

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

September 11, 2018

PENN*LINK

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
School District Pupil Personnel Services Directors
School District Building Principals
School District Guidance Counselors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Charter School Special Education Directors
Charter School Pupil Personnel Services Directors
Charter School Guidance Counselors
Approved Private School Executive Directors
Approved Private School Business Managers
Approved Private School Guidance Counselors
Home School Administrators
Regional Interagency Coordinators

FROM: Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Special Education Students Placed in Homebound Instruction
or Instruction Conducted in the Home

When a special education student is placed on Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home, the local educational agency (LEA) must report the student's status to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) via the Special Education Students at Home website<<http://www.leaderservices.com/seshome>>. Please note that PIMS reporting of students receiving Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home does NOT fulfill this additional court-ordered requirement.

Timely reporting of such students is required by PDE to meet its obligations of Intensive Interagency (also referred to as the Cordero Court Order). When a student is reported, regional interagency coordinators:

- * Review each student report and contact the LEA in cases where interagency support may be needed to address student needs (e.g., students who have behavioral health needs that are the reason for Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home placement); and
- * Collaborate with Intermediate Unit interagency coordinators to support the LEA in connecting families with other county-level child-serving agencies and in collaborating with such agencies.

This reporting also helps PDE in its efforts to build capacity to meet the many needs of all students with disabilities who require services from agencies outside of the educational system.

While this reporting requirement applies to both Homebound Instruction and Instruction Conducted in the Home, it is important to understand the distinctions between the two arrangements. The most important difference is that Homebound Instruction is NOT a special education placement while Instruction Conducted in the Home is a placement made by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Formal definitions for each are below.

- * Homebound Instruction is described in 22 PA Code § 11.25. Temporary excusals due to illness or other urgent reasons, "A principal or teacher may, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of mental, physical or other urgent reasons, excuse a student for nonattendance during a temporary period, but the term 'urgent reasons' shall be strictly construed and does not permit irregular attendance. A school district [LEA] shall adopt rules and procedures governing temporary excusals that may be granted by principals and teachers under this section".

* Instruction Conducted in the Home is the most restrictive option on the continuum of special education placements for students with disabilities. This placement is provided as a last resort when a student with disabilities requires that special education services and programs can only be conducted in the home or a mutually agreed upon location that is decided by the IEP team. This educational placement team decision also requires a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement/Prior Written Notice.

Special Note: For students placed on Instruction Conducted in the Home, IEP teams may consider technological options such as web conferencing, distance learning, video conferencing, and virtual classrooms, to connect students to the classroom and schools, when appropriate, to provide access to teachers, peers and provide additional participation and learning opportunities.

Procedures for Initial Reporting of Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home:

- Reports must be made within five (5) days of the placement.
- LEAs should use their Administrative Unit Number as the user name to log into the website. The password is identical to the one used to log into the Compliance Monitoring System on Leaderservices.com. Instructions are listed on the webpage.
- Indicate, if after a reevaluation, it is expected that the student will be on Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home.
- Include a brief description as to why the student is on Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home.

Important Procedures for Follow-Up Reporting:

* LEAs submitting follow-up reports for these records should do so via the website. If a student returns to school, the date of their return should be recorded in the "When did student return to school?" field, then click Save.

* Indicate if it is expected that the student will be on Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home for longer than three months.

* Report student to the Leader Services website if filing an extension using PDE 4675 Homebound Instruction form and PDE 4676 Request/Approval for Homebound Instruction form.

* Report "Day Student Returned to School," including last day of school if Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home lasted until the end of the school year.

Procedures for Extended Reporting (possible alternative placements - Instruction Conducted in the Home):

* If the placement is being extended, provide a reason for the extension in the "Provide brief explanation why student is on Homebound or placed on Instruction Conducted in the Home" field and record the new anticipated return date in the "Extended Anticipated Length of Placement" field then click Save.

* The "Extended Anticipated Length of Placement" field may be updated as many times as necessary; however, it is requested that extensions are reported.

You may also get additional information from the following links:

Pennsylvania Department of Education - Homebound Instruction<<http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Homebound%20Instruction/Pages/default.aspx#tab-1>>

Pennsylvania Department of Education - Instruction Conducted in the Home Basic Education Circular<<http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Codes%20and%20Regulations/Basic%20Education%20Circulars/Federal%20Code/Instruction%20Conducted%20in%20the%20Home.pdf>>

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network - Intensive Interagency Coordination Website<<http://www.pattan.net/category/Educational%20Initiatives/Intensive%20Interagency>>

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network Publication - What is the difference between Homebound Instruction and Instruction Conducted in the Home?<<http://www.pattan.net/category/Resources/PaTTAN%20Publications/Browse/Single/?id=539213ff8b03326a298b4575>>

Regional interagency coordinators at each Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network office are available for assistance:

Pittsburgh Hillary Mangis 800.446.5607
hmangis@pattan.net

East Amy Smith 800.441.3215
asmith@pattan.net

Harrisburg Roni Russell 800.360.7282 / 717.901.2262
rrussell@pattan.net

PDE's Adviser/Single Point of Contact from the Bureau of Special Education assigned to your area can also assist with the procedures for Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home.

If you have any questions concerning Homebound Instruction or Instruction Conducted in the Home, please contact Gina Colarossi, Division Chief for Monitoring and Improvement-Central, at 717.772.3260 or gicolaross@pa.gov.