

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION		
HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION		4206
ADOPTED: July 27, 2018	REVISED: May 29, 2020	MONITORING: Review: Annually

Homebound Instruction Eligibility.¹ The homebound instruction program is instruction provided at home or at a hospital or related location for students who are unable to attend the regular instructional program due to a medical condition.

A student is eligible for homebound instruction if the student has obtained certification by the student’s treating physician that shows the following:

- The student has a physical or mental condition that will require the student’s absence from school for more than ten (10) consecutive instructional days over the period of the school year.

The homebound instruction period and homebound instruction program for students shall be determined by the review team and shall take into consideration the recommendations of the student’s treating physician, if available.

Review Team. The review team shall consist of members of school staff who are familiar with the health and educational needs of the student for whom homebound instruction is being requested, including the student’s 504 Team, if applicable. The 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. The student’s physician may recommend, in writing, the period for which the student is eligible for homebound instruction; however, the determination of the initial homebound instruction period shall be made by the review team.

Homebound Instruction Program and Recertification. The homebound instruction program shall consist of a minimum of three (3) hours of instruction per week while school is in session for the period of homebound instruction, plus any authorized extension(s). The three (3)-hour instruction time shall not include travel to and from the student or preparation time. Students receiving homebound instruction shall not be counted absent from school. Instruction shall be provided by a teacher holding a valid Tennessee teacher license as provided in T.C.A. Title 49, Chapter 5.

All initial homebound instruction shall be for the period certified by the review team. In order for a student to be recertified for homebound instruction to continue beyond the initial certification period, the student must receive another certification in writing from his or her treating physician stating that the student has a physical or mental condition that, in the treating physician’s judgment, prevents the student from returning to regular classes.

Prior to expiration of the period of homebound instruction and return to school, the review team shall develop a treatment plan and strategy for the student’s reentry into the school environment. An IEP team may choose to return a homebound student to the regular classroom on a gradual basis, if needed. In this

plan, the student should be marked as homebound until that student is in the regular classroom for at least 50 percent of the scheduled school day.

Homebound Placement for Students with Disabilities²

A student with a disability may be eligible for a homebound placement if the student qualifies under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and State Board rules and regulations. In the case of a student with a disability, the IEP team will determine if the student is in need of a homebound placement.

The IEP team shall consider a medical homebound placement only upon certification by a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy that a child with a disability needs a homebound placement, is expected to be absent from school due to a physical or mental condition for at least (10) consecutive school days and that the child can receive instruction in a homebound placement without endangering the health of personnel providing it.

A homebound placement for a student with a disability shall be temporary, and shall not exceed thirty (30) school days. The student's IEP shall contain a goal of returning the child to a less restrictive environment within the school year, unless there is a medical necessity that requires extended homebound instruction, in which case additional homebound placements of thirty (30) school days or less may be instituted. The student's IEP shall also be reviewed by the IEP team every thirty (30) school days to ensure the continued appropriateness of instruction and of the homebound placement.

Legal References:

¹ T.C.A. § 49-10-1101; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.10

² TRR/MS 0520-01-09-.07

Cross References:

Communicable Diseases 6403

Students Living with HIV or AIDS 6404