

MEMORANDUM

TO: Home Study Families
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education 
SUBJECT: 2020-21 Exception to Home Study End of Year Assessment Requirement
DATE: March 9, 2021

The Agency of Education (AOE) recognizes how challenging the COVID-19 situation has been for all families. On behalf of the Home Study Team, we would like to thank families for their patience and understanding as we have seen a 125% increase of home study enrollments during this school year.

Accordingly, for the 2020-2021 school year only, we are providing families with a one-time special exception to the requirement to submit an End of Year Assessment (EOYA) for students who currently are enrolled in a Home Study Program.

Parents/guardians are required to continue to track their child's progress and to keep records of their progress (portfolio, qualified teacher assessment, curriculum-based assessments, etc.), but are not required to provide this information to the AOE Home Study Team this spring.

EOYA documentation will be especially important in enabling students to make smooth transitions back to public school for those parents/guardians who are planning to have their children return to in-person learning at local schools in the fall.

This one-time special exception regarding providing EOYA documentation to AOE will not affect families seeking to enroll in home study for the 2021-2022 school year nor will it affect future Minimum Course of Study (MCOS) exemptions.

In sum, enrollment notices for 2021-2022 will not be determined incomplete based on failure to provide an EOYA for 2020-2021.

To take advantage of this one-time special exception, (not submitting an EOYA requirement for 2020-2021 to AOE with an enrollment notice for 2021-2022), the student's parents/guardians must have completed all other requirements for enrollment in the current (2020-2021) school year. The required documentation includes:

- Form A/Enrollment Form.
- Form B or similar documentation (only needed for new students).
- Minimum Course of Study that meets state requirements (This is required for all new and returning students who do not qualify for the exemption).

If you received a hard copy complete letter or email from the Home Study Team indicating your student is enrolled, please consider that to be evidence that all enrollment requirements have been met.

For families who received a hard copy incomplete letter or email, the above information continues to be needed as the family has not completed all statutory requirements (and will not receive a “complete letter” from the AOE until such information is received).

If you have any questions regarding this one-time special exception from EOYA documentation being provided to AOE, please contact Alicia Hanrahan, Education Programs Manager, at alicia.hanrahan@vermont.gov.