

Medical Homebound Instruction

Statutory Basis for Medical Homebound Instruction - South Carolina Law

South Carolina's mandates regarding medical homebound instruction appear in State Board of Education Regulation 43-241. Regulation 43-241 says that students who cannot attend public school because of illness, accident, or pregnancy, even with the aid of transportation, are eligible for medical homebound instruction. A physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant must certify that the student is unable to attend school but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital. Any student participating in a program of medical homebound instruction or hospitalized instruction must be approved by the district superintendent or his or her designee on standardized forms provided by the State Department of Education.

[Homebound Regulations Update](#)

FAQ

How does a parent arrange for his or her child to receive medical homebound instruction?

The procedure for requesting medical homebound instruction is not determined at the state level but is established by the individual school district. A licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant must complete a medical homebound instruction form that the local school district provides. The parent and/or physician's office will need to send the completed medical homebound instruction forms to the student's school. The school homebound coordinator will then begin submitting the documents for the homebound approval process. Homebound is not an automatic approval. The district superintendent or his/her designee may approve or deny any student requesting homebound instruction.

If the child is receiving services through the school district's special education program and has an individualized education program (IEP), then the parent should also notify the designated school or district contact person for special education regarding the request for medical homebound services. If the child has an accommodations plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, then the parent should notify the Section 504 school or district coordinator about the request.

If a physician writes a prescription for medical homebound instruction or completes a medical homebound application, isn't the school district required to provide medical homebound instruction?

No. The district superintendent or his/her designee must approve any medical homebound instruction request. Upon the signed authorization of the parent, the district superintendent or his/her designee may ask the physician to supply additional documentation in order to determine if medical homebound instruction is appropriate. Parents are encouraged to discuss with physicians accommodations and modifications that can be made to keep students in school.

What happens if the Homebound Coordinator denies my request for medical homebound instruction for my child?

The district superintendent or his/her designee has the authority to approve or deny the physician's medical homebound recommendation. A parent may choose to go through the appeal process. The appeal must be made in writing to the Department of Alternative Programs and Services (DAP) within 10 days of receipt of the homebound denial letter from the school.

Can the Homebound Coordinator request a second medical opinion if he or she disagrees with the first physician or feels that inadequate information has been provided?

There is no regulation in federal or state law that prohibits from doing so. If the district superintendent or his/her designee feels that additional information is needed, then he or she may request a second medical opinion in order to gain the necessary information to approve medical homebound instruction, deny medical homebound instruction, or determine possible accommodations or modifications to allow the student to continue in his or her regular school program.

Can a student be truant while receiving medical homebound instruction?

The district's attendance policy does apply to homebound students. Students receiving homebound instruction should return to school-based instruction as soon as possible. Homebound services are approved for 45 instructional days at a time. If it is necessary for homebound instruction to continue beyond the approved period of time, a new medical homebound instruction form will be required. Homebound service is appropriate for short term intervention and should not be viewed as a long term placement for regular school attendance. Homebound instruction is designed so the student does not fall significantly behind during the period of confinement.