



# **North Allegheny School District**

***Special Education and Pupil Services Department  
Central Administrative Offices  
200 Hillvue Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237***

***(412) 635-4110 Phone  
(412) 369-5895 Fax***

April 15, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Homeschool Student:

This letter is to make our homeschool families aware of significant changes in the home education law that were enacted by HB1013 (Act 169 of 2014) on October 31, 2014. Act 196 of 2014, eliminates the requirement of a portfolio review by the superintendent (or his/her designee), gives parent-issued diplomas the same status as a Commonwealth-issued diploma, and requires more accountability by a superintendent who questions whether an appropriate education is occurring.

Under the prior law, a portfolio, consisting of a log, samples of work, and results of standardized tests in grades 3, 5 and 8, was reviewed by a qualified evaluator during an interview with the student. After the evaluation, the home education program supervisor was then required to submit the portfolio, including the evaluator's certification of an appropriate education, to the superintendent no later than June 30. Under the new homeschool law, the main change for the District is that it will no longer review portfolios; this responsibility now is reserved for the home education evaluator. The law defining the five qualifications of a home education evaluator remains unchanged:

1. Licensed Clinical Psychologist
2. School Psychologist
3. Pennsylvania certified teacher with two years grading experience at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12)
4. Nonpublic school teacher or administrator with two years PA teaching experience within the last 10 years at the level they evaluate (K-6 and/or 7-12)
5. Persons with other qualification, with consent of the superintendent

Note: The supervisor or spouse of the supervisor of the home education program is not permitted to be the evaluator for their home education program, regardless of any qualifications.

While the District will no longer collect portfolios, it will still collect and maintain:

- (1) the affidavit and its accompanying documentation,
- (2) the evaluation, and
- (3) the name of each evaluator for each student.

In summary, the home education program supervisor **will not** be required to submit a portfolio. The home education evaluator will continue to review the portfolio, interview the student, and verify the administration of the required standardized tests. After the evaluation process, the evaluator is required to provide to the home education program supervisor the certification that an appropriate education is occurring. The home education program supervisor must then submit a copy of the evaluation to the District by June 30 following each school year. The evaluation can be mailed to or dropped off at the North Allegheny School District Central Administration Office, 200 Hillvue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237. Home education programs still can be challenged in a hearing initiated by the District if there is evidence that an appropriate education is not occurring. Also, the District will no longer document future completion of the mandatory courses defined by the law as the twelfth grade evaluators will be responsible for ensuring that the graduation requirements have been met.

The North Allegheny School District has the responsibility to ensure that every student of compulsory school age in the District is enrolled in some legitimate educational option (i.e., public school, private school, homeschooled, private tutoring, or college enrollment). Therefore, the District will continue to track homeschooled students until they exceed compulsory school age and to maintain their school record.

**(PLEASE NOTE:** The District still has several portfolios that have not been picked up from the 2013/2014 and 2012/2013 school years. If these portfolios are not picked up by July 1, 2015, they will be disposed of.)

If you have any questions regarding the changes to the home education law, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 412-635-4110, or visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website regarding homeschooling at

[http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/overview\\_of\\_homeschooling/20312](http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/overview_of_homeschooling/20312).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Guinevere C. Maximo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Guinevere" and "C." being more stylized, and "Maximo" being more clearly legible.

Guinevere E. Maximo  
Supervisor of Special Education and Pupil Services

GEM/kac