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Home Study Program—Existing Law

Jim DesMarais, Legislative Counsel

Definition (Sec. 11(21)) --"Home study program" means an educational program offered through home study that provides a minimum course of study and that is offered to not more than:

(A) children residing in that home; and

(B) children not residing in that home who either are two or fewer in number or who are from one family.

Attendance requirement (Sec. 1121) – A child between the ages of six and 16 years is required to attend a public school, an approved or recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home study program

Home study program requirements (Secs. 166b and 906)

- Enrollment notice sent to the Secretary annually, that includes:

- for each child enrolled during the preceding year, any assessment of progress;
 - a detailed outline or narrative that describes the content to be provided in each subject area of the minimum course of study;
 - the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and signatures of the persons who will provide ongoing instruction in each subject area of the minimum course of study; and
 - the signatures of all custodial parents or guardians who are legally authorized to make educational decisions for the student.
- Secretary approves or disapproves, with opportunity for a hearing
 - Each home study program is required to assess annually the progress of each of its students. Progress is required to be assessed in each subject area of the minimum course of study.
 - Minimum course of study means:
 - For a child who is younger than 13 years of age:
 - basic communication skills, including reading, writing, and the use of numbers;

- citizenship, history, and government in Vermont and the United States;
 - physical education and comprehensive health education, including the effects of tobacco, alcoholic drinks, and drugs on the human system and on society;
 - English, American, and other literature;
 - the natural sciences; and
 - the fine arts.
- For a child who is 13 years of age or older:
 - basic communication skills, including reading, writing, and the use of numbers;
 - citizenship, history, and government in Vermont and the United States;
 - English, American, and other literature; and
 - the natural sciences.

Flexible pathways (Secs. 942 and 944)

- A home study student and the student's parent or guardian are solely responsible for developing a personalized learning plan (for students attending a school, the plan is developed by

the student, a representative of the school, and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardian)

- A home study student is eligible for dual enrollment

School board duties (Sec. 563(24)) -- The school board of a school district is required to adopt a policy that will integrate home study students into its schools through enrollment in courses, participation in cocurricular and extracurricular activities, and use of facilities.