

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 96-0828-PO5, ESTABLISHING A POLICY ON HOME-SCHOOLING****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:****DESCRIPTION:**

That Board Report 96-0828-P05, establishing a Policy on Home Schooling, be amended. The reasons for the amendments are: (1) to clarify the purposes of the policy; and (2) to clarify existing provisions of the policy and add new provisions to the policy which are related to those purposes. The purposes of the policy are to: (1) determine and monitor the presence of home-schooled students residing within District 299; (2) determine and monitor the compliance of the parents/legal guardians of such students with Illinois' Compulsory School Attendance Law; and (3) provide for educational assistance to the parents/legal guardians of home-schooled students residing within District 299.

With respect to the second purpose, the amendments provide: (1) the legal requirements which parents/legal guardians of home-schooled students must satisfy to establish compliance with the Compulsory School Attendance Law; and (2) the means and educational standards which the CPS will employ in assessing such compliance. With respect to the third purpose, the amendments provide that, upon request, the CPS will provide appropriate grade-level curriculum and testing materials and textbooks to home-schooled students. In that connection, the amendments also provide that the parents/legal guardians will be required to pay all school fees related to such instructional materials and textbooks unless they qualify for and obtain a waiver of the fees pursuant to the CPS Policy Regarding Waiver of School Fees, 94-1026-PO2.

**TEXT OF POLICY:**

~~In support of the education of all children within the jurisdiction of District 299, Chicago Public Schools provides the education of all enrolled students, and will provide assistance to home-schooled students living within the boundaries of District 299, within the stipulations of the Illinois School Code, case law, and this policy. This policy shall be instituted: (i) to determine and monitor the presence of home-schooled students residing within District 299; (2) to determine and monitor the compliance of parents/legal guardians of home-schooled students residing within District 299 with the Illinois Compulsory School Attendance Law, 105 ILCS 5/26-1 et seq.; and (3) to provide educational assistance to the parents/legal guardians of home-schooled students residing within District 299 in accordance with the Illinois School Code, case law, and this policy.~~

**I. NOTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Parents/Legal guardians who choose to educate their children at home are subject to the provisions of the Illinois School Code. Those provisions include the Compulsory School Attendance Law, 105 ILCS 5/26-1 et seq. That law requires children between the ages of 7 and 16 years to attend a public school unless they attend a private or parochial school where they are taught in the English language the branches of education taught to children of corresponding age and grade in the public schools. 105 ILCS 5/26-1. In order to comply with the foregoing provision of the Illinois School Code, parents/legal guardians who choose to educate their children at home must provide an education "at least commensurate with the standards prescribed for the public schools." People v. Levisen, 404 Ill. 574, 90 N.E.2d 213 (1950). In order to satisfy the "commensurate education" standard, among other things, "there must be an organized, coherent plan for educating the children in a home school using appropriate materials and teaching methods." 1991 Ill. Atty. Gen. Op. 92. As public school instruction does, home school instruction must include the language arts, mathematics, the biological, physical and social sciences, the fine arts and physical development and health. 105 ILCS 5/27-1.

## II. ENROLLMENT/RE-ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN THE C.P.S. NOTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Parents/Legal Guardians who choose to educate their children at home are encouraged to notify their local school of their intention to home school. Upon request, the parents/legal guardians will be provided with the "~~Procedures for Home-Schooled Students,~~" information concerning home schooling ~~which is available at by schools, regional offices, and~~ the Office of Schools and Regions. Upon request, the parents/legal guardians may receive ~~information about~~ appropriate grade-level curriculum and testing materials and textbooks from the local school. ~~The parents/legal guardians will be required to pay all school fees related to the instructional materials and textbooks received from the local school unless they qualify for and obtain a waiver of the fees pursuant to the Policy Regarding Waiver of School Fees, 94-1026-PO2.~~ Annually, parents/legal guardians should complete the "Statement of Assurance for Parent-Taught Home Instruction," form, ~~included in the procedures packet, which is available from the Office of Schools and Regions,~~ and attach a statement indicating the manner in which the child will be instructed at home. These documents are to be forwarded to the Office of Schools and Regions.

