



Department of Personalized Learning Guidance to Schools
Homebound Programming in DCSD

Homebound programming is available to students who are unable to attend school due to a qualifying medical or psychological condition. Homebound programming is a temporary placement. Requests for homebound programming need to be initiated through the student's school of attendance. Families will need to provide medical documentation and allow applicable parties to speak with medical professionals to devise an appropriate plan. Plans are developed based on student's individual needs/circumstances in the least restrictive environment as possible by all applicable stakeholders.

Programming Differences

Homebound programming is NOT Home Services (a long-term placement greater than 90 days available to highly impacted students through Special Education), nor is it Home Base (a behavioral intervention in neighborhood schools), nor Home School (where parents are the primary educators for their children).

Process for Determining Eligibility

- Determination eligibility for academic support through homebound education programming is a collaborative process involving the student, parent, school nurse consultant, instructional staff and school counselor (mental health provider, if applicable) from the student's neighborhood school, and the homebound coordinator. When an application is received from a student who is served pursuant to an IEP or a Section 504 plan, a meeting of persons knowledgeable about the student's needs will be convened to make a team determination about the application.
- Completion of the application is NOT a guarantee of enrollment

Eligibility criteria (not exclusive)

- Students who proactively know they will be absent more than 15 consecutive school days for a health-related condition
- Students who have a sudden and prolonged illness or injury lasting more than 15 consecutive school days
- Students having a medical procedure with a recovery time of more than 15 consecutive school days
- Students with a chronic health condition and have a flare-up or worsening of it, lasting more than 15 consecutive school days, with anticipation of returning to their regular school building as soon as possible
- Students with mental health conditions who cannot attend school for a period of time greater than 15 consecutive school days
- MTSS data demonstrates the need for homebound programming

Who is NOT eligible

- Students who have unexcused absences or are truant for non-medical reasons
- Expelled students



- Students who have been absent for 10 consecutive days or less (building staff will be solely responsible for working with student and family regarding makeup work and accommodations)
- Students whose parents will not allow nursing staff to speak with health care providers to collaborate on a plan for Homebound programming with the goal of returning to school
- Students who experience school avoidance that has not been addressed by an individualized plan to increase attendance over time (See Medical Engagement Planning Form)

How it works

- Staff members who identify potentially eligible students will contact the school nurse consultant for that building. The school nurse consultant will work with building administration, the student and family to review needs, evaluate eligibility for Homebound programming.
- The school team will work with parents to collect necessary medical documentation. Documentation must include a signed letter from the child's physician that includes the specific reason for Homebound programming and the potential length of time, as well as a HIPAA release for communication with staff.
- Homebound Coordinator (Alissa O'Brien) will be notified. The school nurse consultant will collaborate with all involved stakeholders. Parents and staff will complete a Homebound Application and allow the school nurse consultant or applicable staff (mental health provider/counselor) to speak with the student's health care provider(s). **Completion of an application does not guarantee eligibility for Homebound programming.**
- The student's neighborhood school will retain a primary line of enrollment and Homebound Programming will add a secondary line of enrollment.
- Homebound Coordinator will work with the student's counselor and teachers to modify and personalize the curriculum in order for the student to continue working toward course completion.
- The length of time a student will be enrolled in Homebound Programming will be determined on a case by case basis. Ideally, a high school student will return to their home school at the end of a grading period to ensure credit acquisition.
- The neighborhood school will be required to provide the necessary technology and can collaborate with Homebound Programming to meet those needs.
- In order to meet students specific IEP/504 needs, the homebound coordinator will collaborate with necessary individuals and develop a plan to include addressing services, accommodations, modifications, and goals while the student is temporarily out of school This will be documented through a PWN (Prior Written Notice) and documented in the IEP.

Length of time for Homebound Programming

- Students receiving homebound programming will be evaluated by the school nurse consultant, health care provider, parents, and homebound staff at minimum every 30 days. They may continue services for a total of 90 days. If a student requires homebound programming beyond 90 days, the team will reconvene and determine appropriate educational options.