

**ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS BY NONPUBLIC, CHARTER SCHOOL
AND HOME-EDUCATED STUDENTS**

All students residing in the Goffstown School District, whether they are home educated, or are attending public chartered school or nonpublic schools (collectively, “non-enrolled Goffstown school District students”), shall have access to curricular courses and co/extra-curricular programs offered by the Goffstown School District in accordance with RSA 193:1-c.

A. Equal Access to Goffstown School District Courses and Programs.

Non-enrolled Goffstown School District students will have the same access as do enrolled students to the Goffstown School District’s courses and programs. Non-enrolled Goffstown School District students shall not be subject to any policies, procedures, or standards with respect to participation in the Goffstown School District’s courses or programs that are more restrictive than those governing the Goffstown School District’s enrolled students. Non-enrolled Goffstown School District students, however, must meet the same eligibility criteria as the Goffstown School District’s students as described in paragraph B below.

The Goffstown School District allows non-enrolled Goffstown School District students to participate on an equal basis in courses and programs offered by the Goffstown School District provided they meet the eligibility requirements for participation (e.g., deadlines for registration, academic progress/performance, parental permission, third party (e.g., NHIAA) requirements, physical exams/health requirements, etc.).

In the event that a course or program has reached capacity, selection between enrolled students and non-enrolled Goffstown School District students must be made using the same criteria, such as registration deadlines, registration dates, audition/tryout, seniority by grade, etc. If, after applying such criteria the course/program remains overenrolled, the determination should be made randomly.

If a student or their parents/guardians believes that they have not been given equal opportunity for participation in Goffstown School District programs, then they may appeal as outlined in Goffstown School Board Policy Regulation JJA-R.

B. Participation in Curricular Courses.

In order to participate in the Goffstown School District’s curricular courses, non-enrolled Goffstown School District students must meet the eligibility criteria that applies to students enrolled in the Goffstown School District. The Building Principal will provide this eligibility criteria to parents/guardians of non-enrolled Goffstown School District students upon request.

Parents/guardians shall submit requests for participation in Goffstown School District courses in writing to the Building Principal consistent with Goffstown School Board procedures JJJ-R. The Building Principal will verify that the eligibility standards are the same as those that apply to students enrolled in the Goffstown School District.

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The Principal will determine if a non-enrolled Goffstown School District student has satisfied eligibility criteria and prerequisites in the same manner as they would:

1. To determining whether a course satisfies requirements for awarding credits (Goffstown School Board Policy IK) and
2. To assigning to classes or grade levels and for students transferring from other schools (Goffstown School Board Policy JG).

In making the determination, the Principal should consider home education evaluation materials (see RSA 193-A:6, III), course descriptions, syllabi, and/or any other relevant information offered by the parents/guardians of the student.

Requests for the related services including, but not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling, psychological, guidance, and/or special education services shall be referred to the Special Education Director. If a dispute arises between the parents/guardians and the Goffstown School District as to the student's right to these services, the Special Education Director shall inform the Superintendent, who shall consult the Goffstown School District's attorney for a legal opinion.

C. Use of School Texts and Library Materials.

Non-enrolled Goffstown School District students will be permitted to use the school library, borrow school texts and borrow library materials under the same conditions and rules as students enrolled in the Goffstown School District.

D. Participation in Activities and Co/extra-curricular Programs.

Requests by non-enrolled Goffstown School District students for participation in Goffstown School District co-curricular/extra-curricular activities or programs (“activities”) shall be made in writing by the parents/guardians to the Building Principal. The Building Principal shall ensure that there is equal treatment and opportunity of non-enrolled Goffstown School District students relative to their participation in Goffstown School District activities.

In order to participate in Goffstown School District activities, non-enrolled Goffstown School District students must:

1. Meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the Goffstown School District, with the exception of school attendance.
2. Meet any tryout criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the Goffstown School District (see Goffstown School Board Policy JJA); and

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3. Comply with all policies, rules and regulations or their equivalent of the governing organization of the activity (see Goffstown School Board Policy JJA).

Non-enrolled Goffstown School District students participating in Goffstown School District co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are subject to the same fees charged enrolled students for the activity.

E. Appeals.

Any students/parents/guardians who believe that the Goffstown School District's Policies/Regulations or the State's laws/regulations pertaining to a non-enrolled Goffstown School District student's access to a course or program have not been appropriately or fairly interpreted may appeal as follows:

If the original decision being appealed was made by the Principal, then the "Principal" as used in steps 1-4 shall refer to the "Superintendent", and the Superintendent's decision shall be final. Step 5 shall not apply.

1. Submit a letter to the Building Principal stating the nature of the concern and requesting a hearing.
2. Within five (5) school days the Principal will convene a meeting with the student and/or parents/guardians, the coach/advisor, and a teacher(s).
3. The student/parents/guardians will be given an opportunity to explain why they believe the student should be eligible for participation. Additionally, the student/parents/guardians may present information, documents, or other material in support of their position. The Principal shall prepare minutes of the meeting.
4. The Principal will consider all information available and will make a final decision within three (3) school days following the meeting. The Principal will notify and inform the student/parents/guardians of their decision in writing via email. When time is of the essence, the Principal should first convey the basic conclusion as soon as practicable via telephone or email.
5. The student/parents/guardians may within 3 days of the Principal's email of the decision submit a written request for further review by the Superintendent. The written request should describe why the Principal's decision should not be upheld. The Superintendent may decide without further information to uphold the Principal's decision or may determine a further meeting is necessary. In either event, the Superintendent's decision will be final. If the parents/guardians do not request a review by the Superintendent, then the Principal's decision will be final as of the fourth day after the Principal's written decision was transmitted to the parents/guardians.

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F. Administrative Regulations or Procedures.

The Superintendent or designee may adopt such administrative regulations or procedures as they deem appropriate in order to implement this Policy.

Reference: Policy IHBG – Home Ed Instruction & Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Public Chartered Schools or Home Educated Pupils

Legal References:

RSA 193:1-c, Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic...Students.

RSA 193-A:6, (Home Education), Records; Evaluation

Proposed: 01/07/2019

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