~~Parents/guardians who choose to educate their children at home are subject to the provisions of the Illinois School Code.~~

## III. ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH COMMENSURATE EDUCATION STANDARD

Once notified of the presence of a particular home school or of particular home-schooled students within the boundaries of District 299, appropriate offices within the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS") will, with the cooperation of the parents/legal guardians, determine whether the home school provides an education at least commensurate with the standards prescribed for the public schools. Such determination will thereafter be made on an annual basis. However, absent the cooperation of the parents/legal guardians of home-schooled students, the CPS will have no obligation to determine whether home schools comply with the Compulsory School Attendance Law.

The CPS may employ any appropriate means, including site visits, to determine whether home schools are providing an education at least commensurate with the standards prescribed for the public schools in the aforementioned subjects. The CPS may also employ any appropriate standards and assessments in making that determination, including: the Chicago Academic Standards; the CPS Programs of Study and Curriculum Framework Statements; the Iowa Test of Basic Skills ("ITBS"), the Chicago Academic Standards Examination ("CASE"); other age- and grade-appropriate standardized examinations and any other relevant non-standardized assessments.

## IV. PARTICIPATION IN CPS CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OR COURSES

Home-schooled students are entitled to participate in curricular activities or courses offered by the district, and must comply with enrollment requirements of the ~~Chicago Public Schools CPS;~~ however, the student's participation may be limited by the availability of an activity or course. Home-schooled students may participate in extracurricular activities; requests must be submitted, in writing, to the Chief Education Officer of the ~~Chicago Public Schools CPS,~~ for approval. If the extracurricular activity involves interscholastic athletics, participation is determined by the ~~Chicago Public Schools CPS~~ and the Illinois High School Athletic Association. These requests should also be submitted in writing to the Chief Educational Officer of the ~~Chicago Public Schools,~~ for approval.

Parents/legal guardians of children with disabilities who are home-schooled may dual-enroll their children in the ~~Chicago Public Schools CPS,~~ so that appropriate educational support services may be provided.

**V. ENROLLMENT/RE-ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN C.P.S.:**

Students previously home-schooled are entitled to enroll or re-enroll in the CPS. The determination of grade placement of previously home-schooled ~~children~~ students who enroll or ~~subsequently~~ re-enroll in the ~~Chicago Public Schools~~ CPS shall be within the authority of the administrators of the local school.

~~In order to monitor the incidence of home-schooled students and to make provision for the curricular and educational assistance that the Chicago Public Schools, as a system, may provide for all students within District 299, this policy shall be instituted.~~

Amends/Rescinds: Amends 96-0928-PO5, "Policy on Home Schooling."  
Cross References: 94-1026-PO2, "Policy Regarding Waiver of School Fees."  
Legal References: 105 ILCS 5/26-1 et seq.; 105 ILCS 5/27-1 et seq.; People v. Levisen, 404 Ill. 574, 90 N.E.2d 213 (1950); 1991 Ill.Atty.Gen.Op. 92.

**LSC REVIEW:** Not Applicable.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** No additional cost to the Board.

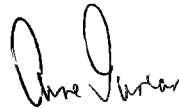
**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** Within budget appropriations.

**Approved for Consideration:**




BARBARA J. EASON-WATKINS  
Chief Education Officer

**Approved:**



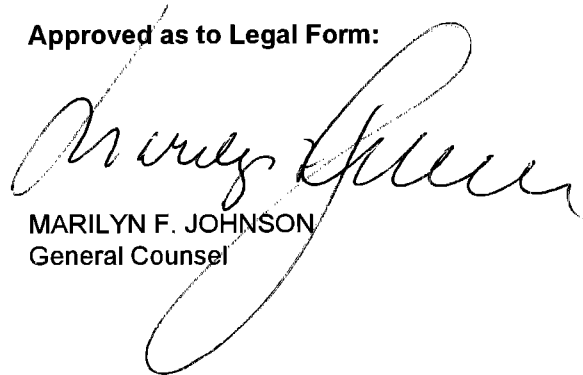
ARNE DUNCAN  
Chief Executive Officer

**Noted:**



KENNETH C. GOTSCH  
Chief Fiscal Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**



MARILYN F. JOHNSON  
General Counsel