

## HAVERHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education: Academic Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Please complete this form, attach any additional information and forward it to the Superintendent of Schools, Haverhill Public Schools, 4 Summer Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 prior to the starting date of the home education program (preferably by August 1). If this process is initiated during the school year, parents or guardians shall notify the Superintendent as soon as possible before the student is removed from school, then complete and submit this form and documentation.

A.

Parent/Guardian Name			
Address			
Phone (days)			
Student Name(s)		D.O.B.	Grade
		D.O.B.	Grade
		D.O.B.	Grade
		D.O.B.	Grade

B. On a separate sheet, describe the following:

the instructional program, including subjects and instructional aids to be used,  
the academic background, life experience and/or qualifications of those who will be instructing the child(ren), as they relate to the educational program.

C. Check the method of assessment to be used:

- ◆ Daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios, or dated work samples
- ◆ An independent report made by someone acceptable to both the Superintendent and parent(s) or guardian(s)
- ◆ Standardized test results
- ◆ Consultation with the Superintendent or appropriate school principal
- ◆ Any other method agreed to by both the Superintendent and home educator(s)

## HAVERHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT POLICY HOME EDUCATION

The Haverhill School Committee recognizes and respects the right of parents or guardians to educate their children at home. The School Committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable. Therefore, the School Committee establishes this home education policy.

Parents or guardians planning to undertake a home education program for their children between their sixth and sixteenth birthday shall inform the Superintendent by completing and submitting the *Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education* form prior to commencing a home education program.

Home education programs will be considered in an equitable, objective, and timely manner. Factors that may be considered by the Superintendent in deciding whether or not to approve a home educational proposal are:

1. The academic background, life experience and/or qualifications of those who will be instructing the child, as they relate to the educational program. This information will not be used to deny any application.
2. An overview of the educational program that is to include subjects and instructional materials. In order to meet the specific educational needs of the child, parents or guardians may adjust the material to achieve the goals of the educational program without further notification to the Superintendent's office.
3. A statement concerning instructional hours that will be followed.

Following completion of each school year, parents or guardians shall submit assessment documentation to the Superintendent (usually between June and September) and notify the Superintendent if the home education program is to continue the next year. Assessment methods corresponding to the type of educational program being followed may include one or more of the following:

- Daily logs, journals, progress report, portfolios, or dated work samples;
- An independent report made by someone acceptable to both the Superintendent and parent or guardian;
- Standardized test results;
- Consultations with the superintendent or appropriate school principal;
- Any other method agreed to by both the Superintendent and home educator

A student being educated in a home-based program within the District shall be allowed to participate in activities of an extra-curricular nature with the approval of the responsible school principal. Arrangements for such participation are to be in accordance with generally accepted local and state policies governing such programs i.e., athletics, M.I.A.A. regulations, etc.

### **Beginning a Home Education Program During the School Year**

Should the process of initiating a home education program occur during the school year, the parent or guardian shall inform the Superintendent as soon as possible before the student is removed from school. The parent or guardian should then complete and submit to the

Superintendent the *Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education* form in accordance with Massachusetts Annotated Laws ch. 76, § 1.

**Approval Confirmation**

The School Committee meets monthly. Notices confirming approval of home education programs (initial and continuing) will be sent out as soon as possible. When questions concerning a home education program are not resolved via phone or e-mail contact, a parent/administrative meeting may be scheduled.

## HAVERHILL AREA HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP

Welcome to Home Schooling! You are not alone in pursuing this adventure. Over two million children are currently home educated in the United States today. <sup>1</sup>

The HAVERHILL AREA HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP is composed of many families from all walks of life and educational backgrounds who have chosen to educate their children at home for various reasons. Some are beginners, and others have home schooled straight up through high school. Support is necessary for veteran home schoolers as well as beginners.

Over thirty families belong to the HAH support group. As a member you will have access to information on field trips, meetings, co-op activities, and other educational events. You will also be eligible for a group membership discount with the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA at [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)).

THE HAVERHILL AREA HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP is a Christian (nondenominational) group affiliated with the state organization, MASS HOPE. One need not be a confessing Christian to join the group but should be aware that we begin our meetings with prayer and place a strong emphasis on teaching our children Biblical morals and values. Monthly meetings are held from September through June.

If you are interested in attending a meeting or becoming a member of the group, have questions about state laws and local policy, or would just like to talk with a fellow home-schooler about how to get started, please contact one of the names listed below.

Best wishes in your new adventure!

Lis Penney    HAH Group Leader:            978-521-9458

<sup>1</sup> There were an estimated 1,700,000 to 2,100,000 children (grades K-12) home educated during 2002-2003 in the United States... An estimated 250,000 to 340,000 high school (grades 9-12) students were being homeschooled during the 2000-2001 conventional school year." – Brian D. Ray, Ph.D., *Facts on Homeschooling*