

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Maggie Paino, Director of Accountability
Michelle Clarke, School Counseling Specialist
DATE: December 20, 2019
RE: Student Transfers to Homeschool

Pursuant to IC 20-33-2-28.6, a parent may initiate a student's exit from a high school to attend homeschool. The homeschool program pursued by the student must meet attendance and instructional requirements in order to be considered a legitimate homeschool program.

Before a student may transfer from a high school to attend homeschool, the high school principal must provide to the student and parent the "Withdraw to Non-Accredited Nonpublic School" form adopted by the State Board of Education. This form must be signed and dated by the parent or guardian to acknowledge that the parent understands the requirements and expectations of homeschool, and is officially withdrawing the student to attend homeschool. A student signature is acceptable if the student is at least 18 years of age at the time of withdrawal. This form may be found in the "School Accountability & Accreditation Community" at <https://moodle.doe.in.gov>, in the "Graduation Rate/Resources" folder.

A student who is leaving a high school to attend homeschool may be considered "mobile" and removed from the cohort if the school has substantial evidence that the parent or guardian has initiated the withdrawal or transfer to homeschool. A school demonstrates that it has substantial evidence if it maintains on file the signed and dated "Withdraw to Non-Accredited Nonpublic School" form for the student. If the parent or guardian refuses to sign the required form then the student may not be removed from the cohort and must be considered a "dropout" for purposes of calculating the high school's graduation rate.

Please note: A high school must have the signed "Withdraw to Non-Accredited Nonpublic School" form for any student who is removed by a parent to attend homeschool after July 1, 2018. In case of a graduation rate audit, any student removed to homeschool without the required form will be considered a "dropout" for purposes of calculating the high school's graduation rate.

The Department acknowledges that it may be in a student's best interest to pursue an educational program that does not result in a high school diploma. Students in such scenarios are not to be considered as transfers to homeschool or removed from the high school's cohort as mobile. Rather, Indiana Code requires these types of exits to be coded as "dropouts" for purposes of calculating the high school's graduation rate.

Questions regarding this memo may be sent to schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov.