

GISD Parent Homeschool FAQ

This guidance document is being provided to inform parents/guardians information related to Home School Instruction. Home School instruction is defined as instruction in school subjects provided in the child's home without support from the school district.

Students who are homeschooled are exempt from the compulsory attendance law to the same extent as students enrolled in other private schools. Adequate documentation of homeschooling for withdrawal shall consist of either a statement of withdrawal in accordance with GISD Board Policy FD(LOCAL) indicating the date homeschooling began, or a signed and dated letter from a parent or guardian indicating that his or her child is being homeschooled and the date the homeschooling began. The parent/guardian is required to attest that they will provide basic instruction in reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics and a study of good citizenship. The parent/guardian is only required to make the attestation and provide the date instruction will begin. Each campus has the attestation available.

In order for my child to re-enroll, credit for his/her home school coursework will be afforded the same treatment as students transferring from unaccredited private schools. Students will be assessed using the credit-by-examination method to determine subject competencies to receive credit. Students must obtain a minimum score of 80 in each content area to demonstrate subject competency. Students failing to meet the standard for receiving credit will have to enroll in the course or grade level in order to receive credit. Student placement will be determined by the campus principal after review of student records, credit-by-exam results, and other information deemed appropriate.

For example: A parent chooses to home school their child in the fourth grade for the 2020-2021 school year. They complete the instruction at home for the entire school year, but choose to return to GISD for the 2021-2022 school year. The student will be required to take exams demonstrating they mastered subject competency in the fourth grade instruction taken at home. If the student obtains a score of 80 in the required subject areas tested the child will be placed in the 5th grade. However, if the student fails to meet this requirement they will be placed in the 4th grade.

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If I choose to home school my child, what do I need to do?

Contact the school your child would have attended and inform them of your intent to homeschool your child. You will be provided with a Home School attestation form to complete. If your student was enrolled in GISD for the previous school year you will also be asked to sign a Student Withdrawal Form.

Will the school district provide me with any resources to assist me with teaching my child?

No, the district will not be able to provide the parent resources to assist them in providing instruction to their child. This includes access to school instructional materials, technology or access to school facilities.

What are the requirements if choose to return my student to GISD?

Students will be assessed using the credit-by-examination method to determine subject competencies to receive credit and determine grade placement. Students must obtain a minimum score of 80 in each content area to demonstrate subject competency. Students failing to meet the standard for receiving credit will have to enroll in the course or grade level in order to receive credit. Student placement will be determined by the campus principal after review of student records, credit-by-exam results, and other information deemed appropriate.

Can my child participate in extra-curricular activities (athletics, band, etc.) provided by the school district?

No, extra-curricular activities are only provided to students enrolled in GISD.

Can my child receive services provided by Special Education while my child is in home school?

For students who qualify for Special Education services, some may continue once a child is withdrawn to a home school setting. Most services consist of related services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. These services will be provided on a proportionate share. More information can be provided by contacting the GISD Special Services Department.