

IV. Instruction

B. Instructional Resources and Materials

3. Extra Help for Students

a. Services for Students Temporarily Incapacitated

Purpose:

The Narragansett School System is committed to providing every child with access to an education, consistent with our district's mission statement and applicable federal and state requirements. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students enrolled in the Narragansett School System who are unable to attend the regular public school program on a temporary basis due to a documented medical condition are provided with appropriate academic support, including tutoring, if necessary. Temporary homebound instruction is provided in the core academic areas and is not meant to replicate the regular school day. The purpose of temporary homebound instruction is to enable a student to keep up with his or her class work during an extended period of absence due to a documented medical condition.

Temporary Homebound Instruction Enrollment

Requests to enroll a student in temporary homebound instruction shall be made to the student's guidance counselor or elementary school principal. Requests must be accompanied by a statement from the student's physician identifying the diagnosis of chronic disease, injury, or condition that requires sustained absence from school. This diagnosis must clearly identify the student's incapacity to attend school. In addition, the physician must provide a timeline for the estimated beginning and ending date of absence. The student's parent must sign a release of information allowing the physician and school personnel to consult.

Temporary homebound instruction will typically be considered for absences that will exceed 10 consecutive school days, though the school system will consider homebound instruction when it believes that the student's absence will result in significant regression in academic progress. Typically, absences that are less 11 consecutive school days will be addressed by the teacher of record through assignments provided to the parent(s)/ guardian(s). (See, 200-RICR-20-10-1, Basic Education Program, section 1.3.1(A)(5) "Each LEA shall provide for students who are homebound, hospitalized, or capable of only intermittent school attendance for medical reasons, a sufficient degree of academic support, including tutoring if necessary, to allow for regular academic progress in the student's program of study. These supports shall commence when the LEA becomes aware that the student's sustained or intermittent absence will result in a significant regression in academic progress.")

Truancy will not be considered as a reason for academic support under this policy. Academic support shall not be provided for those students who are frequently truant or have been referred to the court system for chronic truancy, nor shall it be used as a substitute for in-school programs except for students who otherwise meet the criteria for academic support as outlined within.

All requests for temporary homebound instruction shall be forwarded to the Office of Student Services. Final approval will be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

Temporary Homebound Instruction

Temporary homebound instruction is provided according to the Narragansett School System calendar for instructional days and is not provided during school vacations including summer vacation or school holidays. If necessary, tutoring shall be ordinarily provided at the rate of a total of 5 hours per week at the elementary level (k-4) and a total of 6 hours per week at the middle and secondary levels (5-12) in core academic areas, unless fewer hours are recommended by the physician.

The time in which instruction is established by the teacher/tutor, parent(s)/guardian(s)/adult student, and central office designee are subject to the school system's approval. The school system will maintain a record of homebound instruction.

Unless necessary, tutoring shall not be provided in the home; it may be provided in a public library or other public setting. If it is necessary to provide tutoring in the home, a virtual format will be used.

After 6 weeks of tutoring, the student's guidance counselor or elementary principal shall complete a review of the case, which minimally must include (1) consultation with the student's physician, (2) a review of student progress, (3) a report from tutor, and (4) a plan to transition back to school. The review shall be documented and include a recommendation to the central office designee for continuation or discontinuation of homebound instruction.

Failure of a student to attend two scheduled tutoring sessions without legitimate reason and advance notice to the tutor may lead to discontinuation of tutoring.

The assigned tutor will hold a Rhode Island Teaching Certificate. The tutor may not hold certification in all core academic areas. The student's teacher(s) shall remain the teacher(s) of record during homebound instruction. The teacher(s) shall provide the tutor with assignments and shall grade said assignments. Unless determined otherwise by the central office designee, major course assessments shall be administered by the student's teacher(s) upon the student's return to school, with appropriate time for study and preparation. Until grades are complete, an "INC" (incomplete) shall be entered, and no course credit will be granted.

The goal of temporary homebound instruction is for students to return to the typical school day as soon as medically possible. Given that treating physicians are continually assessing patient medical treatment, there may be times when a student is ready to return to school prior to the end date as initially certified by the treating physician. Should a student be ready to return to school prior to the initial end date on a medical note, the treating physician must provide a signed written statement on physician's letterhead that indicates that the student may return to school along with the revised effective date.

Students Receiving Special Education

Students receiving special education are eligible for Homebound/ Hospitalization Instruction consistent with the federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the RI Special Education Regulations of the Board of Education and these policies.

1st Reading: September 19, 2001

Adopted: October 17, 2001

Reaffirmed: June 21, 2006

Revised: June 16, 2021

Revised: June 21, 2021

Narragansett School System
Narragansett, Rhode Island