

Homebound/Hospital Instruction

It is the policy of the Waterbury Board of Education that homebound and hospitalized instruction as mandated by Section 10-76d-15 of the Connecticut State Board of Education Regulations, is a program designed to ensure the continuity of a student's education and shall be available to students who are unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason which may include mental health issues.

More instruction may also be provided for those students who have been excluded from regular school attendance for disciplinary reasons.



Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-76d. Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services.
10-233a et. seq. Exclusion
State Department of Education Regulations 10-76d-15

**Policy adopted by the Waterbury Board of Education on March 7, 2013
and revised on November 6, 2014**

Homebound/Hospital Instruction, regulations**Necessary Conditions**

Homebound and hospitalized instruction shall be provided when a child's treating physician provides a statement in writing directly to the Board of Education, Department of Special Services, Homebound Office, on a form provided by the District that includes:

- a. The child's treating physician has consulted with school health supervisory personnel and has determined that attendance at school with reasonable accommodations is not feasible;
- b. The child is unable to attend school due to a verified medical reason;
- c. The child's diagnosis with supporting documentation;
- d. The child will be absent from school for at least ten (10) consecutive days or the child's condition is such that the child may be required to be absent from school for short, repeated periods of time during the school year and;
- e. The expected date the child will be able to return to school.

The Planning and Placement team (PPT) or Section 504 team shall consider the educational needs of a child with a disability who is medically complex and the need for instruction to be provided in accordance with an Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Section 504 plan of such child when such child isn't able to attend school due to medical reasons. The PPT/Section 504 team shall consider and make accommodation for the child's program to be moved:

- a. From public school to a home or health care facility, including but not limited to a hospital, psychiatric facility, or rehabilitation center and
- b. Back to school when the child is able to return to school.
- c. For purposes of this section, "medically complex" means a child who has a serious, ongoing illness or chronic condition for at least a year and required prolonged or intermittent hospitalization and ongoing medical treatments or medical devices to compensate for the loss of bodily functions.

Commencement of Services

Instruction for a child who is unable to attend school for medical reasons shall begin no later than the eleventh day of absence from school, provided the board has received notice in writing that meets the requirements above. If the child's condition is such that the child cannot receive instruction, the child's treating physician shall determine when instruction shall begin and shall, in writing, inform the Board. Instruction for a child with a disability who is medically complex shall begin no later than the third day of absence, provided such child is medically able to receive instruction.

Resolution of Disputes

In the event that there is a dispute regarding the basis upon which the child's treating physician has asserted the need for instruction, the child shall receive such instruction pending review of the written statement provided by the child's treating physician by the school medical advisor.

Homebound/Hospital Instruction, regulations - continued

The parent of such child shall provide consent for the school medical advisor to consult with the child's treating physician to assess the need for instruction. The Board is not required to begin instruction until such consent is provided. Consultation with the child's treating physician shall include a review of educational and medical records, and if appropriate, accommodations and school health services that can be provided to the child so that the child can attend school safely.

If there continues to be a disagreement regarding the provision of homebound instruction, the Board may offer, at the Board's expense, a review of the child's case by a qualified independent medical practitioner. If the parent fails to make the child available for such review, the obligation of the Board to provide homebound instruction shall end, and if the child continues to be absent from school, the board shall pursue school attendance interventions. The Board and the parent have the right to request a hearing or mediation under the State Regulations pursuant to Section 10-76h.

Time and Place

Instruction shall be provided as follows:

1. For children age 3, 4, or 5 with a disability, for the amount of time determined appropriate by the PPT;
2. No less than one hour per day or five hours per week for children in grades kindergarten through six;
3. No less than two hours per day or ten hours per week for children in grades seven through twelve;

Where evaluative data indicates that these time requirements should be modified, instruction time may be increased or decreased upon the agreement of the parent and the Superintendent or designee, or upon determination made by the PPT or Section 504 team as appropriate.

Instruction may be provided in the setting of the child's home or the hospital to which the child is confined or the board may offer instruction in other sites such as the City's public library, taking into consideration the child's medical condition.

Content of Services

Instruction shall be provided so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress towards meeting the goals and objectives in the child's IEP. Maintaining the continuity of the child's general education program means the child shall receive instruction in core academic subjects in which the child is enrolled for promotion or graduation.

Homebound/Hospital Instruction, regulations - continued**Provision for services for a child who is pregnant or has given birth**

A child who is pregnant or who has given birth and cannot attend school pursuant to this section, shall be entitled to be provided with homebound instruction and with such other instruction as will enable the child to remain in school or otherwise have access to instruction and support services. The Board shall consider the child's individualized needs and shall provide as appropriate services that may include, but need not be limited to, transportation, a shortened school day, counseling, modified assignments or modified class schedule.



**Regulations approved by the Waterbury Board of Education on March 7, 2013 and
revised on November 6, 2014**