

FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
340 Teaticket Highway
East Falmouth, MA 02536

Home Education Programs

General Information

Parents or guardians to undertake a home education program for their child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays must submit a home education plan annually to the superintendent or his/her designee for approval prior to commencing a home education program. Thereafter, on a yearly basis, students beyond age sixteen who wish to receive transcripts or diplomas from Falmouth High School must also continue to fulfill this obligation.

FHS Graduation Guidelines

Also, in reference to receiving transcripts and/or a diploma from Falmouth High School, students must attend Falmouth High School for a minimum of one semester in their final year in order to be eligible to receive a Falmouth High School diploma or certificate. Credits may be applied to the Falmouth requirements from other school systems, from home schooling arrangements with appropriate correspondence course verification, including on-line and distance learning programs and from other experiences if structured through approved independent study. With the approval of the high school principal, students may graduate with (3) or three and one-half (3½) years of high school experience if requirements have been met.

If a Falmouth High School diploma or certificate is the final goal of the home schooling program, the home educator must accept responsibility for arranging for successful study in the minimum course requirements required at Falmouth High School:

Class of 2016 and beyond:

English	16 Credits/4 year long courses
Math	16 Credits/4 year long courses
Science	12 Credits/3 year long courses
Social Studies	12 Credits/2 year long US History courses/1 yr Mod.
World	
Foreign Language	8 Credits/2 year long courses
Business, Fine Arts, or Applied Arts	4 Credits/1 year-long course or 2 semester courses
Physical Education/Health	8 Credits
Electives	20 Credits
Total	96 Credits

In addition, students wishing to earn a Falmouth High School diploma must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment (MCAS). See changes in graduation requirements for the class of 2013.

Requirements for a Home Education Plan

The proposed home education plan must include a statement of the number of hours of instruction, the qualifications of the instructors, a description of the materials to be used, and a method of assessing student progress. A form, "Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education", for use by parents/guardians is attached.

Factors that may be considered by the superintendent or his/her designee in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal are:

1. The academic background, life experiences and/or other qualities of those who will be instructing the child(ren), as they relate to the educational program. Home educators need not be certified teachers, not have any diplomas or degrees,
2. The subjects to be taught and the instructional materials to be used,
3. The total number of instructional hours, and
4. The method for assessing student progress, to be conducted twice yearly (on or before January 15 and on or before June 15 or more often, if required for eligibility/participation in extra-curricular activities of the assigned school). Assessment will consist of standardized testing unless an alternative method is mutually agreed to. Such alternative methods may include one or more of the following,
 - a) Daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios, or student work samples
 - b) An independent report made by someone acceptable to both the superintendent/designee and the parent/guardian
 - c) Consultation with the school principal
 - d) Any other method agreed to by both the superintendent/designee and the home educator.

If available, textbooks used by Falmouth Public School's students may be loaned to the home educator for home schooling use.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

A student being educated pursuant to a home education plan may participate in extracurricular activities, subject to participation requirements of the individual school and activity, and subject to any applicable rules and regulations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

Approval of a Home Education Plan

The Falmouth Public Schools will abide by federal and state laws protecting students with disabilities, to the extent applicable, when considering approval of home education plans and in providing services to home education students.

Following submission of a proposed home education plan, a parent/guardian will be given an opportunity, upon request, to meet with the superintendent or designee to explain the proposed plan and to present witnesses on behalf of the proposal. In the event the superintendent or designee rejects a home education plan, the parent/guardian will be informed of the reasons of the decision and given an opportunity to remedy the inadequacies.

The superintendent has the responsibility for the development of the procedures and forms necessary for the implementation of this policy.

Legal references:

Massachusetts General Laws

Chapter 76, Section 1

Chapter 69, Section 1D

Chapter 119, Section 24

Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Massachusetts 327 (1987)

Source: Falmouth Public Schools

Approved: November 23, 1982

Revised: February 27, 1996; May 1, 2008 by Policy Subcommittee