

**What is the Hospital/Homebound instructional program?**

Hospital/Homebound is an instructional program provided to regular or special education students who are unable to attend school because of a medical condition. Students receive instruction in the hospital or home environment to help them keep up with their coursework while absent from school for a qualifying medical illness.

**Are Homebound and Homestudy the same instructional program?**

No. Homebound services are provided in the hospital or home environment by teachers assigned through the local education agency. Home-study students, also referred to as "homeschool students," receive instruction from their parents in the home environment.

**Who is Eligible?**

Public school students certified by their attending physician as having a medical condition that requires the student to be away from school for a period longer than ten (10) consecutive school days are eligible.

**Where do parents apply?**

Parents may apply at the student's school or at the local school board office.

**Who will teach my child?**

Students should be taught by a properly certified teacher assigned by the local education agency, especially if services will be needed for a period longer than twenty (20) school days. Services may be provided via a consultative model (properly certified regular or special education teacher consults with the homebound teacher delivering instruction) for students needing such services for less than twenty (20) school days during a school year.

**Can my child receive instruction in classes beyond English, Math, Science, and Social Studies?**

Consideration shall be given to the individual need for services beyond the core academic subjects for students with disabilities.

**How can I get technical assistance?**

Contact the Louisiana Department of Education - Division of Educational Improvement and Assistance - toll free number at 1-877-453-2721.

Paul Pastorek  
State Superintendent of Education

Louisiana Department of  
**EDUCATION**

For additional information, [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net) or 1-877-453-2721

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# Homebound Instructional Program

"Extending Education Beyond the Classroom"



Spring 2009

# Homebound Services



## Introduction

Homebound instructional services are designed to support regular or special education students, who as a result of health care treatment, physical illness, accident, or the treatment thereof, are temporarily unable to attend school. Homebound services are provided in the hospital or home environment and shall be provided by a properly certified teacher. Services should begin on the eleventh school day following an absence of more than ten (10) consecutive school days for a qualifying illness. Homebound instruction should be used as a last resort after all other options and/or alternative schedules (i.e., half days, work packets) have been exhausted. Students may qualify for homebound services when enrolled in a public school with a written request for services from the attending medical physician.

## Purpose

The purpose of homebound instruction is to provide students with instructional services during a temporary period of absence from school. Homebound services should also provide continuity between home instruction and classroom instruction, so students can re-engage successfully in their instructional program on return to school.

## Eligibility Criteria

Public school students may be eligible for Homebound services if they are confined to the hospital or home for a period of ten (10) consecutive school days or longer because of a medical condition. A written request for services is required from the attending physician. The request should include information such as the exam date, medical diagnosis, medication(s) that may limit or affect learning, expected duration of confinement, and any other relevant information. The reason for referral could be one of the following: physical or psychological illness, injury, or pregnancy.

After the student has been identified as needing these services, the student shall be referred for review by the School Building Level Committee (SBLC) to determine the need for Section 504 services if the student has not been identified as having a disability. The parent may contact the school guidance counselor if not contacted by the school to request a review for Section 504 services.

## Referral for Homebound Services

Once the physician has made a referral, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the student's school to obtain the homebound packet. All supporting documentation should be returned to the school's contact person who will forward the completed application packet to the homebound coordinator for the local school district. Once the request is reviewed, the parent will be contacted regarding eligibility.

## Service Delivery/Teacher Qualifications

Homebound instruction, at a minimum, shall be provided in the core academic subjects. The core academic subjects are English/Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Homebound instruction shall be provided by a properly certified teacher. However, if the student requires homebound services for less than twenty (20) school days, instructional services may be provided through a consultative model.

## Hours and Duration of Instruction

Homebound instruction, at a minimum, shall be provided for four (4) hours per week, unless the student's health, as determined by a physician requires less. Instruction will be provided during regular school hours unless otherwise scheduled by the school district. Homebound instruction is aligned with the official school calendar for the school district in which the services are being provided.

## Timelines

The enrolling education agency is responsible for facilitating services, after having been notified in writing, when a student will be out of school for more than ten (10) consecutive school days for a qualifying illness. Homebound instruction should begin on the eleventh (11th) day of an absence related to a qualifying illness. Homebound services may be necessary to avoid an unnecessary break in educational services during the period of time that a student is absent from school for a medical condition. Homebound applications, in most cases, may be obtained from the student's school or the local school board office.

## Teacher Responsibilities

The Homebound teacher is responsible for the following:

- Contacting the parent or guardian to determine the need for services and arranging a schedule to begin instruction.
- Scheduling a meeting with the classroom teachers to pick up assignments, coursework, outlines, answer keys, textbooks, and any other materials necessary to support the student's instructional program.
- Developing and implementing a homebound educational plan that will facilitate academic progress and meet the instructional requirements of the student's current educational program.
- Providing progress reports and report cards as scheduled by the local school system.
- Providing assistance with the student's re-entry into school if necessary.

## Parent Responsibilities

Parents are responsible for the following:

- Notifying the school when it has been determined that the student will be out of school for longer than ten (10) consecutive school days for a qualifying illness. It is recommended that the parent or guardian notify the school administrator in writing.
- Providing the name of the attending physician to authorize the release of medical information so the school district can determine eligibility for services.
- Providing access to the student's home and helping schedule teacher visits that do not conflict with medical treatments.
- Providing an appropriate environment and necessary supervision.
- Assisting the child with instructional activities and ensuring appropriate instructional materials are available.

