

**Department of Personalized Learning Guidance to Schools
Homebound Education Programming in DCSD
2016-2017 School Year**

Homebound education is a temporary programming option for all K-12 students who are unable to leave their home environment due to severe physical or emotional reasons and are unable to participate in activities outside of their home environment, except for health/medical appointments. The ultimate purpose of the Homebound education program is to prevent interruption in the student's participation in academic curriculum while they are unable to attend a brick and mortar school. Homebound education is personalized for each student and a plan will be developed by all involved stakeholders.

Programming Differences

Homebound education is NOT Home Services (a long term program available to highly impacted students through Special Education), nor is it Home Base (a behavioral intervention in neighborhood schools), nor Home Schooling where parents are the primary educators for their children.

Process for Determining Eligibility

- Determination of academic support through Homebound education programming is a collaborative process involving the student, parent, School Nurse Consultant, instructional staff and school counselor from the student's neighborhood school, and eDCSD administration.

Eligibility criteria (not exclusive)

- Students who proactively know they will be absent more than 10 consecutive school days for a health related condition
- Students who have a sudden and prolonged illness or injury lasting more than 10 consecutive school days
- Students having a medical procedure with a recovery time of more than 10 consecutive school days
- Students with a chronic health condition and have a flare-up or worsening of it, lasting more than 10 consecutive school days, with anticipation of returning to their regular school building as soon as possible
- Students with mental health conditions who cannot attend school for a period of time greater than 10 consecutive school days

Who is NOT eligible

- Students who have unexcused absences or are truant
- Expelled students
- Students who have been absent for 10 consecutive days or less (building staff will be solely responsible for working with student and family regarding makeup work and accommodations)
- Students who are absent frequently, but not consecutively
- Students whose parents will not allow nursing staff to speak with health care providers to collaborate on a plan for Homebound education with the goal of returning to school

- Students who experience school avoidance that has not been addressed by an individualized plan to increase attendance over time

How it works

- Staff members who identify eligible students will contact the School Nurse Consultant for that building. The School Nurse Consultant will work with building administration, the student and family to review needs, evaluate eligibility for Homebound education, and transition to Homebound education.
- The school team will work with parents to collect necessary medical documentation. Documentation must include a signed letter from the child's physician that includes the specific reason for Homebound education and the potential length of time, as well as a HIPAA release for communication with staff.
- eDCSD administration will be notified (Laura Sharp, grades K-8 or Kristy Hart, grades 9-12). The School Nurse Consultant will collaborate with all involved stakeholders. Parents and staff will complete a Homebound Application and allow the School Nurse Consultant to speak with the student's health care provider(s). Completion of an application does not guarantee eligibility for Homebound education.
- The student then will be dually enrolled at the neighborhood school and at eDCSD. The student's neighborhood school will retain a primary line of enrollment and eDCSD will add a secondary line of enrollment.
- eDCSD administration will work with the student's counselor and teachers to modify and personalize curriculum in order for the student to continue working toward course completion.
- The length of time a student will be enrolled in eDCSD will be determined on a case by case basis. Ideally, a high school student will return to their home school at the end of a grading period to ensure credit acquisition.
- The student will receive an in-home visit (if applicable) by an appropriate qualified and licensed teacher and then will work remotely as able via a computer and available technology. The neighborhood school will be required to provide the necessary technology, and can collaborate with eDCSD to meet those needs.
- eDCSD will collaborate with a special education coordinator to determine how specialized services will be provided for students with an IEP in order for special education students to continue progress on IEP goals. This may include the provision of a behavior intervention plan where applicable.
- eDCSD will collaborate with a personalized learning coordinator to determine how accommodations will be afforded for students on an individualized plan such as a Section 504 plan.

Length of time for Homebound Services

- Students enrolled in eDCSD for temporary Homebound education will be evaluated by the School Nurse Consultant, health care provider, parents, and DCSD staff at minimum every 30 days or sooner if needed. They may continue services for a total of 90 days, and then will be reviewed for consideration of permanent enrollment in eDCSD.