



# Ayer Shirley Regional School District

115 Washington St.  
Ayer, MA 01432  
Phone: (978) 772-8600

Mary Beth Hamel, Assistant Superintendent in Support of Teaching and Learning  
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Extension 1509

Learn more at [www.asrsd.org](http://www.asrsd.org)

## HOME EDUCATION POLICY

The Ayer Shirley Regional School District recognizes the right of parents or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. Therefore, the Regional School Committee establishes this Home Education Policy.

Parent(s) or guardian(s) planning to undertake a home education program for their child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birthday shall inform the Superintendent by completing the ***Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education*** form as approved by the Regional School Committee prior to commencing a home education program.

Home education programs shall 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 education proposal are:

1. The academic background, life experiences and/or other qualities of those who will be instructing the child(ren), as they relate to the educational program. Home educators need not be certified teachers nor have any diplomas or degrees.
2. An overview of the educational program that is to include subjects and instructional materials. In order to meet the specific educational needs of their child(ren), the parent(s) or guardian(s) 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.
4. A mutually agreeable method of assessment which corresponds to the type of educational program being followed and may include one or more of the following:
  - a. Daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios or dated work samples
  - b. An independent report made by someone acceptable to both superintendent and parent(s) or guardian(s)
  - c. Standardized test results
  - d. Consultation with the superintendent or appropriate school principal
  - e. Any other method agreed to by both superintendent and home educator(s)

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district shall be informed of and have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extra-curricular nature. Arrangements for such participation are to be in accordance with the generally accepted scheduling procedures of the schools.

Whenever possible, if requested by the parent(s) or guardian(s), school personnel may provide materials such as sample curricula and/or textbooks.

Administrators are encouraged to give all due assistance to home education families in their efforts to provide appropriate information concerning their home education program. Parent(s) or guardian(s) are entitled to all due process rights with regard to this policy and with regard to any procedures followed and actions taken. During any resolution process, the parent(s) or guardian(s) may continue, but not commence the education of their child(ren) at home.

Students who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in MIAA sponsored interscholastic athletics and school extra-curricular activities under all applicable rules and regulations.

Home school students do not participate in MCAS testing.

The Superintendent has the responsibility for the development of the procedures and forms necessary for the implementation of this policy.

Legal Ref: M.G.L. 76, sec. 1, Home School Law  
M.G.L. 69:1D; 76:1, Care and Protection of Charles



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

Received \_\_\_\_\_ [Office Use]

Instructions: Please complete this form, attach any additional information and forward it to the Superintendent of Schools, 115 Washington Street, Ayer, MA 01432, prior to the starting date of the home education program. If this process is initiated during the school year, the student must remain in school until the school district and the parents agree jointly to the home education plan.

A. Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**B. On a separate sheet**, describe the instructional program to be taught, including subjects and instructional aids and texts to be used for each child.

C. Academic background, life experience and/or qualifications of those who will be instructing the child(ren), as they relate to the instructional program described in Section B.

D. Check the method of assessment to be used followed by a brief description.

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

The following signature confirms the intent to provide a minimum of 900-990 hours of instruction as required by state law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Submitted

The signature of the school official indicates **receipt** of this plan. A parent/administrative conference may be scheduled, at your request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Superintendent or Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Response

Attached to this application is a packet that indicates the following materials:  
⇒Ayer Shirley Regional Home Education Policy  
⇒General Program of Studies

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Failure of a home educator to abide in good faith by the procedures outlined above may result in the School Committee taking action under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Sections 2 and/or 4, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

REF: M.G.L., Chapter 76, Sections 1, 2 and 4  
Charles Decision

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