Home Instruction Webinar

3/23/2022

Questions and Answers

Q: Will you be covering what a student needs when returning to public school?

A: Link to the Statute that can be accessed that will be helpful. <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec2901.html>

Q: Have you thought more about allowing access to "view" ALL home schoolers - for example, if a student moves from northern ME to southern ME and continues home schooling. We can see if a student is active in another district via Synergy.

A: We have. This is a future enhancement that we hope to have available sometime in the not-too-distant future but not sure what capacity it will allow us to do.

Q: If a parent sends a paper form to the DOE it will be sent back to the district for entry into NEO?

A: Yes, starting 2022-2023.

Q: Will the forms/assessments that you receive from the parents be emailed to the Home School Liaison? So many of us are now remote.

A: We are looking into the best way to relay these forms, it appears that secure email might be the best way to do this at this time.

Q: Regardless of who enters the form, will the District still get the notice when the student is approved for home instruction?

A: The SAU will always get the notice; there is no such thing really as “approval”. It is a one-way communication providing a notice. There is not a validation kind of system that happens when a parent submits a form.

Q: We are seeing in influx of home school students return to in person learning. Some have been home schooling for the past year and a half. Should we expect to receive assessment data for this year if they are re-enrolling mid-year?

A: If they finish the year in Home Instruction, then an assessment would be required. If they do not finish the year, it’s up to the SAU for testing data or have a teacher evaluate how to place them.

Q: Has the portal system been updated to allow any device to access it? I have so many parents willing to enter into the portal, but cannot because they are on their phone, or a mac, or may not have Chrome.

A: The submission from a computer and varying systems that are used has been addressed. No reports of problems for months. The phone is a different question – optimization of cell phones has not been addressed, and therefore, advise to not use them for now.

Q: How do you recommend we collect assessment data from families if they do not submit it.

A: Again, continue to communicate the requirements.

Q: How do you recommend we collect assessment data from families if they do not submit it.

A: Continue to work with the parents.

Q: Can we have a link to the presentation handouts?

A: The webinar itself, the Q&A and PowerPoint will be on the helpdesk webpage by the end of next week. <https://www.maine.gov/doe/data-reporting/collection/helpdesk/resources/webinars-and-presentations>

Q: Apologies if I missed this question, presumably this is being recorded, where will we find the recording posted eventually?

A: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/data-reporting/collection/helpdesk/resources/webinars-and-presentations>

Q: What do we do - if a parent does not submit assessment... have tried multiple times and still nothing... If we check subsequent it won't allow us to continue without attaching one.

 A: You can attach a word doc titled 'missing assessment' so that you can bypass the block and update the file down the road.

Q: Is there anyway a telephone contact number on the Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction form? I have several parents that have provided only the physical address and not the mailing address. No email address has been provided. Without any other contact information it is difficult to reach these parents.

A: This is not required by Statute.

Q: Would love to see examples of how districts keep track. Spreadsheets, etc.

A: I would highly recommend asking this via one of the local user groups.

Q: Local user groups? How do I join one of these?

A: Email the helpdesk for help with this.

Q: Is there anyway a telephone contact number on the Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction form? I have several parents that have provided only the physical address and not the mailing address. A: No email address has been provided. Without any other contact information it is difficult to reach these parents.

Q: Do we need to keep hard copies of the original documents (forms/assessments) or does scanning/uploading them onto the MDOE portal suffice?

A: Local retention schedule would decide this.

Q: There are parents that still use the old home school form that does not have all this information listed. Where are they getting this old form? Paper and USMail is obsolete .

 A: Paper and mail are a personal choice, and we have to accommodate for that choice. We recommend you letting them know its been updated.

Q: I don't believe we've ever changed status on students. Should we submit them now? If so, how far back should we go? Graduation, aged out, should we still put them into the system.

A: Greater than 20 at beginning of the school year, no. If they’ve graduated from public school, but want to do another year of home school – have not heard of a situation like this one. Send Pam an email for followup.

Q: How can they possibly homeschool with no access to the internet?

A: They can come into the school and have the Home Instruction Point of Contact assist them.

Q: Does that form need to be done when a student comes back to school from homeschool?

A: One record per year. Coming back in the same year is you just enrolling them again.

Q: If a family has multiple students and 1 has graduated but 4 have not can we still create new? And then submit a change for the one that graduated??

 A: Yes. If you use the create new button, you should be able to just delete that child at the bottom, and submit that without that graduated person. If that doesn’t work, then use create new, and send Pam an email that you created, and she will delete it.

Q: To clarify the Request to Update Home Instruction Record - does the school have to fill that out each time a student comes back to school full time from homeschool, and then again if they go back to homeschool full time during the same year?

A: One record for Home Instruction per year. If you/they have already submitted a form to the portal, and they pull out of home instruction, and return to school – send Pam an email, and she will modify the record. If they return to home instruction again, email Pam, and she will re-modify the record.

Q: I have had parents that have said they do not have to file a form for their child if they are 17, but do not indicate graduation. Do they need to submit something to the DOE that gives them graduation certification? And, is there some kind of template for a letter to let parents know exactly why it is detrimental to have missing records?

A: If they are 17, they are no longer under the compulsory education requirement. So no, they do not have to submit.

Q: I send parents to the DOE website for information. I include links to the website. All done via email.

A: Excellent process, if they have email access.