
MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Special Education Coordinators
FROM: Anne Bordonaro, Division Director, Federal & Education Support
SUBJECT: Programs Fall 2022 Home Study Students
DATE: August 25, 2022

Home Study Office Updates

During the 2021-2022 school year, home study enrollments continued to significantly exceed those of pre-COVID years by more than 1000 enrollments, down from the first 2020-2021 school year but still well above “normal” levels. This summer, the AOE returned to requiring End of the Year Assessments (EOYA) to be submitted before allowing students to re-enroll in a Home Study Program for the 2022-2023 school year following the one-time waiver last year due to COVID.

We fully expect to continue to have higher than normal pre-COVID numbers this next school year, although we expect that many students also will be returning to public and independent schools this fall. As such, we are offering the following recommendations for schools to consider when home study students re-enroll in public/independent schools:

- When determining which grade level a home-schooled student will enter this fall, the school should request copies of work, report cards from online schools/academies (such as Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative/VTVLC) or other documents that demonstrate what the student completed while enrolled in their Home Study Program. With written permission from the parent/guardian (emailed permission is fine), the Home Study Office can also send the school a copy of the student’s EOYA for review. Schools are not required to formally assess students upon their return but are not prohibited from doing so.
- High schools may, but are not required to, work with families to provide credits/proficiencies toward graduation for work completed while their students were enrolled in a Home Study Program. Keep in mind that high-school-age Home Study students are only required to study the following: reading/writing, math, history/citizenship/government, science and literature. Some students may also have taken some electives such as physical education or art through their Home Study Program or local school as part of their program.

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, contact

Alicia Hanrahan, Education Programs Mgr/Interagency Coordinator at alicia.hanrahan@vermont.gov

- For students who were previously eligible for Educational Support Team (EST) Plans, Section 504 Plans or Individual Education Programs (IEPs), appropriate school personnel should review those past plans and schedule meetings as soon as possible to update those plans, including assessing again, if needed, to re-determine eligibility.

Changes to the Home Study Enrollment Process for 2022-2023

- For the 2022-2023 school year, potential Home Study students will not be allowed to withdraw from their public/independent school without being completely enrolled in a Home Study Program. This means:
 - Students “in process” must continue to be enrolled in their public/independent school until their status changes.
 - Students not attending school while their status is in process may be considered truant.
 - Consult your local truancy policies and procedures regarding next steps.
- Every week, the Home Study Office sends each superintendent an updated list of who is currently enrolled, who is in process of enrolling and who has been withdrawn from Home Study (the withdrawal information is new). Please ask your registrars to review these lists to determine:
 - If a student is not on the Home Study list, then the LEA should verify that the student is enrolled in a public or independent school.
 - If a student has withdrawn from Home Study, then the LEA should verify that student is enrolled and attending a public or independent school.
 - If the LEA does not know where the student is receiving their educational programming, the LEA should contact the parent to inquire.
 - If the student is not enrolled in a public school, independent school or Home Study Program, they may be truant, and schools should follow their truancy protocols.
- If you are unclear as to a student’s status, please contact the Home Study Office at aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov.