



No. 117

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: 9-24-2011

REVISED: 9-19-2011

No.117 HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code and State Board of Education regulations, LVPA Board will approve requests for excusals from the compulsory attendance requirements of the Commonwealth where a treating physician recommends that such is necessary based on a child's medical condition.

A homebound excuse is to be provided on a limited basis when it is impossible for a student to attend any type of educational programming outside the home. If the student's school program can be modified to accommodate his/her needs, then homebound is not appropriate.

Homebound excuses may not be used as a way to avoid compulsory school attendance and must be based on a doctor's recommendation. LVPA may require parental consent to verify a homebound recommendation with a recommending physician.

At LVPA's discretion, tutoring in the home during a homebound excusal period may be provided. Homebound tutoring is not intended to take the place of a regular or special educational program obtained through regular school attendance and is not an educational placement. The purpose of homebound tutoring is to maintain current skill levels and prevent regression, if possible, until the student can return to school.

Although there are exceptions, the homebound student will not acquire credit. Homebound absences, however, are excused if student is determined to be eligible.

Guidelines

Eligibility:

- A homebound excuse or homebound instruction is a "temporary excusal from school for urgent medical or other reasons," made pursuant to School Code Section 13-1329 and Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Section 11.25.
- A school may excuse a school age child from compulsory school attendance upon recommendation of the school physician and a psychiatrist or public school psychologist, or both, and with the approval of the Secretary of Education. The excusal, which shall be

reevaluated every three (3) months, may be extended upon the recommendation of the school physician and with the approval of the CEO.

- Children so excused shall be entered on the inactive roll.

Criteria For Approval:

- It is the policy of LVPA to provide eligible students with homebound tutoring when a request for a homebound excuse is approved and the student can tolerate and benefit from some instruction.
- Unless circumstances require otherwise, five (5) hours of tutoring per week will be provided. To be eligible for homebound tutoring, LVPA requires that the student meet the following criteria:
 1. Student is unable to attend school and anticipates being absent from school ten (10) consecutive school days or more due to a temporary, serious medical reason such as a car accident, disabling surgery, serious illness, acute hospitalization (tutoring can be provided in hospital) or other serious, temporary health condition.
 2. Applications for individual instruction must be submitted to the Principal on LVPA form: Request For Temporary Excuse From School and include a copy of the physician's medical request for homebound instruction certifying the nature of the illness or condition, and the probable duration of the confinement. The recommending physician must also verify, on a signed prescription paper that includes the physician's ID number, a statement verifying that the student is unable to attend any part of the school day due to the student's condition.

Conditions For Approval:

Parents/Guardians and students are advised of the following conditions to the approval/provision of a homebound excuse:

1. LVPA may contact the recommending physician for verification of information within the homebound form.
2. If LVPA believes that additional information is needed, with legally required consent, LVPA may contact the recommending physician to seek additional information.
3. At any time, LVPA may utilize its school physician to review and deny or approve a request for a homebound excuse.
4. LVPA reserves the right to refer a student to a physician of LVPA's choice, at LVPA expense, if it so chooses.
5. In the event that LVPA chooses to refer a student to its own physician to determine the necessity for homebound services, and the LVPA physician's opinion is contrary to the family physician, or the recommending physician is unable to substantiate the recommendation, the administration will be authorized to honor the opinion of the LVPA physician. The child will be requested to return to school. In such a case, the student shall be denied any further homebound services and the child would then fall under the mandatory school attendance regulations.
6. Whether a tutor/instructor is assigned shall be at LVPA's discretion, and that person shall be of LVPA's choice.
7. LVPA requires a reassessment of the student's condition after sixty (60) calendar days.
8. Students on homebound excuses shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular, co-curricular or after-school activities or events while on a homebound excuse. Permission for exceptions must be approved by the CEO or designee.

9. Homebound instructors are permitted up to five (5) hours per week tutoring individual students.
10. Students, on an as-needed basis, receive one (1) hour of home instruction time for every day absent.
11. Homebound tutoring is provided in accordance with the school calendar.
12. Homebound tutoring is not provided on snow days or weekends.
13. Homebound tutoring will be based on provision of assignments from the student's then current courses, provided by the student's then current teachers.
14. LVPA, at its sole discretion, may permit a student to complete course work for credit if a student is physically and mentally able to independently complete school work in a satisfactory manner while on a homebound excuse. Such student must keep up with the class's regular assignments and school work in a timely fashion in order to earn credit. The tutor may administer tests if deemed appropriate by the tutor. If a student is permitted to complete course work for credit, the tutor will collect classroom work from the student's regular teacher. It shall, however, be the responsibility of the student to complete the course work satisfactorily. Lack of independent work on the part of the student or noncompletion of assignments may result in the loss of credit or failure of the course. LVPA shall make the final decision on an award of credit for a course.
15. Due to the nature of course content, it may not be possible for the homebound teacher to deliver or teach the course content. In this regard, the student will be required to reschedule this course(s) during the next available semester.
16. Each hour of homebound tutoring provided is to be supported by one (1) to three (3) hours of independent study, depending on grade level, by the student if medical condition allows this.
17. The parent/guardian is required to provide the homebound teacher with an educational learning environment within the home conducive to conducting the assigned course work. A parent/guardian or other adult authority must be present in the home during homebound tutoring. It is expected that family members will not interfere with tutoring sessions. It is expected that students will be prepared for sessions. Eating during sessions is not permitted unless necessary for medical reasons. If an environment conducive to learning is not provided, homebound tutoring may be terminated. The student will be excused without instruction or course credit until the student's condition allows him/her to return to school.
18. Any breach of the above conditions, in part or in whole, may result in the withdrawal of approval of a homebound excuse. Homebound tutoring is a temporary instructional program and should not be considered as a replacement to attendance and instruction in the regular school setting.

Withholding Of Previously Granted Homebound Tutoring

Homebound tutoring may be offered at LVPA's discretion. Once granted, the Board reserves the right to withhold/deny individual instruction when:

1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher.
2. A parent/guardian or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of instruction.
3. The condition of the student is such as to preclude his/her benefit from such instruction.

References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1329
State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.25, 11.341.