



## **PARENTAL ASSURANCES FOR HOSPITALIZED/HOMEBOUND SERVICES**

### **ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICES FOR HOSPITALIZED/HOMEBOUND STUDENT**

Students who have been found eligible for the Hospitalized/Homebound program services are considered students with a disability in Florida, in accordance with Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes. A Hospitalized/Homebound (H/H) student is one who has a medically diagnosed physical or psychiatric condition which is acute or catastrophic in nature, or a chronic illness, or a repeated intermittent illness due to persisting medical problems which confines the student to home or hospital and restricts activities for an extended period of time. The annual medical diagnosis shall be made by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) as defined in Chapters 458 and 459, Florida Statutes who is practicing in the State of Florida.

Collier County Public Schools provides H/H instruction to students who are unable to attend school regularly when eligibility requirements of state law are met, and the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) team determines that instruction in the home is the least restrictive environment. H/H services are determined by the IEP team and are minimal as compared to a comprehensive classroom.

Per the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) *Policy and Procedures Manual: Hospital/Homebound Program and Services* (2008), H/H services should be viewed as a temporary intervention and are not intended to replace the classroom experience. The intention of H/H services is to keep the student as current as possible in their required courses, with the priority being the student's health care needs. Students confined to the home or hospital often do not perform as well academically as in the regular classroom setting. The IEP team and service providers make every effort to provide appropriate services, in consideration of the student's condition, to keep the student as current as possible in their required courses. Continuity of the academic program is achieved by the parents/guardians, home-school staff, and H/H staff working together to meet the needs of the student who is unable to attend school regularly due to illness.

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM HOSPITALIZED HOMEBOUND**

Before returning to school, a staffing must be held at the student's school. Parent/Guardian must provide the school administrator a copy of the Physician's Return to School form located on the district's webpage, or a letter/prescription note, before a student returns to the school-based educational program. A student can also be dismissed from the Hospitalized/Homebound program for the following reasons:

- The treating physician/psychiatrist recommends a return to school.
- Required updated medical information has not been received.
- A responsible adult cannot be present during instruction/teacher visits.
- The dismissal date on the original medical report has been reached.
- The parent/adult student fails to comply with the Hospital/Homebound agreement.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Parent/Guardian shall provide a quiet, clean, well-ventilated setting where a teacher and student may work.
2. Parent/Guardian must ensure that a responsible adult is present at all times during the instructional period.
3. Parent/Guardian must ensure that the student is prepared to actively participate in learning.
4. Parent/Guardian must establish a schedule for student study and completion of assignments between teacher visits and contact the H/H teacher if there are any questions about assignments.
5. Parent/Guardian should schedule medical appointments around the student's H/H instruction. H/H hours will not be re-scheduled due to cancellation by the parent/guardian. Teacher absences will be rescheduled.
6. Parent/Guardian must notify (in advance) the H/H teacher when the student is unable to participate in instruction. The home/student must be free of a contagion or communicable disease.
7. Parent/Guardian must return instructional materials, textbooks, and all assignments to the school before the student returns to school. Parent/Guardian is responsible for the loss or deterioration of instructional materials and textbooks.
8. Requests for accepting employment and participation in extra-curricular activities will be reviewed on a individual student basis by the IEP team in consultation with the treating physician who recommended enrollment.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Due to the minimal contact hours of the H/H program, student attendance and participation is critical. Credits toward promotion are only awarded when minimal contact hours are met. If the student misses a class due to a medical appointment, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to obtain a doctor's note verifying your child was seen in the doctor's office that day and submit it to the student's school. Students enrolled in the Hospitalized/Homebound program are expected receive H/H instruction even when they have minor ailments (stomach ache, headache, colds, etc.). Unreported absences will result in an unexcused absence. Absences must be reported by the parent/guardian to the assigned H/H teacher. Multiple unexcused absences may result in truancy interventions.

I certify that I will comply with the policies of the Hospital/Homebound Instructional Program. I have read the above and agree to carry out the conditions described. I understand that these conditions are necessary for my son/daughter to be eligible for instruction through the Hospital/Homebound Program.

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Student Name

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Signature of Parent /Legal Guardian

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Date