HOME-BASED EDUCATION

Colorado law recognizes home-based education as a legitimate alternative to classroom attendance in public school and provides that non-public home-based educational programs shall be subject to the minimal state controls currently applicable to other forms of non-public education.

In keeping with the provisions of the law, the following guidelines shall apply to a non-public home-based educational program:

1. A parent or guardian residing within the Thompson School District who wishes to establish such a program must notify the district according to regulations IHBG-R.
2. The parent or guardian of any child who has been habitually truant at any time during the last six months that the child attended school must also submit a written description of the curricula to be used in home-schooling before enrollment can be approved.
3. The parent or guardian, or an adult relative designated by that person to provide instruction, shall not be subject to the requirements of the “Teacher Certification Act of 1975” or of Articles 60 and 61 of the “School Attendance Law of 1963.”
4. The program shall include no less than 172 days of instruction, averaging four instructional contact hours per day.
5. The program shall include, but need not be limited to, communication skills of reading, writing and speaking, mathematics, history, civics, literature, science, and regular courses of instruction in the Constitution of the United States.
6. The parent or guardian must fulfill the testing and records-keeping requirements described in regulations IHBG-R.

If a student enrolled in a non-public home-based educational program wishes to enroll in or re-enter district schools, the district shall accept the home-based schooling transcripts; however it may require submission of student work samples or other indicators of performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought in order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and academic standards. In addition, the district may administer tests to verify the accuracy of the student’s transcripts and may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

Adopted April 5, 2000
Revised October 2, 2002
Revised June 18, 2008 (CASB-Jul)
Reviewed September 18, 2013

Legal refs.: C.R.S. 22-7-409 (1.2)(d)(I)(B)(III) (home school students not required to take state assessments)
C.R.S. 22-32-116.5(2) (extracurricular and interscholastic activities)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (3)(f) (scores on nationally standardized test or evaluations are not considered when measuring school performance and determining accreditation)
C.R.S. 22-33-107 (compulsory attendance law)

Cross refs.: JGA, Assignment of New Students to Classes and Grade Levels
JHB, Truancy
JJJ, Extracurricular Activity Eligibility
Thompson School District R2-J, Loveland, Colorado