



Homebound Services Program - Medical Parent Information

Brunswick County Schools recognizes that medical circumstances may arise that make it impossible for a student to receive the opportunities of the educational program in the regular school environment. In such circumstances, Brunswick County Schools will provide the opportunity for the student to receive instruction at home or in a hospital.

What are Homebound Services?

Homebound Services are the tutorial and/or instructional services provided to students who are expected to be confined to a hospital or home for four weeks or longer due the treatment of a severe, prolonged, or chronic illness or for a period of convalescence, or for special circumstances deemed appropriate by the superintendent. The primary purpose of the homebound/hospital instruction program is to maintain access to a sound basic education and general education curriculum through the provision of tutorial and/or instructional services. Homebound services are *temporary* and do not replace classroom instruction.

Who is eligible for Homebound Services?

In order to be eligible for Homebound Services, a student must meet one of the following criteria:

- Expected to be confined to a hospital or home for four weeks or longer due to the treatment of a severe, prolonged, or chronic illness.
- Expected to be confined to a hospital or home for four weeks or longer due to a period of convalescence.
- Expected to be confined to a hospital or home for four weeks or longer due to special circumstances deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

How do I initiate Homebound Services?

As soon as a parent/legal guardian anticipates a student's extended absence due to the treatment of a severe, prolonged, or chronic illness, the parent should notify the school principal or designee. The principal or designee shall consult with the parent/legal guardian and receive medical documentation from the student's physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner to determine whether Homebound Services are medically necessary. The medical professional must complete and sign a medical statement to support the request for Homebound Services. All regular education requests must be reviewed and approved by the central office instructional staff. All Exceptional Children requests must be determined by the student's IEP team and all Section 504 requests by the student's 504 team.

What if my child has an IEP or Section 504 Plan?

Homebound Services for Students with Disabilities who are receiving services under an IEP through the Exceptional Children's Program or under a Section 504 Plan shall be provided in accordance with federal and state law and regulation. The provisions of Board Policy 3132 and any regulations shall not apply to such students except as permitted or required by applicable law and regulation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many hours of instruction will my child receive?

Regular Education students can be approved for up to 3 total Homebound Service hours per week. Services for students who qualify for Exceptional Children or Section 504 will be determined by the IEP team or Section 504 team.

Is this a long term educational solution?

No. Homebound instruction is intended to be a short-term option for students needing educational services at home or hospital due to treatments of a severe, prolonged, or chronic illness or for a period of convalescence.

Can the services be extended?

Yes. Some treatments for severe, prolonged, or chronic illness may require extended Homebound Services based on medical documentation. If the physician's documentation indicates an extension is needed, the parent/legal guardian must meet with the school team to discuss the student's needs.

Who will be my child's Homebound Instructor?

The school attempts to appoint teachers familiar with the student receiving Homebound Services. However, sometimes another teacher from the school or a neighboring school is appointed to provide the services. Homebound Instructors are certified employees of Brunswick County Schools.

Who provides the Homebound Services assignments and/or related materials?

The regular education/content area teachers assigned to your child for the semester/year are expected to provide assignments, so the assignments and related materials will be comparable to those students not receiving Homebound Services.

May my child still participate in extra-curricular activities, such as sports teams or clubs?

No. Students deemed medically unable to attend school are not permitted to be on campus for additional activities.

May my child attend field trips with his/her class if one is scheduled during the approved window for Homebound Services?

No. Field trips are considered an extension of the regular education classroom. Students deemed medically unable to attend school regularly are not able to attend field trips occurring during the Homebound Service window.

Do we have to meet at our home?

No. The services *can* be provided at your home, but a location approved by both parties, such as a library, is also acceptable. The alternate location must be safe and accessible during the scheduled service hours. The instructional environment must be free of distractions (i.e., friends, television, radio, non-instructional electronic devices). Parents/legal guardians are responsible for transportation to and from the designated location.

Do I (the parent/legal guardian) need to be present during Homebound Services instruction?

Yes. A parent or legal guardian must be present during the full instructional session.

Is my student marked absent from school?

If a student makes a good faith effort to complete work provided under Homebound Services, days missed will not be counted against the student for purposes of the school attendance policy. However, the student must be present for the scheduled instructional sessions. If the student is absent from a scheduled session, he/she will be marked absent in the school's attendance record.

What happens if I need to reschedule a Homebound session?

Students must make every effort to adhere to the scheduled instructional visits. Parents/legal guardians should contact the Homebound Teacher at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled visit and reschedule the instructional session. Cancellations that collectively exceed 6 hours may result in the discontinuation of services.