

HOME INSTRUCTION, HOME-BASED, HOMEBOUND, HOME SCHOOL – WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

SPECIAL EDUCATION - GUIDANCE BRIEF



At times, these terms can be easily confused and mistakenly used interchangeably. This Guidance Brief addresses the differences between Home Instruction, Home-Based Instruction, Homebound Instruction and Home School.

Home Instruction is included on the continuum of alternative placements a Local Education Agency (LEA) must make available to ensure Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is available to children with disabilities. Home instruction could be delivered through a virtual, in-person, or hybrid approach. Home instruction is included under the provision of IDEA.

Home-based Instruction is a term that is frequently used interchangeably with Home Instruction in Oklahoma.

Homebound Instruction is used only for short-term placements. It may be applied to students with or without disabilities. Students receiving homebound instruction are not able to attend school due to a short-term illness, injury or disciplinary removal. Homebound instruction is not included under the provision of IDEA.

Home School is not a function of the local education agency and is not included under the provision of IDEA. Families may choose to home school their children with the understanding they are solely responsible for the curriculum, instruction and programming of their child's learning.

Topic	Home Instruction or Home-based Instruction	Homebound Instruction
Which students are eligible?	Students who receive special education and related services under the IDEA and are unable to receive FAPE in a lesser restrictive setting.	General and special education students who need to miss school temporarily due to a medical/psychological condition or a disciplinary removal.
Does this placement appear in the IDEA?	Yes. Each Local Education Agency (LEA) must include home instruction on its continuum of alternative placements.	No. Each district sets its own eligibility requirements for homebound services.
Who makes the placement determination?	The student's IEP team.	School officials and administrators.
Must the placement be supported by medical documentation?	No. The IDEA doesn't require medical documentation to support a placement on home instruction. Still, the IEP team must consider any medical documentation showing the student needs home instruction to receive an educational benefit.	Yes, if the homebound instruction is due to a short-term medical issue. Parents should submit medical evidence that a student requires homebound services because of an illness or injury. No, if the homebound instruction is due to a disciplinary removal.

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<p>Is there a time limit for this type of instruction?</p>	<p>No, not in the IDEA. However, the district must convene a team meeting to review the student's IEP at least once a year. It should also hold an IEP meeting if changes in the student's needs suggest home instruction is no longer appropriate.</p>	<p>Generally, yes. The length of services is determined by the district.</p>
<p>Who determines the type and amount of services the student will receive?</p>	<p>The IEP team. Remember that home instruction is a placement on the least restrictive environment continuum. If the district can't provide all of the services in the student's IEP in the home setting, then home instruction is not an appropriate placement.</p>	<p>The IEP team makes the determination for students with disabilities. The school officials and administrators make the determination for students without disabilities. Medical professionals may be required to submit length and type of services.</p>

Adapted from Amy E. Slater, Esq., covers special education legal issues for LRP Publications. Copyright 2018 © LRP Publications