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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents  
FROM: Heather A. Bouchey Ph.D., Interim Secretary of Education  
SUBJECT: Legislative Changes to Home Study Program  
DATE: June 29, 2023

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### Purpose

On Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Governor Scott signed H-0461. Embedded in this bill is language that modifies the current Home Study program rules in 16 V.S.A. 166b. The [changes](#) in this bill are significant and simplify the enrollment process for home study. Please refer to the following changes and suggestions regarding students who enroll in home study programs. Changes to the home study enrollment process begin on July 1, 2023.

### Legislative Changes

- Enrollment/Notice of Intent forms must be submitted annually to AOE at least 10 business days prior to the intended start date of home study enrollment.
- Within 10 business days of receipt of a complete enrollment/Notice of Intent form, AOE will provide parents/guardians written acknowledgement of their intent to enroll. This will constitute verification of enrollment.
- Parents/Guardians must notify AOE in writing within 10 business days of withdrawing their student from Home Study.
- Families must **attest** on enrollment/Notice of Intent forms to developing a Minimum Course of Study (MCOS/curriculum) and
  - Families are no longer required to submit an MCOS to AOE.
- Families must **attest** on enrollment/Notice of Intent forms that they are tracking their student's progress and must maintain documentation of progress using some form of assessment.
  - Families are no longer required to submit an End of Year Assessment to AOE.
- Families must **attest** that their student will be provided the equivalent of 175 days of instruction per year.
- Finally, families also must attest that their student, if a student with a disability, will be provided with adaptations.



- Families are no longer required to submit adaptations to AOE.
- All AOE Home Study hearing procedures have been removed.

## **AOE Recommendations**

- Principals should not allow students to withdraw from public/independent schools until families have received written acknowledgment of Home Study enrollment from AOE.
- Principals may wish to request copies of MCOS and/or End of Year Assessments from families who wish to re-enroll home study students in their schools to:
  - Determine grade placements
  - Use as part of any comprehensive assessment for disabilities
  - Use to determine credit or proficiencies toward graduation requirements.
- School staff should contact [aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov](mailto:aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov) when home study students fully re-enroll in their schools.
- Principals should discuss the implications of home study rule changes with teachers, school resource officers, home school coordinators and representatives from the local Department for Children and Families (DCF) office regarding truancy and educational neglect rules.
- Superintendents (and other designees) will continue to receive weekly updates on their resident students enrolled in Home Study. Please continue to distribute the lists to school staff and request that the staff review the list to ensure that students are either enrolled in a Home Study program, public or independent school.

## **Contact Information**

- If there are changes in staff who should receive the weekly Home Study list, please email Marc Grimes at [marc.grimes@vermont.gov](mailto:marc.grimes@vermont.gov)
- Any questions regarding the Home Study rules and/or procedures can be directed to Alicia Hanrahan at [alicia.hanrahan@vermont.gov](mailto:alicia.hanrahan@vermont.gov).