

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**December 14, 2021**

***SUBJECT:***

Revision of the following policies and administrative rule:

Policy IHAC Social Studies Education, First Reading  
Policy IHAG Music Education, First Reading  
Policy Foreign Language Education, First Reading  
Policy IHBF Homebound Instruction, First Reading  
Policy IHBF Home Schooling, First Reading  
Administrative Rule IHBG-R Home Schooling

***BACKGROUND INFORMATION:***

Aiken County Public School District cyclically reviews policies and administrative rules. Section I – Instruction are policies that provide guidance for the district on instructional practices in the district.

***ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:***

Administration has reviewed policies and the administrative rule in Section I Instruction. Administration recommends the revision of the policies and administrative rules to reflect currently practice.

***RECOMMENDATION:***

Approve the following policies and administrative rule:

Policy IHAC Social Studies Education, First Reading  
Policy IHAG Music Education, First Reading  
Policy Foreign Language Education, First Reading  
Policy IHBF Homebound Instruction, First Reading  
Policy IHBF Home Schooling, First Reading  
Administrative Rule IHBG-R Home Schooling

***ATTACHMENTS:***

Policy IHAC Social Studies Education, First Reading  
Policy IHAG Music Education, First Reading  
Policy Foreign Language Education, First Reading  
Policy IHBF Homebound Instruction, First Reading  
Policy IHBF Home Schooling, First Reading  
Administrative Rule IHBG-R Home Schooling

***PREPARED BY:***

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## SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Code **IHAC** Issued **01/021/22**

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Purpose: To establish the board's adherence to social studies academic standards as adopted by the state board of education.

~~Informed citizen participation in public life is essential to the health of our democratic system. A variety of experiences (including those using interdisciplinary approaches) in the social sciences of economics, sociology, psychology, geography, political science, anthropology and history enables students to function effectively and contribute constructively within society. These experiences must include both learning about and using the tools of the social sciences. An effective social studies program must prepare young people to live, work, compete and solve problems in our increasingly diverse nation and interdependent world.~~

~~The social studies program will provide the opportunity for each student to acquire the knowledge of content and concepts, develop critical thinking skills and processing skills and adopt values necessary for responsible social, political and economic participation in a diverse, interdependent and changing world.~~

~~The district will develop curriculum guides to present learning opportunities to students so that skills and knowledge as presented in the state academic standards may be acquired. The curriculum will address kindergarten through twelfth grade.~~

~~The district's instructional program for social studies education is designed to provide the opportunity for students to acquire the knowledge of content and concepts, to develop critical thinking and processing skills, and to adopt values necessary for responsible social, political, and economic participation in a diverse, interdependent, and changing world. Through implementation of the state academic standards, students will achieve college- and career-readiness by learning to analyze historical evidence, evaluate it, and then demonstrate their understanding of that evidence.~~

~~Schools will expose students to a variety of experiences (including those using interdisciplinary approaches) in the social sciences of economics, personal finance, sociology, psychology, geography, political science, anthropology, and history, enabling them to function effectively and contribute constructively within society. Schools will also include instruction on the founding principles that shaped the United States, including, at a minimum, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Federalist Papers, the structure of government, the role of the separation of powers, and the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.~~

### Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

In accordance with federal law, the district will offer educational opportunities each year on September 17th to commemorate the September 17, 1787 signing of the United States Constitution

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(if this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day will be held during the preceding or following week). The superintendent will establish guidelines ensuring that the district observes Constitution Day in a manner befitting the importance of the event in the history of the United States.

### **Veteran's Day**

All schools in the district will provide one hour of class time or assembly time for the study of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. This hour of study will be on November 11, Veteran's Day, or as close as possible to this date if schools are closed on the school day immediately preceding November 11th if schools are closed on Veterans Day.

Schools may allow students to attend activities to honor veterans on this day as part of the instructional day. Parents/Legal guardians may request in writing that their child be excused from participation in such activities.

