INSTRUCTION

Homebound Instruction

Homebound instruction may be provided for students enrolled in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) who are physically or emotionally unable to attend school as certified by a physician or, in the case of emotional illness, a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist. Homebound instruction is intended to be temporary in nature and should not be used to replace classroom instruction.

“Homebound instruction” means academic instruction provided to students who are confined at home or in a health care facility for periods that would prevent normal school attendance, based upon medical certification of need by a licensed physician or licensed clinical psychologist. For the purposes of homebound instructional services, “confined at home or in a health care facility” means the student is unable to participate in the normal day-to-day activities typically expected during school attendance; and absences from home are infrequent, of relatively short duration, or to receive health care treatment.

A determination of eligibility for homebound shall be made by the Office of Student Services. Students with a disability must have a new IEP developed to meet the student’s temporary instructional needs after the referral for homebound instruction has been approved by the Office of Student Services. The student’s IEP will delineate the number of homebound instruction hours, the special education services to be delivered while the student is homebound, the goals to be pursued while the student is homebound, and the placement of continuum option: “homebound.” When the student is able to return to school, the IEP team must amend the IEP to terminate homebound services in order to return the student to the school setting.

When it appears that a general education student will need homebound instruction for an extended period of time, the student's school may be directed to explore the needs of the student for special education services through the use of appropriate means such as the Intervention Team.

Students receiving homebound instruction should return to school-based instruction as soon as possible. Homebound services will typically not be approved for periods in excess of nine calendar weeks. If it is necessary for homebound instruction to continue beyond nine weeks, an extension form, including treatment plan, progress towards treatment goals, and specific plans to transition the student back to the school setting, will be required from the treating health care provider to document the need for extended services.

The following information applies to all general education students. Students in grades K-5 are generally eligible for 20 hours of instruction per month. Students in grades 6-8 are generally eligible for 32 hours of instruction per month. Students in grades 9-12 are generally eligible for 40 hours of
instruction per month. Twenty hours per month are generally approved for students in grades 9-12 taking two courses or less on homebound a maximum of four courses may be taken for credit while on homebound.

Homebound instruction is delivered during regular school hours, later afternoon, or early evening and only on those days when school is in session. Instruction will not be given to homebound students when PWCS students are not in attendance (i.e., in cases of inclement weather, teacher work days, winter break, spring break, and student holidays). Under special circumstances, exceptions may be approved by the program manager from the Office of Student Services.

When scheduling sessions, homebound teachers will take into consideration parent or guardian requests, but not all requests can be accommodated.

The payment of teachers shall be at the hourly rate as established during the budget cycle. Payment will not be made for travel, no-shows, or preparation time.

A hospital/day treatment center which provides academic instruction to qualified PWCS students in a group setting shall be reimbursed for such services at the prevailing hourly homebound instruction rate. PWCS shall reimburse such instructional providers for two hours of instruction per school day for one teacher who is certified to teach in Virginia, regardless of the number of students enrolled in the group. The procedure for applying for approval for homebound services through a hospital or day treatment center is the same as for non-hospitalized students requesting homebound services. Payment will not be made for homebound services rendered prior to approval of the homebound request by the Office of Student Services.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for reviewing this regulation in 2018.