

# POLICY

## Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: M 9270

### HOME SCHOOLING-EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS

Our Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all children of school age residents in the District in public schools or in approved private schools so that they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment.

Every parent, legal guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall cause such child regularly to attend the public school or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school. The Board recognizes its responsibility for assuring that every child or school age resident in the district is enrolled in a public or private school or is offered an equivalent thorough and efficient education elsewhere than at school. The Board acknowledges that parents have a constitutional right to choose the type and character of education they feel is best suited for their children, be it secular or sectarian. Home schooling is an option that parent/legal guardians may choose to educate their children. When parents choose this option, the program will be carried out in the pupil's home rather than the school.

In the event a child is receiving an education outside the district schools, the Superintendent may report to the appropriate municipal authorities children whom he/she has reason to believe are not offered instruction outside the schools equivalent to that offered in the public schools for children of similar ages and attainments. If the Superintendent makes such report, the parents and/or legal guardians of a pupil receiving instruction elsewhere other than school may notify the Superintendent of their child's educational program status and provided sufficient information to satisfy the District that equivalent instruction is being offered.

A parent or legal guardian or other person having charge and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen, who shall fail to comply with any of the compulsory education provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38 et seq. relating to his/her duties shall be a disorderly person and shall be subject to a fine.

A child who seeks admission to this District from a program of home schooling will be administered such tests as may be necessary to determine his or her appropriate grade placement.

**LEGAL:** N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25; 18A:38-31  
U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq.

**ADOPTED:** December 20, 1999

**REVIEWED:** June 1, 2010