



Lexington Four Medical Homebound Policy

Medical Homebound Services

South Carolina's mandates regarding medical homebound instruction appear in State Board of Education Regulation 43-241. Put in simplest terms, R 43-241 defines "homebound or hospitalized instruction" as teaching that is offered to the student who has an acute or chronic medical condition that prevents him or her from attending classes at school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Medical homebound instruction is a means of providing a continuation of educational instruction for students who, because of serious illnesses, accidents, or other medically diagnosed conditions, are unable to attend school.

The goal of medical homebound is to facilitate the student's return to school as soon as it is medically appropriate.

Medical homebound services are **not** intended to provide an alternate educational experience or replace school programs. In fact, students typically only receive 1 hour of instruction for each approved day of homebound services.

Parents seeking alternatives to the school district's educational settings may consider homeschooling options or other virtual school options.

Medical homebound instruction is scheduled in advance at the district's discretion, with input from parent. If your child is absent from or not made available for scheduled homebound instruction, he or she is considered absent from school on that day and the instruction will not be rescheduled.

Please note that while your child is receiving homebound instruction, he or she is still subject to district attendance policies regarding absences.

Medical homebound Services can be full-time or intermittent. Intermittent services intend that the student will attend school a majority of the time, but have infrequent absences or need abbreviated/partial school days during short but repeated periods because of a medical condition.

Medical homebound services may be revoked by the district. Reasons may include:

- Excessive intermittent absences unsupported by medical documentation;
- Unexcused absences from scheduled homebound services;
- Changes to the student's health status; and
- Any other information obtained by school officials that calls into question the stated inability to attend school, including employment and attendance at school or community events.

Requests for extension of homebound services can be made, but extension requests should be submitted **before** currently approved homebound services are due to end. A new *Medical Homebound Instruction Form* from the student's treating physician must be submitted for approval.



HOMEBOUND APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1 - Parents/guardians must pick up the Lexington Four Medical Homebound Application, available from the Pupil Services Office located at 607 East Fifth Street, Swansea, S.C. 29160. Jessica Livingston, the Homebound Coordinator, can be contacted at [803-490-7000](tel:803-490-7000). Acceptable forms may also be found in your physician's office.

Step 2 – Parents/guardians complete Sections I and III. The district will require that *Section III-Release*, has been signed allowing the release of confidential information from the physician to the school. As part of the homebound review process, district or school personnel may contact the treating physician to obtain further information or clarification needed to determine eligibility for homebound services or if accommodations can be made to allow the student to attend school. If release is not provided, the homebound instruction may not be approved.

Step 3 - A licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant must complete Section II. Required information must be provided or the homebound form may be returned to you.

Step 4 - Parents/guardians, or physicians return the form to the Lexington Four Pupil Services Office to initiate the review process.

Step 5 – The District's Homebound Coordinator will notify your child's school homebound contact person of the review status via e-mail, U.S. mail or phone. Requests for medical homebound or intermittent services will be reviewed by the Director of Pupil Services.

Step 6 - The District will notify parent whether the request for homebound is approved or denied. The district may request a second opinion or additional documentation during this process.

*Students are expected to follow school attendance rules until the request is approved.

Step 7 – If approved, the school's attendance clerk will be notified by Pupil Services to change the student's PowerSchool classification. If a student with an IEP is approved for homebound, the IEP team must meet to amend the IEP to reflect this change in placement.

*If denied, student must follow regular school attendance. Parent or guardian may appeal the denial to the Office of the Superintendent. All decisions by the Superintendent are final.

Step 8 – If an approved student returns to school before the assigned medical homebound period has elapsed, parent/guardian must provide a written release from the attending physician indicating the student is medically able to return to school.



Homebound Responsibilities

The district will:

- Assign a school contact for parents when questions or concerns arise.
- As needed or requested, arrange meetings with the student's parents/guardians, the medical homebound teacher, the student's teachers, the principal, etc.
- Ensure appropriate documentation of attendance, including timely and accurately entering absences into the PowerSchool and monitoring the same attendance and truancy processes as school-based students.
- Ensure the medical homebound teacher has the appropriate textbooks and supporting instructional materials
- Consider IEP or Section 504 evaluation when warranted for recurring or chronic health conditions.

Parents will:

- Ensure the child is prepared for the arrival of the medical homebound teacher on scheduled days;
- Provide an area in the home that is conducive to learning and suitable for instruction (e.g., is quiet and free of distractions, has good lighting and a desk or table);
- Understand that during the course of medical homebound instruction, adult supervision in the home may be required in order to ensure a healthy and safe environment for both the student and the teacher;
- Make certain that the student is available for all scheduled instruction. If the student misses several sessions, the district may terminate homebound instruction;
- Contact the medical homebound teacher to cancel the scheduled period of instruction in cases of emergency;
- Inform the medical homebound teacher of the medical appointments as early as possible if they will interfere with instruction time;
- Understand that if the student is absent for his or her scheduled period of instruction, he or she is considered absent from school on that day;
- Understand that the state's compulsory attendance laws fully apply to medically homebound students;
- Communicate with the district's medical homebound instruction coordinator or the school's
- Contact person about changes in the child's health and return-to-school plans;
- Monitor and encourage the child to plan his or her time in order to accomplish assigned work;
- Understand that medical homebound is designed to support students for short-term absence from school due to a medical condition.



Students will:

- Be available for all scheduled instruction;
- Be dressed appropriately;
- Have all books and materials needed for instruction;
- Complete all homework assignments;
- Remain courteous, comply with teacher requests, and use appropriate language;
- Dedicate instruction time to instruction only (no phone calls, visiting, radio, television, etc.).

1. Medical homebound is not an alternative educational setting intended to replace a school program.
2. Missed appointments may not be rescheduled. Too many unexcused absences will result in attendance issues
3. Intermittent medical homebound services must be specified by the treating physician (Sec. II of application)
4. Requests for extensions require a new form.
5. Extended services may require a review by the district.