

Home or Hospital Instruction Policy

Region: DC

The purpose of the Home or Hospital Instruction Policy is to provide academic instruction and support to students who have been or will be absent from school for 10 or more consecutive or cumulative school days during a school year due to a health condition. "Health condition" means a physical or mental illness, injury, or impairment that prevents a student from participating in the day-to-day activities typically expected during school attendance. Rocketship Public Schools (Rocketship)'s Home or Hospital Instruction program is designed to provide academic instruction in core subjects to the greatest extent possible as well as the provision of special education and related services as appropriate, foster coordination between the student's classroom teachers and the home or hospital instructors, and facilitate the rapid reintegration into classroom instruction when the student returns to school.

Eligibility for Home or Hospital Instruction

Any Rocketship student who has been or is anticipated to be absent from school, on a continuous, partial, or intermittent basis, for 10 or more consecutive or cumulative school days during a school year due to a health condition may be eligible for home or hospital instruction. The following steps must be taken before home or hospital instruction is provided:

- A parent/guardian is responsible for requesting home or hospital instruction. This request may be written or oral and must be submitted to the school principal.
- Upon receipt of a request for home or hospital instruction, Rocketship will document and acknowledge the request within 2 school days and will provide the parent with information on how to submit a completed medical certification of need and parent agreement for home or hospital instruction;
 - If the student has a known or suspected disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ("Section 504") or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), the acknowledgement will include a notice of the parent/student's rights under the IDEA or Section 504.
- The parent must submit a completed medical certification of need and parent agreement for home or hospital instruction. The application must include:
 - The student's name, and date of birth;
 - The name of the LEA the student is enrolled in and the name of the student's current school of attendance;
 - The parent's name, address, phone number, and email address;
 - A medical certification of need;
 - The requested start date and duration of home or hospital instruction services;
 - The consent of the parent for disclosure of information contained in or related to the medical certification of need; and
 - The parent's signature.
- Within 5 calendar days of receiving the medical certification of need and parent agreement for home or hospital instruction, Rocketship will issue a written decision approving or denying the request and explaining the basis for that decision;
 - A request will only be denied if the medical certification of need is missing or incomplete;
 - In the event that a request is denied, the written explanation will state specifically that the basis for the determination was a missing or incomplete application or medical certification

- of need;
- In the event that a request is denied, Rocketship will include in the written decision how the parent may appeal that decision.
- If a request is approved, the written decision will include a written plan for the delivery of instruction that includes the service delivery location service to be delivered, identification of virtual and/or in-person service delivery as the method of service, identification of the number of hours per week of direct instruction for eligible students according to the medical certification of need, and the schedule for service delivery. If a student with a disability is found eligible for home or hospital instruction, the responsibilities for creating, implementing and monitoring the written plan for the delivery of instruction remains with the student's IEP or 504 team.

Medical Certification of Need

The medical certification of need must be signed by a licensed physician, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed mental health counselor or therapist, or physician's assistant and must include the following:

- The signatory's license number and contact information;
- Diagnosed health condition and explanation of how the health condition has caused or is anticipated to cause the student to be absent, on a continuous, partial, or intermittent basis, for 10 or more consecutive or cumulative school days during a school year;
- Recommendation that student receive home or hospital instruction to the extent permitted by the student's health condition;
- Anticipated duration of the student's health condition and need for home or hospital instruction;
- Whether the student's health condition is anticipated to cause continuous, partial, or intermittent absence from school; and
- Recommendation on the maximum number of direct instructional hours that the student may receive per week based on the student's health condition and current ability to access instruction and services.

While home or hospital instruction is being provided, Rocketship may request updated information related to the student's continued medical need and work with the parent to develop a plan that would permit the student to return to school.

Medical Recertification of Need

The medical recertification of need must be signed by a licensed physician, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed mental health counselor or therapist, or physician's assistant and must include the following:

- The signatory's license number and contact information;
- Confirmation of a current diagnosed health condition and explanation of how the health condition causes or is anticipated to continue to cause the student to be absent, on a continuous, partial, or intermittent basis, for 10 or more consecutive or cumulative school days during a school year;
- Verification of the continued need for home or hospital instruction and whether the student requires instruction in a home or hospital;
- Anticipated duration and frequency of the student's health condition and the need for home or

- hospital instruction;
- Confirmation that student's current health condition is anticipated to cause continuous, partial, or intermittent absence from school; and
- Recommendation on the maximum number of direct instructional hours that the student may receive per week based on the student's health condition and current ability to access instruction and services.

