MEDICAL HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Definition

Students who cannot attend school because of extended illness or pregnancy, even with the aid of transportation, are eligible for medical homebound or hospitalized instruction.

An extended illness is eight or more consecutive days out of school.

The district will provide at least the minimum number of instruction hours as provided in current rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. All teachers providing medical homebound instruction to students residing in the district must hold a valid South Carolina teacher's certificate.

In order for a student to receive medical homebound instruction, the following conditions must exist:

- The student must be of legal school age.
- A physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school but may profit from instruction given in the home or school.
- The student must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee on appropriate forms provided by the South Carolina Department of Education.
- The student must successfully complete the materials assigned and receive a passing grade from the student's classroom teacher or the homebound teacher in case of extended medical homebound instruction. This requirement is necessary in order for the student to advance to the next grade or to satisfy the state requirements for a state high school diploma.

A student is eligible for medical homebound instruction according to certain timelines as stated in the State Board of Education regulation.

Homebound instruction may by approved for a maximum of 45 instructional days at one time. If the homebound period must be extended, a new medical homebound form (signed by the physician) is required. Any time missed during the interim will not be excused unless a medical note is provided.

Should an approved student not be provided the required periods of medical homebound instruction that he/she is entitled to receive, the student is eligible to have the medical homebound instruction made up by the district. This make-up may occur during the student's remaining eligibility for medical homebound instruction or may occur after the student returns to school. The school will not hold make up periods during the regular school day. If the school
delays the start of services for any reason and the student is still entitled to the services, the district must make up the missed instructional periods even if the regular school year has ended.

Any student who is not provided the periods of medical homebound instruction to which that student is entitled is eligible to make up the medical homebound instruction, either during the student’s remaining eligibility for medical homebound instruction or after the student returns to school. Make-up periods may not occur during the regular school day. If the school delays the start of services for any reason and the student is still entitled to the services, the district must make up the missed instructional periods even if the regular school year has ended.

Medical and student records are confidential subject to the provisions of JRA and JRA-R. An extended illness is eight or more consecutive days out of school.

Eligibility

A physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital.

Any student participating in a program of homebound instruction or hospitalized instruction must be approved by the district superintendent or his/her designee on a standardized form provided by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). All approved forms must be maintained by the district for documentation. Supportive documents and information must be retained for a period of five years after the last day of the fiscal year to which the records apply or until audited, whichever is sooner.

Homebound instruction may be approved for a maximum of 45 instructional days at one time. If the homebound period must be extended, a new medical homebound form (signed by the physician) is required. Any time missed during the interim will not be excused unless a medical note is provided.

Once approved, the student is eligible for homebound instruction. To be counted in membership under the Education Finance Act, a pupil must be at least five years of age by September 1st of the current school year, except for visual and hearing disabled students who must be at least four years of age by September 1st of the current school year.

When a student is in the graduating class and becomes 21 years of age before graduation, he/she is eligible for membership under the Education Finance Act.

If a pupil is classified as disabled in accordance with State Board of Education regulations, requires a more restrictive environment based on the outcome of an individualized education program (IEP) meeting, and is being placed on homebound owing to his/her disabling condition, an IEP relative to the homebound placement must be developed by the staffing committee and parental consent obtained prior to such placement. All requirements for change of placement must be met, including revision or updating the placement form.

Period of Eligibility

Richland County School District Two
A student is eligible for homebound instruction under one of these conditions:

- on the day following his/her last day of school attendance
- on the first day of the regular nine-month academic year of the school in which he/she would otherwise be enrolled if he/she is unable to begin the school year

The student remains eligible under one of these conditions:

- until the day before he/she returns to school
- until the last day of the regular academic year in the school year he/she would normally be enrolled, whichever occurs first

The SCDE will fund a maximum of five periods per week of homebound instruction pursuant to the Education Finance Act. One period of homebound instruction equates to the one day of school missed due to extended illness, accident, or pregnancy.

Any student who is not provided the periods of medical homebound instruction to which that student is entitled is eligible to make up the medical homebound instruction, either during the student’s remaining eligibility for medical homebound instruction or after the student returns to school. Make-up periods may not occur during the regular school day. If the school delays the start of services for any reason and the student is still entitled to the services, the district must make up the missed instructional periods even if the regular school year has ended.

**Homebound Teachers**

All teachers providing homebound instruction must hold a valid South Carolina teacher’s certificate. A South Carolina school district may count in membership a student who is compelled to reside outside the state to receive medical services provided the teacher is certified by the Department of Education in the state where the services are rendered.

The teacher will teach the homebound student in a room especially set aside for the period of instruction. Homebound teachers are required to keep a weekly record of teaching services provided.

**Homebound Teachers**

All teachers providing homebound instruction must hold a valid South Carolina teacher’s certificate. Homebound teachers are required to keep a weekly record of teaching services provided.

Adopted 4/25/78; Revised 8/31/82, 5/14/85, 2/10/98, 7/1/03, 6/28/18.

Legal References:

A. Federal Law:
B. Federal Regulations:
   1. 24 C.F.R. § 300.323 - When IEPs must be in effect.

C. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 59-33-20(c) - Homebound instruction available to certain disabled children.

D. State Board of Education Regulations:
   1. R43-241 - Medical homebound instruction.