

Homebound vs. Home-Based Instruction: What's the Difference?

A Resource Document



The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** requires that students with disabilities who have an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** receive their education and related services in the **least restrictive environment (LRE)**. Typically, that is the general education classroom, but IDEA provides for a continuum of placements from most to least restrictive. **Homebound** and **Home-Based Instruction** are among the most restrictive placements outside of a facility placement like a hospital or nursing home. Homebound and home-based sound the same but they are different. And don't be confused by the term **home instruction**—this means children who are home-schooled. This document does not address home schooling.

Homebound Instruction

- Virginia regulations 8 VAC 20-131 require that homebound instruction be available to students are confined at home or in a health care facility for a period of time and cannot attend school.
- A licensed physician or licensed clinical psychologist has to certify that the student needs homebound instruction.
- For students with an IEP, the IEP must be revised and the placement changed to off-site instruction (i.e., the home or hospital/facility). The time period and duration of services should be documented on the IEP.
- The IEP should state that services are temporary and do not constitute a change in placement **and** are not the stay put placement should there later be a disagreement over the student's placement.
- With homebound instruction, student absences are expected to be infrequent, of relatively short duration, or needed to receive health care treatment.

Home-Based Instruction

- Virginia regulations 8 VAC 20-80-10 define home-based instruction as services delivered in the home or other agreed upon setting in accordance with the student's IEP.
- The student's IEP team makes the educational placement decision based on the student's individual needs and decides the least restrictive environment in which those needs can be met.
- No medical certification is required to receive home-based instruction.
- Sometimes students receive home-based instruction when they are placed on administrative homebound. An IEP team may place a student on administrative homebound as a result of removal for disciplinary or other reasons.



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Homebound Instruction

- The goal of homebound instruction is to maintain continuity of instruction while the student is temporarily out and to facilitate the student returning to school.
- Students must be enrolled in a public school in Virginia to receive homebound instruction.
- Homebound instruction can be used to supplement a classroom program for students whose health condition may affect regular school attendance (like students receiving dialysis, chemotherapy, etc.).
- Local school divisions should have policies and procedures for homebound instruction.
- Homebound instructors must have a Board of Education issued teacher's license.

Home-Based Instruction

- If the IEP team agrees that the student should move from their current placement to home-based instruction, this constitutes a change in placement. Home-based instruction would be the stay put placement should there later be a disagreement over the student's placement.
- Different rules apply to students removed from school for disciplinary reasons and a temporary removal for may or may not constitute a change in placement.
- The IEP team must record the reasons for home-based instruction including other things that were considered and why the home-based placement was chosen.
- Parents have the right to appeal placement decisions through mediation or due process and/or request a facilitated IEP meeting to help resolve the issue.

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