

The Cherokee County Board of Education is committed to provide educational opportunities to all students. Through the hospital/homebound program, instruction is provided to a non-exceptional student for whom school attendance is physically impossible or medically inadvisable.

I. Program Parameters

Any non-exceptional student who is expected to be confined for four (4) weeks or longer to a hospital or home for treatment or for a period of recuperation is eligible for this program. In order for a student to receive hospital/homebound instruction, the attending physician must provide a written medical statement that includes the medical reason(s) why the student cannot attend school, the expected duration of the condition(s), and the verifiable signature of the physician. Pregnancy without complication does not entitle the student to homebound services.

II. Program Description

The primary objective of the hospital/homebound program is to provide tutorial/instructional services so that the student can return to school with the knowledge and skills sufficient to maintain his/her previous level of academic performance. All non-exceptional students who are disabled to the extent that they are unable to attend school may receive one-on-one services of a hospital/homebound teacher at local hospitals or in their homes.

III. Homebound Program Priorities

1. Accident victims
2. Surgery
3. Extended illnesses
4. Pregnancy with medical problems that pose a health threat to mother or to fetus.

IV. Operational Procedures

Once a student has been identified by the principal or designee and the physician's statement has been received, hospital/homebound instruction may begin immediately. The following procedures will be followed:

1. The parent or guardian of the student requesting hospital/homebound instruction shall send the physician's statement to the principal's office.
2. The parent or guardian shall sign the parental consent form and send it to the principal's office.
3. The principal shall forward to central office the physician's statement, the parental consent form, and the principal's signed request for hospital/homebound services to be provided to the student.
4. The director of homebound services shall secure a teacher for the hospital/homebound student.
5. Hospital/homebound instruction begins.

- a. The director of hospital/homebound services will advise service providers to request the school to indicate specific objectives, competencies, and performance indicators to be used during the student's period of confinement. The regular classroom teacher has the option of making weekly or unit assignments. The classroom teacher also has the option of having the hospital/homebound instructor grade the assignments. The hospital/homebound student and teacher shall return completed work as scheduled.
 - b. Hospital/homebound instructors will have the same access to texts, resources (such as teacher editions), and instructional materials as any other teacher employed by the school system.
 - c. Within the hospital/homebound instructional setting, there should be adequate workspace available for student and teacher to work alone. No television, music, telephone calls, or visitors will be allowed while the teacher is present. Preschoolers must be quietly occupied in other parts of the home. Scheduled appointments with the teacher shall not be canceled except in the case of an emergency. A make-up session must be scheduled immediately.
 - d. When objectives, competencies, and performance indicators provided by the sending/home school are used by licensed personnel, grades given and assignments completed should be accepted as appropriate indicators of student achievement.
 - e. The school system administering the hospital/homebound program should assure that each instructor use a minimum of three hours of each five and one-half hour instructional day for direct instruction. The school system's administrators should assure that hospital/homebound students receive the maximum instructional service time appropriate given the student's condition. Five hours per week, provided on an individual basis, will be considered equivalent to one full week of school attendance.
6. When the physician's release form is obtained by the school and forwarded to central office, hospital/homebound instruction is completed. The student must return to school when hospital/homebound services end.

V. Extra-curricular and Co-curricular Activities

The hospital/homebound student will not be allowed to engage in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities either as a participant or a spectator. Such engagement or participation will be considered a breach of this policy and will cause the student's homebound placement to be reconsidered.

The review shall be based upon a new physical exam completed by the physician who requested the placement.

VI. Procedural Changes

Any exceptions to this policy shall be based upon the student's attending physician making a written request to the Director of the Hospital/Homebound Program. Said written request shall specifically state the therapeutic connection between the student's illness and the attendance at school or a school-sponsored event.

Cross Reference: Policy 4023 – Education for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

Adopted: July 15, 1999 (*originally adopted September 5, 1996*)

Amended: December 13, 2007