### **Educationally related presentations (speeches) by a sitting President of the United States or Governor of South Carolina**

A respect for high elected office, regardless of party affiliation or political viewpoint, is an important aspect of an informed citizenry's participation in public life as described in the rationale set forth elsewhere in this policy. Accordingly, should a sitting President of the United States or Governor of the state of South Carolina visit a school or schools within the district, or should a speech related to education, generally, during school hours and offered for the encouragement of public school age children either statewide or nationwide be scheduled by the holder of either office, the schools within this district are allowed to facilitate such presentations by providing spaces for members of the student body to witness such personal presentations or to provide electronic media by which students may hear or watch broadcast communications of such speeches or presentations, subject to the following conditions.

- That this policy is intended to encourage the facilitation of such opportunities but is not a mandate that students witness, hear or watch a personal visit or broadcast presentation.
- That the scheduling of such presentation does not interfere with previously scheduled, district wide testing and, if so, a copy of the presentation may be made by the distance educational learning center and may be thereafter offered at a time to be set after such testing is completed.
- That should a teacher choose to use the speech as a part of his/her intended instructional plan, upon parental objection the teacher will provide an alternative assignment.
- That parents/legal guardians may request in writing that their children be excused from participation in such activities and supervision for alternative, appropriate activities will be made available.

Adopted 1/8/02; Revised 11/10/09, 1/11/22

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Legal references:

A. ~~Federal statute:~~

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- ~~1. 36 USC Section 106 (2004) – Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.~~  
United States Code of Laws, as amended:  
1. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, 36 U.S.C.A. Section 106.
  
- B. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
  - ~~1. Section 59-29-120 – Instruction required; attendance at Veteran activities.~~
  - ~~2. Section 59-29-55 – Instruction on Black history.~~
  - ~~3. Section 59-29-165 – Instruction in personal finance.~~
  - ~~4. Sections 59-29-410 through 430 – Financial literacy instruction.~~
  - ~~5. Sections 59-29-440 through 570 – South Carolina Financial Literacy Initiative.~~
  1. Section 59-29-155 - South Carolina Founding Principles Act.
  2. Section 59-29-55 - Instruction on African-American history.
  3. Section 59-29-120 - Instruction on United States Constitution and related concepts; required instruction on Veterans Day.
  4. Section 59-29-165 - Instruction in personal finance.
  5. Section 59-29-410, et seq. - Financial literacy instruction.
  6. Section 59-29-440, et seq. - South Carolina Financial Literacy Initiative.
  
- C. State Board of Education Regulations:
  - ~~1. R-43-234 – Defined program, grades 9-12.~~
    1. R43-231 - Defined program, grades K-5.
    2. R43-232 - Defined program, grades 6-8.
    3. R43-234 - Defined program, grades 9-12 and graduation requirements.

## MUSIC EDUCATION

Code **IHAG** Issued **1/021/22**

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Purpose: To establish the board's adherence to music education as adopted by the state board of education where feasible and appropriate.

Music education is a part of the fine arts program. The music program will reflect to the extent feasible the objectives set out in the state curriculum standards and as specified in the defined program and the guidelines of the ~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~ accrediting agency.

Adopted 1/8/02, 1/11/22

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Code **IHAH** Issued **1/021/22**

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Purpose: To establish the board's adherence to the foreign language program as adopted by the state board of education where feasible.

The board supports the strengthening of foreign language education throughout the schools. The district will teach a foreign language required for graduation for college-preparatory students. The program will be expansive enough so as to provide the opportunity for students to meet the advanced requirements of some colleges and universities.

~~As resources permit, the district will also offer a foreign language in grade eight in the immediate future.~~

Adopted 1/8/02, 1/11/22

*Policy*

**HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

*Code IHBF Issued 01/021/22*

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~~Purpose: to establish the basic structure for the instruction of students who cannot attend school because of illness, accident or pregnancy.~~

to establish the basic structure for the instruction of students who cannot attend school due to a diagnosed illness.

