**Home School Notification – updates for 2020-21**

This is a reminder for current home school families residing in **Finneytown, Northwest, Oak Hills and Southwest** school districts of the requirements necessary to continue home educating their child/children for the 2020-21 school year. It is ***recommended*** that the **Notification of Intent** information be sent directly to the Hamilton County Educational Service Center at the address below.

***Families residing in other school districts should send notification of intent to their home district central office.***

You may download the Home School Notification packet from our website. Included in the packet you will find a sample curriculum and additional information to assist you in completing the forms.

**Changes:**

* Please be aware that a change was made in July 2019 requiring notifications to be received no later than the first week of the start of the school district of residence. In order to process your notification in a timely manner, families are encouraged to submit the required paperwork to our office by **August 14, 2020**.
* Due to COVID-19, measures in HB 197 provided short term changes to the **academic assessment reporting requirement** for the 2020-21 academic year. Information regarding these changes are included in this mailing.

**To access the forms online**:

* Go to www.hcesc.org/parents
* Click on and download the “Home Schooling Packet”
* **Submit** your completed forms. *(Email is preferred to avoid delays in processing.)*

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| **Email** Catherine.Schulte@hcesc.org(please attach completed forms) | **Mail**Catherine Schulte, Home School LiaisonHamilton County ESC11083 Hamilton AvenueCincinnati, OH 45231 |

In order to keep our records up to date, please notify our office of changes in your home education status:

* If you **elect to enroll** your child/children in a public, private or parochial school for the 2020-2021 school year.
* If your child has successfully completed his/her high school curriculum and subsequently the final year of home instruction.

If you have any questions, please call and leave a message for Catherine Schulte (513.674.4241).

Respectfully,

Catherine Schulte

Catherine Schulte

Home School Liaison

Hamilton County ESC

513.674.4241

catherine.schulte@hcesc.org

***Updates from the Ohio Department of Education regarding assessment reporting for home school families***

(www.education.ohio.gov, SEARCH: School-Building Closure FAQ #37)

**How does H.B. 197 affect the requirements for the academic assessment report for the 2019-2020 school year from a parent of a home-school student making a subsequent notification as required by rule 3301-34-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code?**

**For Parents:** Section 17(L) of recently enacted H.B.197 makes a short-term change to reporting requirements for parents of home-schooled students for 2019-2020. Typically, parents must submit to the local superintendent, at the time of subsequent notification, an academic assessment report for the child for the previous school year. The report can be in one of three formats: the results of a nationally normed, standardized test; a written narrative indicating that a portfolio of samples of the child’s work has been reviewed by a specified individual and that the child’s academic progress meets the child’s abilities; or an alternative academic assessment of proficiency mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent.

Section 17(L) of H.B. 197 exempts the requirement to provide the results of a “standardized achievement assessment” to the resident district as a condition of the district continuing to allow the student to be home schooled in the 2020-2021 school year. This exemption applies to the first and third of the three options (OAC 3301-34-04(B)(1) or (B)(3)). **Parents should express to the superintendent of their school district of residence that they are exempted from the requirement due to the inability to have students tested.**

**Parents who choose to utilize the written narrative option** (OAC 3301-34-04(B)(2)) may use remote or virtual methods to obtain the written narrative so as to avoid any risk to the health or safety of students or others involved in the process. Additionally, the deadline to submit the written narrative has been extended pursuant to authority granted to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (H.B. 197, Section 17(I)) until December 1, 2020. District superintendents have been instructed to issue a modified letter of excuse that indicates the narrative will be provided by December 1, 2020. Upon the receipt of the narrative, and if the narrative complies with regulatory requirements, the superintendent may issue a permanent letter of excuse for the current school year.

(This information will be updated if additional changes are made to home school subsequent notification requirements by either the State Board of Education or the Ohio General Assembly.)