

## HOMESCHOOL VS. REMOTE LEARNING

While homeschooling and remote learning may look similar on the surface, there are some very specific elements to each type of learning. They both often occur in the home setting for the students; however the instructors, curriculum, assessments and experiences vary widely.

(Please note, if your child is enrolled in *Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School* (GCVS) or *TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School* (TECCA), then your child is enrolled in a Massachusetts virtual public school and you do not have to submit a homeschooling plan.

If you have been homeschooling your child prior to enrolling him/her in one of the virtual public schools, you will need to:

- Notify the local district to which you have been submitting homeschooling plans so the district/school can remove your child from their records.

Families of students who are enrolled in private virtual school need to determine if the school in which their child is enrolled is recognized as a virtual school within the state of Massachusetts and if the school will issue a diploma upon graduation. If the school is unable to do this, then the parent must submit a homeschool plan for any child enrolled and list the online school as providing a specific curriculum.

HOMESCHOOL	REMOTE LEARNING
<p><b><i>Enrollment</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The student is not enrolled in any public or private school and the parent must submit a homeschooling plan to the local district for approval.</li> <li>● The student is not counted on the school census and the district/school <i>does not</i> receive any funding for the student. However, the district must report the number of students being homeschooled in</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Enrollment</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The student is enrolled in an approved school (public or private) that is recognized by DESE.</li> <li>● The student is counted on the census and the district/school does receive funding (Chapter 70 and grant funds) for the student. Private schools may be eligible for some entitlement grant funding.</li> <li>● All students are eligible to choose remote learning options</li> </ul>

<p>the district to DESE annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Families are legally entitled to enroll their child in homeschooling as long as a plan has been approved by the local district. Local districts may not prevent families from homeschooling their child.</li> <li>● Any child who has been or is currently being homeschooled may enroll in the local district at any time. All courses (especially high school) may not always have transferable credits</li> </ul>	<p>regardless of programming if provided by their local public school district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Private remote schools may have qualifications students must meet to enroll and may not offer specific programming.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Primarily takes place in the student's home; however, parents may join family homeschooling groups and have some instruction at various sites with different instructors. For example, a student may take a chemistry class with other homeschool students and a common instructor that parents contract with for this class for a specific period of time.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Primarily takes place in the student's home; however, can occur outside the student's home at another site determined by the student's family, such as at a relative's home. Instruction is provided by the schools with faculty and staff hired by the school to deliver instruction.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Instructor Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Instructors do not have to hold state licensure for the content they are teaching nor are they required to be licensed or have a college degree and/or prior teaching experience.</li> <li>● Parents need to assess and determine if the individuals they may hire to deliver portions of the homeschool curriculum are experienced and competent in the content they are delivering.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Instructor Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers are licensed by the state and deliver instruction in their area of certification -- for example: a licensed mathematics teacher would teach an algebra course. The classes run a typical school year or semester schedule.</li> <li>● You are entitled to request information regarding the teachers and paraprofessionals who provide instruction to your child.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Curriculum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parents are responsible for determining the curriculum that is being taught; however, an annual homeschooling plan must be submitted to and approved by your child's school district for all children between the ages of 6 years and 16 years old.</li> <li>• Parents must submit a report of progress annually, but they may be required to submit more frequently depending on the district's policy.</li> <li>• The curricula you choose may reflect your cultural values and be faith based if you so desire.</li> <li>• Educational plans must include a school calendar and daily schedule for instruction: however, parents are able to adjust this to meet the needs of their child. Families may adjust the calendar to meet the medical and other needs of their child.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Curriculum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are required to grade level curricula that address the most current state Curriculum Frameworks. Students are required by law to be enrolled in school between the ages of 6 through 16 years of age.</li> <li>• Students are required by the state to participate in all local and state assessments.</li> <li>• The curricula may not adhere to a specific cultural and faith based ideology and should be free of all bias and be inclusive in nature.</li> <li>• Schools follow a preset calendar approved by the local school committee and a daily schedule that is approved by the school administration. Students are marked absent if they miss a day of instruction due to illness, vacation, or other matters and these absences are reported to DESE.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Graduation/Diploma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who participate in homeschooling are on the trajectory to not receive a high school diploma recognized by the state of Massachusetts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Graduation/Diploma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will receive a high school diploma as long as they meet all the State and local requirements. Massachusetts requires students to receive a competency determination in mathematics, science, and English language arts and meet local district requirements in order to receive a high school diploma.</li> <li>• Private schools require their own graduation requirements that may or may not include standardized testing. This will vary by school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families are responsible for</li> </ul>	<p><b>Costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public schools are responsible</li> </ul>

<p>all costs pertaining to homeschooling their child. Including but not limited to textbooks, software, hardware, and field trips.</p>	<p>for all costs of educating the students -- there may be exceptions to field trips that families are expected to contribute to in order for students to attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Families are responsible for all private school tuition and costs associated with the private schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Extracurricular Activities</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All extracurricular activities are subject to the Superintendent's approval based on the advice he/she has received from legal services regarding student participation and district/school responsibility and liability.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Extracurricular Activities</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students are entitled to participate in all extracurricular activities offered by the district/school. Such activities may incur cost and this will vary upon district's and schools.</li> <li>● Families are responsible for any costs for students enrolled in private schools for extracurricular activities.</li> </ul>