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To: Persons Interested in Homeschooling
From: Donna M. McGaughey, Graham County School Superintendent
Subject: Home Instruction Policies and Procedures

In order for us to be fully supportive of your desire to instruct your child at home, we have put together a policy and procedures packet to assure your compliance with the law.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The laws which establish the criteria for any parent/legal guardian who may wish to educate their children in their own home may be found in Arizona Revised Statutes §15-745 A.R.S. §15-763, A.R.S. §15-802, A.R.S. §15-802.01, and A.R.S. §15-828., which require in part that:

"Homeschool"; means a nonpublic school conducted primarily by the parent, guardian, or other person who has custody of the child or instruction provided in the child's home.

The person who has custody of the child shall file an affidavit of intent with the county school superintendent within thirty days from the time the child begins attending a homeschool.

The child must be instructed in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science.

CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Arizona Revised Statutes §15-828(B) requires that any parent or legal guardian of a child instructed at home submit with their affidavit, or within thirty (30) days after home instruction begins, one of the following to the county school superintendent's office:

1. A certified copy of the pupil's birth certificate;
2. Other reliable proof of the pupil's identity and age, including the pupil's baptismal certificate, and application for a Social Security number, or original school registration records **and** an affidavit explaining the inability to provide a certified copy of the birth certificate.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The child must be instructed in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science.

The parent is responsible for creating and choosing a program suited to the child. Parents are responsible for choosing their own curricula. It may be helpful to network with a home school support group. A list of some local homeschooling support groups is included in this packet. Here is a link to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards as provided by the Arizona Department of Education. These standards exemplify the knowledge and skills students need to be successful in our economy. <http://www.azed.gov/ccr/standards/>

Each homeschool educator creates or chooses a program suited to the child. The homeschooled educator is responsible for providing their own curricula. If needed, check in with the homeschool group networks in the area.

A Diploma is awarded by the homeschool educator.

STUDENT TESTING OPTIONS

Arizona Revised Statutes §15-745 and §15-802.01 state

- 1) Nothing in this article shall be construed to require the testing of children who are instructed in a homeschool program while they are receiving homeschool instruction.
- 2) A child who enrolls in a kindergarten program or grades one through twelve after receiving instruction in a homeschool program shall be tested pursuant to this article in order to determine the appropriate grade level for the educational placement of the child.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

ARS 15-802.01 states:

[Homeschooled children; eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities](#)

A. Notwithstanding any other law, a child who resides within the attendance area of a public school and who is homeschooled shall be allowed to try out for interscholastic activities on behalf of the public school in the same manner as a pupil who is enrolled in that public school.

Registration, age eligibility requirements, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior and performance policies for homeschooled students shall be consistent with those policies established for students enrolled in that public school. The individual providing the primary instruction of a child who is homeschooled shall submit written verification that provides:

1. Whether the student is receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.
2. Whether the student is maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement or promotion.

B. A child who is homeschooled and who was previously enrolled in a public, private or charter school shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities for the remainder of the school year during which the child was enrolled in a school.

C. A school district shall not contract with any private entity that supervises interscholastic activities if the private entity prohibits the participation of homeschooled children in interscholastic activities at public, private or charter schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A.R.S. §15-763 requires districts and charter schools which receive federal money for special education services for homeschooled or parentally placed private schooled students to provide special education services to both groups in the same manner. Call your school district to find out specifically what services your child might be entitled to and how they might be provided.

CERTICATES/DIPLOMAS

Eighth grade promotion certificates and/or high school diplomas are NOT issued by the Graham County School Superintendent for students instructed at homeschools. Please see legislation around diplomas in ARS 15-701.01. This state, any political subdivision or agency of this state and any other governmental entity shall recognize and treat all diplomas and transcripts associated with schooling options as described in section 15-802 in the same manner. School districts may evaluate the transcripts of transfer students for the assignment of credit pursuant to section 15-701.01. Students in homeschooling will be eligible to take a GED-exam administered throughout Graham County once they reach the age of 16 years. Parents interested in a high school diploma for their homeschooled children should contact one of the many independent Correspondence Schools located throughout the United States. The number of such credits accepted toward high school graduation will depend on the high school/district involved.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INSTRUCTOR

None required by law.

RE-ENTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL

Grade level placement of home study students upon re-enrollment in public school is dependent upon school district policy and usually includes parental input. The policies of any public school district can and should be reviewed by the parent/legal guardian PRIOR to removing the child from school. Be aware that your child may need to take individual tests in each subject area to gain district credit unless the homeschool child is receiving correspondence school instruction from a NCA accredited program.

Parents should investigate the entrance requirements of those colleges the student is interested in attending.

UPDATING STUDENT INFORMATION

Please notify the Graham County School Superintendent within thirty days if your homeschooled child is enrolled in a public school. The child's file will then be inactivated. Another affidavit of intent must be filed if the child resumes homeschooling.

Also, please report any changes in addresses or phone numbers in a timely manner.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Unless otherwise exempted in this section or section A.R.S. §15-802 or A.R.S 15-803, a parent of a child between six and sixteen years of age or person who has custody of a child who does not provide instruction in a homeschool and who fails to enroll or fails to ensure that the child attends a public or private school pursuant to this section is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor. A parent who fails to comply with the duty to file an affidavit of intent to provide instruction in a homeschool is guilty of a petty offense.

A violation of this section shall be charged, heard and disposed of pursuant to section 8-232. Referrals will be made to the Graham county Attorney's Office for all persons in violation of these statutes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The affidavit is composed of an original and two copies. Please return all three copies to the county school office when completed, signed and notarized. If you submit the certified copy of the child's birth certificate along with the affidavit, we will photocopy and return the birth certificate and the pink copy of the affidavit to you.

If you have any questions, please call the Graham County School Superintendent's Office at 428-2880; we will be happy to assist you. Please use our office as a resource.