

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-01-02  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**0520-01-02-.10 HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION.**

(1) Definitions

- (a) Homebound Instruction Program – Instruction provided at home or at a hospital or at other related locations to children who are unable to attend school due to a medical condition.
- (b) Homebound Instruction Period – The number of school days that the homebound instruction program shall be provided to the student.
- (c) Review team – The members of the local education agency (“LEA”), and/or school staff including the student’s 504 team if applicable, who are familiar with the health and educational needs of the student for whom homebound instruction is being requested.
- (d) Treating physician – A person who is licensed under T.C.A. Title 63, Chapter 6; T.C.A. Title 63, Chapter 9; T.C.A. Title 63, Chapter 11; or T.C.A. § 63-23-105 or similar statute in another jurisdiction and who is the professional treating the student for the medical condition requiring homebound instruction.
- (e) Student – A child enrolled in a Tennessee public school in grades kindergarten (K) through grade twelve (12).
- (f) Regular Classes – A student attends regular classes if the student misses no more than ten (10) consecutive instructional days over the period of the school year. An LEA may create a policy stating that the definition of regular classes also includes students who miss no more than an aggregate of ten (10) instructional days over the period of the school year.
- (g) Medical Condition – A student has a medical condition if the student’s treating physician certifies in writing that the student has a physical or mental condition, illness, or disorder that prevents the student from attending regular classes.

(2) Eligibility and Placement

- (a) A student is eligible for a homebound instruction program upon certification in writing by the student’s treating physician. To qualify for a homebound instruction program, the treating physician’s certification must show that: the student has a medical condition that will prevent the student from attending regular classes.
- (b) The homebound instruction period and homebound instruction program for students shall be determined by the LEA review team on a case-by-case basis and shall take into consideration the recommendations of the student’s treating physician, if available.
- (c) Educational decisions regarding the homebound instruction program are made by the review team.

(Rule 0520-01-02-.10, continued)

- (d) A homebound placement of a student with a disability shall be governed by the requirements set forth in State Board Rule 0520-01-09-.07.

(3) Instruction

- (a) Homebound instruction shall consist at minimum of three (3) hours of instruction per week while school is in session for the period of homebound instruction.
- (b) The LEA review team shall consider the student's grade level, academic status, physical abilities, individual academic needs, period of homebound instruction, and similar factors when determining the amount of instruction time.
- (c) The minimum three (3)-hour instruction time shall not include travel to and from the student or preparation time. Homebound instruction is only the actual time that the student and the homebound teacher are working together; or, if a student is enrolled in a district's online or virtual program, homebound instruction is only the actual time that the student is engaging in instruction via the online or virtual program.
- (d) Instruction shall be provided by a teacher holding a valid Tennessee teacher license as provided in T.C.A. Title 49, Chapter 5.
- (e) An adult, other than the homebound teacher/instructor, shall be present during the period of homebound instruction.
- (f) The district may provide the homebound instruction program via the district's own online or virtual program. The district shall verify that the student has all the necessary equipment, access, and training for working via the Internet at no additional cost to the student.

(4) Recertification

- (a) A homebound instruction program for longer than the initial homebound instruction period shall only be provided to a student who is recertified in writing by his or her treating physician as having a medical condition that, in the student's treating physician's judgment, continues to prevent the student from returning to regular classes
- (b) The initial homebound instruction period and any additional homebound instruction period shall be for the number of school days certified by the review team.
- (c) Recertification must be obtained upon the expiration of each additional period of homebound instruction if homebound instruction is to be continued beyond the initial homebound instruction period.

(5) Re-entry

- (a) Prior to the expiration of the period of homebound instruction, the review team shall develop a treatment plan and strategy for the student's reentry into the school environment.

(6) Attendance

- (a) Students receiving homebound instruction shall not be counted absent from school and shall be included in all computations for purposes of generating state school funds.

(Rule 0520-01-02-.10, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-10-1101 and 49-10-1103. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed June 10, 1974; effective July 10, 1974. Amendment filed June 30, 1975; effective July 30, 1975. Amendment filed July 15, 1976; effective August 16, 1976. Amendment filed February 28, 1978; effective March 30, 1978. Amendment filed January 9, 1979; effective February 23, 1979. Repeal and new rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992.