed physician, certified psychiatrist, and/or certified psychologist who is/are treating the student. The request shall:

1. Certify the nature of the illness or disability;
2. State the probable duration of the confinement; and
3. Be approved by the Principal/Chief Academic Officer (CAO) or designee.

Students who require homebound instruction due to emotional conditions must be diagnosed by a licensed psychologist, licensed social worker, or psychiatrist. A mental health diagnosis shall not be accepted from primary care physicians or general practitioners. The School, in conjunction with the mental health specialist, may devise a transition plan to assist the student in returning to school.

The School reserves the right to seek a second opinion by a licensed physician, certified psychiatrist, and/or certified psychologist of the School's choice, at School expense, if it so chooses. In the event that the School seeks a second opinion to verify the necessity for homebound instruction and the second opinion is contrary to that of the family's licensed physician, certified psychiatrist, and/or certified psychologist, the administration will be authorized to honor the opinion of the School physician, psychiatrist, and/or psychologist, and homebound instruction will not be provided. Once the student has been denied any further homebound instruction, s/he will become subject to mandatory school attendance regulations.

The Principal/CAO shall develop procedures to safeguard the privacy of each child placed on homebound instruction. The normal time offered to students for homebound instruction shall not exceed five (5) hours per week unless approved by the Board.

Homebound instruction shall be provided to students in six-week increments. Exceptions may be recommended by the Assistant Superintendent.

The Principal/CAO or designee may request approval from the Department of Education to extend the period of homebound instruction for an individual, which shall be reevaluated every three (3) months. This reassessment requires submission of a new, updated and written recommendation from the student's licensed physician, licensed psychiatrist and/or licensed psychologist.

The homebound assignments and the homebound instructor assigned shall be at the School's sole choice and discretion. The School may utilize instruction options offered electronically, over the Internet and/or other electronic courses, as approved by the Principal/CAO or designee, to provide homebound instruction in cases where such a manner of instruction is deemed to be warranted.

The program of homebound instruction provided to each student shall be in accordance with the standards established by the state.

Instructors shall be required to submit periodic reports which reflect the time spent and content covered during the homebound instruction period.

The Principal/CAO reserves the right to withhold homebound instruction when any one (1) of the following occurs:

- The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher.
- A parent/guardian or other adult in authority is not present with the student during the hours of instruction.
- The condition of the student precludes any benefit from such instruction.
- Other reasons determined and/or approved by the Principal/CAO or designee.

The parent/guardian will assure that the student is at home and available for instruction per the time previously arranged by the homebound teacher. Should it be necessary to cancel a homebound instruction session, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to promptly notify the instructor in advance.

A student on homebound instruction will not be permitted to visit school property, except for educational purposes as previously approved in writing by the Principal/CAO or designee. A student on homebound instruction shall not be eligible to participate in co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the School during the period of such instruction.

The program of homebound instruction provided to each student shall be in accordance with the standards established by the state.

Any student receiving approved homebound instruction shall be counted as present on attendance registers during the period when homebound instruction is offered.

Students on homebound instruction will receive periodic and final grades. All such achievement shall be placed upon the student's permanent record by the School.

**References:**

24 P.S. Sec. 1329

22 PA Code Sec. 11.25

Policy 218