~~A student who cannot attend school because of illness, accident or pregnancy, even with the aid of transportation, is eligible for homebound or hospitalized instruction. The homebound program is an attempt to continue at home the regular school curriculum with the idea that the student will be prepared to return to school without having fallen too far behind with schoolwork. A physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school, but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital.~~

A student who cannot attend school for 10 days or more because of illness, accident, pregnancy, or emotional challenge, even with the aid of accommodations, is eligible for medical homebound instruction. The homebound program is designed to meet the needs of students who are medically unable to attend classes at school. A physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant must certify that the student is unable to attend school but may profit from instruction given in the home or at a mutually agreeable location. Homebound services are not guaranteed with the submission of a form signed by a physician.

Medical and student records are confidential subject to the provisions of policy JRA and administrative rule JRA-R.

~~Application for this service, which must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee on standardized forms provided by the state department of education, should be made through the principal's office. Funding is provided on the basis of one hour of homebound instruction for each day of non-attendance.~~

Application for this service, which must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee on standardized forms provided by the SC State Department of Education, should be made through the student's school.

~~The teacher will teach the student or students in a room especially set aside for the period of instruction.~~

Medical homebound instructors may provide direct instruction at a student's home if an adult is present during the sessions or at a mutually agreeable location.

~~A student is eligible for homebound instruction under these conditions.~~

## PAGE 2 – IHBF – HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

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

A student is eligible (but not guaranteed services) for medical homebound instruction under these conditions:

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

~~The student remains eligible under these conditions:~~

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

The student remains eligible under these conditions:

through the day before he/she returns to school as designated by the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant

through the last day of the regular academic year in the school year he/she would normally be enrolled

~~All teachers providing homebound instruction to students housed in South Carolina must hold a valid South Carolina teacher's certificate.~~

All teachers providing medical homebound instruction to Aiken County Public School students must hold a valid South Carolina teacher's certificate.

Adopted 1974; Revised 1/26/88, 10/13/98, 1/8/02, 1/11/22

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Legal references:

- A. State Board of Education Regulations:
  1. R-43-241 - Homebound instruction.

## HOME SCHOOLING

Code **IHBG** Issued **1/021/22**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure in which parents may educate their children at home instead of enrolling them in district schools.

The board recognizes that parents or guardians have a right to teach their children at home.

~~The parent or guardian wanting to teach a child at home may do so if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Schools (SCAIS). Bona fide members of the association who comply with the academic standards of the association do not need approval of home schooling programs.~~

Option 1 - Parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Schools (SCAIS). Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of South Carolina Association of Independent Schools exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40.

Option 2 - Parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for home schools which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of the associations exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-64-45.

~~If a parent or guardian does not choose to be a member of SCAIS, the parent or guardian must submit an application for home schooling on a form provided by the district. The applicant will supply all the information required by law prior to the board's consideration of his/her request. (See IHBG-R.)~~

Option 3 - If parents or guardians do not choose to instruct their children under the auspices of SCAIS or an approved home school association, the parents or guardians must apply for home schooling by completing the district approved application. The applicant will supply the information required by law prior to the board's consideration. (See IHBG-R)

If the board disapproves the proposed program or course of study, the board will notify the applicant of his/her right to appeal. The applicant must appeal to the South Carolina State Board of Education within 10 days from the date of the disapproval.

Adopted 2/28/84; Revised 3/11/86, 8/16/88, 1/26/93, 1/8/02, 1/11/22

### Legal references:

- A. S. C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.
  1. Section 59-65-10 - Responsibility of parent or guardian.
  2. Section 59-65-40 - Instruction at place other than school.
  3. Section 59-65-45 – Alternative home schooling requirements.
  4. Section 59-65-47 - Home Schooling.

- B. State Department of Education Regulations.
  - 1. R-43-246 - Instruction at place other than school.

## HOME SCHOOLING

Code **IHBG-R** Issued **1/021/22**

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### District approval

The following procedures will be observed when parents seek approval to provide instruction at a place other than school.

