



Practice Points

Home Schooling

This Practice Point is to give guidance to staff regarding Home Schooling.

A “home school” is defined in Section 167.031, RSMo. as a school, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that:

- Has as its primary purpose the provision of private or religious-based instruction;
- Enrolls pupils between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the district, of which no more than four are unrelated by affinity or consanguinity in the third degree;
- Does not charge or receive consideration in the form of tuition, fees, or other remuneration in a genuine and fair exchange for provision of instruction.

As evidence that a child is receiving regular instruction, the parent or guardian shall, except as otherwise provided, maintain the following records:

- A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in;
- A portfolio of samples of the child’s academic work;
- A record of evaluations of the child’s academic progress;
- Or other written or credible evidence equivalent to the above documents

In addition, the parent or guardian shall offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which will be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses that are related to the aforementioned subject areas and consonant with the pupil’s age and ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school location.

Verification of Home Schooling Records

The parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child, may indicate they are providing for their child(ren)'s educational needs through home schooling. Verification may be obtained in many ways, including, but not limited to:

- Requesting the parent/caretaker to show staff a copy of their home schooling records.
- Confirming whether or not the child(ren)'s names appear with the recorder of deeds or chief school officer in the county where the child legally resides pursuant to Section 167.042, RSMo.
- Asking when, where, and how home schooling takes place within the family system.

The Children's Division does not have the legal authority to compel a family to produce home schooling records. However, if the family willingly provides home schooling records, staff may review the records to see if they are maintained in compliance with Section 167.031, RSMo.

When Home Schooling is Verified

Once it is verified home schooling is taking place and there are no other allegations of abuse or neglect, staff should conclude the report.

When Home Schooling Cannot be Verified

If during the assessment period staff cannot verify home schooling is occurring, they will send a Compulsory Attendance Notification Letter (CS-21I) to the superintendent or designee of the school district in which the child(ren) reside informing them that home schooling cannot be verified. The CS21I is located in E-Forms.

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