

Chicago Public Schools Home and Hospital Instruction Program Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

1. If my child is unable to attend school as a result of a diagnosed medical or psychiatric condition, what services are available?

Students are expected to attend school to the fullest extent possible, but homebound instruction may be provided to students who have a diagnosed medical or psychiatric condition preventing them from participating in classroom instruction because they are limited to home or a health care facility.

2. What department/program within Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is responsible for coordinating this service for my child?

The CPS Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services' Home and Hospital Instruction Program determines eligibility for homebound instruction based on the Illinois Department of Education Guidelines. Approval of students for homebound instruction requires medical documentation submitted by a licensed medical professional and information provided by school staff members. Approval is determined on the basis of the documented need for service.

3. What is the main goal of the ODLSS Home and Hospital Instruction Program?

The main goal of homebound services is to provide your child access to continuous instruction while s/he is away from school managing their illness. This program strives to keep your child current with classroom instruction and facilitate their return to the classroom setting. Homebound instruction is not intended to replace school service and is, by design, temporary. It is not a remediation program and is not designed to provide students with time to make up previously missed assignments. The goal of homebound instruction is to keep your child as current as possible with classroom instruction.

4. How do I request homebound instruction for my child?

You must submit a completed medical or psychiatric referral for review and consideration. You may request this form from the School Homebound Coordinator at your child's school of enrollment. Every CPS school has a School Homebound Coordinator.

5. What are the hours and location of homebound instruction?

Based on a regular five-day school week, your child will receive one hour of instruction. Homebound instruction is provided after regular school hours, before 7:00pm and it is provided only on days when CPS school is in session. Homebound instruction will be provided in your family's home and an adult must be present at all times.



6. How is student attendance recorded for my child while s/he is receiving homebound instruction?

All students approved to receive education services at home will receive ½-day of student attendance credit on days of instruction.

7. Who provides homebound instruction to my child?

The School Homebound Coordinator at your child’s school of enrollment identifies a Homebound Teacher to support your child. Homebound Teachers must hold a current Illinois license and are approved by the CPS Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services. If your child is a diverse learner and is eligible for special education services, homebound instruction will be provided by a teacher who holds a current LBS1 Certification.

8. What courses are supported during homebound instruction?

Instructional support is provided for core academic classes: English, Science, Social Studies, and Math. All assignments and materials provided by your child’s classroom teacher will be used by the identified homebound teacher. Within five school days of the medical referral date, the School Homebound Coordinator is responsible for arranging and notifying you of the Education Planning Meeting. The main purpose of the Educational Planning Meeting is to design a plan of instruction for your child. During this Educational Planning Meeting, you will discuss and document curriculum, accommodations or modifications to the curriculum, expectation of completed classwork, grades, and grading criteria.

9. Who will be responsible for recording my child’s grades for all completed work?

Your child’s classroom teacher is the teacher of record and is responsible for assigning quarter, semester, and final grades in collaboration with the homebound teacher.

10. What happens if my child has to miss a homebound session with the teacher? Are there make-up sessions in homebound?

There are no make-up sessions in homebound as your child’s attendance is recorded daily when instruction is provided.

11. What happens if my child requires an extension of homebound instruction?

In order to continue homebound instruction beyond the termination date (homebound eligibility end date), please submit an updated medical referral to the School Homebound Coordinator at your child’s school of enrollment.

Additional questions may be directed to the following contacts:

The School Homebound Coordinator at your child’s school of enrollment

The ODLSS Home and Hospital Instruction Program Mailbox at homeandhospital@cps.edu

Tora Evans, Manager, ODLSS Home and Hospital Instruction Program at tevans@cps.edu