- ~~The district will consider a request by a parent to educate a child at a place other than school when that request is in written form. Applications are accepted until March 1 of each school year.~~ The district will consider a parent/legal guardian's request to educate a child at a place other than school when that request is in written form. Applications are accepted until March 1 of each school year.
- Upon receipt of a written request by a parent/legal guardian to educate a child in a place other than school, the parent/legal guardian will be invited to meet with the superintendent or his/her designee.
- ~~Such a~~ The meeting should be scheduled at a mutually convenient date and time within 15 days after the receipt of the parent/legal guardian's written request. This meeting is held to accomplish the following:-
  - Avoid removing the child from the educational programs offered by the district prior to approval of the request to educate the child at a place other than school.
  - Clarify the parent/legal guardian's responsibility.
  - Explain in detail what standards must be met in order to gain approval by the board.
  - Review the application that should be presented before consideration of the request.
- A hearing ~~is to~~ will be conducted by the board within 30 working days after the meeting at which the superintendent or his/her designee received the request. The parent/legal guardian will be provided the opportunity to be present at the hearing. In order to ~~insure~~ ensure a full and fair hearing, the following conditions must apply.
  - prior notice of the hearing
  - the right to be heard
  - presence of counsel if desired
  - some transcription of the record
- Approval of the instructional program must be requested on an annual basis. The conditions of approval of the instructional program (e.g. the instructor, participation of child in the district and statewide testing programs, reporting changes in the program, program monitoring, etc.) should be identified, in writing, to the parents.

### Parent qualifications

Option 1: The parent must have a high school diploma or a GED.

~~Option 2: The parent must hold a baccalaureate (Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science) degree.~~

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### Other standards

~~Day/year – There must be at least four and one-half hours of instructional time (not lunch or recess) for at least 180 days.~~ Instructional day/year – There must be at least four and one-half hours of instructional time (not lunch or recess) for at least 180 days.

~~Curriculum – In grades 1 through 6, reading, writing, math, science, and social studies must be taught. In grades 7 through 12, composition and literature must be added to this list.~~ Curriculum – In grades 1 through 6, reading, writing, math, science, and social studies must be taught. In grades 7 through 12, composition and literature must be added to this list.

Recordkeeping – The parent must keep and make the following available to the district.

- a lesson plan book indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in with the student
- samples of the student's work
- evaluations – a written progress report must be submitted to the district twice a year, containing an attendance record and separate assessment of the student in each required subject.

Library – Students must have access to one.

~~Standardized testing – Students must take the statewide standardized test appropriate for their grade at a public school or at home by special arrangements. Students must participate in the statewide standardized testing program appropriate for their grade. The test must be administered by a certified school district employee either with public school students or by special arrangement at the student's place of instruction, at the parent or guardian's option. The parent or guardian is responsible for any fees required to provide testing accommodations at the student's place of instruction.~~

~~Hold harmless clause – The parent must agree in writing not to sue the district for any educational deficiencies the student may develop due to home instruction. The parent or guardian must agree in writing to hold the district, the district board of trustees and the district's employees harmless for any educational deficiencies of the student sustained as a result of home instruction.~~

Withdrawal of approval – If the above standards are not being met, the district may withdraw approval after giving the parents/legal guardians notice and 30 days to comply.

Application/hearing – The district will provide an application process explaining the requirements and will allow the parent/legal guardian to be heard by the board when the application is considered.

Readiness test – A readiness test must be given to all eligible first graders. If the child is not ready, the district can withhold approval of a first grade curriculum for the student.

Scoring below test standards – The district may cancel approval of a program for any student who scores below the grade promotion standard on the appropriate standardized test ~~or require the parent to provide expert tutoring at home.~~ The district will decide if the student should receive appropriate instructional placement in the public school, special services as a disabled student, or home schooling with an instructional support system at parental expense.

Appeal of disapproval – The parent/legal guardian may appeal disapproval of a program, within 10 days of the board's decision, to the ~~state board of education~~ State Board of Education.

| Issued 2/28/84; Revised 3/11/86, 8/16/88, 3/9/99, 1/8/02, 1/11/22