

DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: REQUESTS FOR TEMPORARY
EXCUSES FROM SCHOOL –
HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: JULY 23, 2015

REVIEWED: JUNE 18, 2015

<p>1. Authority SC 1329 Title 22 Sec. 11.25</p> <p>2. Guidelines SC1329 Title 22 Sec. 11.25, Pol. 204</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">117. REQUESTS FOR TEMPORARY EXCUSES FROM SCHOOL - HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION</p> <p>Pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code and State Board of Education regulations, the DVSD Board will approve requests for excusals from the compulsory attendance requirements of the Commonwealth where a treating physician recommends that such is necessary based on a child’s medical condition.</p> <p>A homebound excuse is to be provided on a limited basis when it is impossible for a student to attend any type of educational programming outside the home. If the student’s school program can be modified to accommodate his/her needs, then homebound is not appropriate.</p> <p>Homebound excuses may not be used as a way to avoid compulsory school attendance and must be based on a doctor’s recommendation. The DVSD may require parental consent to verify a homebound recommendation with a recommending physician.</p> <p>At the district’s discretion, tutoring in the home during a homebound excusal period may be provided. Homebound tutoring is not intended to take the place of a regular or special educational program obtained through regular school attendance and is not an educational placement. The purpose of homebound tutoring is to maintain current skill levels and prevent regression, if possible, until the student can return to school.</p> <p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <p>A homebound excuse or homebound instruction is a “temporary excusal from school for urgent medical or other reasons,” made pursuant to School Code Section 12-1329 and Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Section 11.25.</p>
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Title 22
Sec. 11.34

A school district may excuse a school age child from compulsory school attendance upon recommendation of the school physician and a psychiatrist, or both for a period not to exceed 90 days. Excuse requests beyond 90 days require approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and may require the approval of the school district physician.

Criteria For Approval

It is the policy of the Delaware Valley School District to provide eligible students with homebound tutoring when a request for a homebound excuse is approved and the student can tolerate and benefit from some instruction. Unless circumstances require, otherwise, five (5) hours of tutoring per week will be provided. To be eligible for homebound tutoring, the district requires that the student meet the following criteria:

1. Student is unable to attend school and anticipates being absent from school ten (10) consecutive school days or more due to a temporary, serious medical reason such as a car accident, disabling surgery, serious illness, acute hospitalization or other serious, temporary health condition.
2. Applications for individual instruction must be submitted to the building principal on a DVSD form: Request for Homebound Instruction Excuse from School and include a copy of the physician's medical request for homebound instruction certifying the nature of the illness or condition, and the probable duration of the confinement. The recommending physician must also verify, on a signed prescription paper that includes the physician's ID number, a statement verifying that the student is unable to attend any part of the school day due to the student's condition.

Conditions For Approval

Parents/Guardians and students are advised of the following conditions to the approval/provision of a homebound excuse:

1. The district may contact the recommending physician for verification of information within the homebound form.
2. If the district believes that additional information is needed, with legally required consent, the Delaware Valley School District may contact the recommending physician to seek additional information.

3. At any time, the district may utilize its school physician to review and deny or approve a request for a homebound excuse.
4. The district reserves the right to refer a student to a physician of the district's choice, at district expense, if it so chooses.
5. In the event that the district chooses to refer a student to its own physician to determine the necessity of homebound services, and the district physician's opinion is contrary to the family physician, or the recommending physician is unable to substantiate the recommendation, the administration will be authorized to honor the opinion of the district physician. The child will be requested to return to school. In such a case, the student shall be denied any further homebound services and the child would then fall under the mandatory school attendance regulations.
6. Whether a tutor/instructor is assigned shall be at the district's discretion, and that person shall be of the district's choice.
7. Transition planning from home to school will take place on or about day 75 of the excused absence..
8. Students on homebound excuses shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular, co-curricular or after-school activities or events while on a homebound excuse. Permission for exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent or designee.
9. Homebound tutoring is provided in accordance with the school calendar.
10. Homebound tutoring will be based on provision of assignments from the student's current courses, provided by the student's current teachers.
11. Due to the nature of course content, it may not be possible for the homebound teacher to deliver or teach the course content. In this regard, the student will be required to reschedule this course(s) during the next available semester.
12. Each hour of homebound tutoring provided is to be supported by one (1) to three (3) hours of independent study, depending on grade level, by the student if medical condition allows this. Lack of independent work on the part of the student or incomplete assignments may result in the loss of credit or failure in the course.
13. The parent/guardian is required to provide the homebound teacher with an educational learning environment within the home conducive to conducting the

	<p>assigned course work. A parent/guardian or other adult authority must be present in the home during homebound tutoring. It is expected that family members will not interfere with tutoring sessions. It is expected that students will be prepared for sessions. Eating during sessions is not permitted unless necessary for medical reason. If an environment conducive to learning is not provided, homebound tutoring may be terminated. The student will be excused without instruction or course credit until the student's condition allows him/her to return to school. If the parent and student are unavailable for 3 consecutive appointments the homebound instruction will be terminated.</p> <p>14. Any breach of the above conditions, in part or in whole, may result in the withdrawal of approval of a homebound excuse. Homebound tutoring is a temporary instructional program and should not be considered as a replacement to attendance and instruction in the regular school setting.</p> <p><u>Withholding of Previously Granted Homebound Tutoring</u></p> <p>Homebound tutoring may be offered at the district's discretion. Once granted, the Board reserves the right to withhold/deny individual instruction when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher.2. A parent/guardian or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of instruction.3. The condition of the student is such as to preclude his/her benefit from such instruction. <p>References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1329 State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.25, 11.34</p>
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