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.
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.

PEATC’s mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools, and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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