Duration of Home or Hospital Instruction

Approval of home or hospital instruction requests are expected to last no longer than 60 days or the duration estimated in the medical certification of need, whichever is less. A parent may extend the program for periods of up to 60 days by submitting a medical recertification of need at least 5 days before the date that the parent requires for the extension to begin.

Proposed Accommodations to Allow Student to Remain in School

Before or after a request for home or hospital instruction is granted, Rocketship may propose accommodations to allow the student to remain in school but will only proceed with such accommodations if the medical professional that signed the medical certification of need agrees in writing that such accommodations meet the medical needs of the student and permit in-school instruction.

Delivery of Instruction

Home or hospital instruction will begin within 5 school days of the request being approved. Instruction will be provided in core academic subjects to the greatest extent possible. Special education and related services will also be provided to the greatest extent possible in accordance with an IEP or Section 504 Plan.

Instruction will be provided in-person by a home or hospital instructor unless the parent consents to virtual instruction via real-time videoconferencing. The instructor may be a Rocketship employee or a contractor, as determined and arranged by Rocketship. Instruction may be provided virtually without a parent's consent in the following circumstances:

- During a public health emergency;
- When the student has been diagnosed with a communicable disease;
- When a household member has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, if the student is to receive instruction at home; or
- When Rocketship determines safety concerns prevent the delivery of in-person services.

Home or hospital instruction will include a minimum number of hours per week of direct instruction for an approved student based on the medical certification or recertification of need. For students absent on an intermittent or partial basis, Rocketship may make adjustments to the minimum required amount of direct instruction based on the student's schedule and amount of in-school instruction the student is expected to receive. Additional instruction, special education, and/or related services will be individualized based on student need.

Instruction will be provided during regular school hours at times determined by Rocketship unless the parent and instructor agree otherwise. Failure of students to attend or participate in scheduled sessions will not result in additional time allotted or make-up sessions.

If instruction takes places in the home, the student's parent/guardian is responsible for being home during

the entirety of the instructional period. Parent/guardian must be 18 years of age or older. A quiet, designated space must be provided for instruction to occur.

A regular program of study and preparation of lessons and materials, by their teachers, is required for each student. Substitute assignments may be provided if regular assignments or activities cannot take place outside of the classroom. In addition to the weekly instructional sessions, the student is expected to complete assignments on his or her own time. Assignments must be completed by the designated due date and are returned to the school for grading. Failure to complete or turn in assignments on time will result in zeros for those assignments and reflected in the grade accordingly. Grades earned during hospital and homebound instruction will be added to any current grades and calculated towards the final grade for the quarter/year. For all content not covered through home or hospital instruction, the student will be given alternative assignments for credit recovery.

Attendance

A student will be counted as medically excused for all days in which the student participates in the home or hospital instruction. Students will be marked as an unexcused absence for any days where they do not complete their instruction requirements.

For hospitalized students, Rocketship will work with the hospital to coordinate appropriate services.

If a student with a disability is found eligible for home or hospital instruction, the responsibilities for creating, implementing and monitoring the academic program remain with the student's IEP or 504 team.

Students with Disabilities Under the IDEA

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to supersede the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.) with regard to an LEA's obligation to determine the educational placement in the least restrictive environment for a student with a disability under the IDEA.

When a parent makes a request for home or hospital instruction for a student who is suspected of being or is eligible for special education services under the IDEA, the LEA shall:

- Provide the parent with notice of the procedural safeguards under the IDEA defined by 34 CFR § 300.504; and
- Consider whether the request for home or hospital instruction could impact the student's educational placement in the least restrictive environment, and if so, convene a placement determination team to review and revise the educational placement of the student, as appropriate, and to review and revise the student's IEP, as appropriate.

If an LEA convenes a placement determination team to review whether the educational placement of a student with a disability should be changed, the determination and eligibility for home or hospital instruction shall be governed by the IDEA and any applicable District law or regulation governing IDEA rather than the standards in this chapter.

If a student with a disability is placed in home or hospital instruction in accordance with the IDEA, the provision and duration of services shall be governed by the IDEA and any applicable District law or regulation governing IDEA rather than the standards in this policy.