

# What You Should Know About Home And Hospital Instruction

## What it is . . .

- Home and hospital teaching enables schools to provide limited instruction to students who are severely restricted and unable to attend school for health reasons.
- The student receives an hour of teacher contact time for each day school is in session, normally five hours per week. Most students prefer to see their teachers blocks of time rather than one hour every day. The schedule of visits is arranged with student and parents.
- The home teacher typically works with the student's regular teacher to continue, as much as possible, the assignments given in class.
- Upon return to class, the regular teachers will take into consideration the learning reported by the home teacher, and appropriate adjustments in the student's grades are made.

## What it is not . . .

- Home teaching is not an alternative voluntary program which students can elect to earn a high school diploma. The purpose of home teaching is to minimize loss of instruction while a person is too ill to attend regular school. The severity of illness is determined through a doctor's diagnosis, and educational alternatives are considered before home teaching is authorized. The student returns to regular school as soon as he/she is healthy enough to do so.
- Because the teacher contact time is limited and because a high school teacher may not have the academic background to teach all high school subjects, the instruction is not the same as regular attendance on campus. Thus, a student may still be behind schedule with assignments when he/she returns to school.
- Home teaching is not authorized by the doctor but by the East Side Union High School District. The doctor must provide good medical information to East Side staff so a valid placement can be considered.

## Who can be placed on home teaching . . .

- Any regularly enrolled East Side student who will miss school for a minimum of three weeks due to a disabling medical condition may be eligible for home or hospital instruction.
- Each student's situation is considered carefully through consultation with doctors before authorization is given.

## Keep in mind . . .

- Home teaching is limited instruction and should be used prudently. Teacher contact time is less than 20% of regular school attendance. Subject matter expertise is limiting as well.
- A student with a disabling health situation may still be able to attend school with modifications. The modifications are determined through planning sessions with the family and school officials. In most cases when it is possible, the modifications are preferable to home teaching.
- Isolation from friends and other peers does affect a student academically as well as socially.
- Some subjects on a students schedule may be limited or not included in home instruction. These include laboratory science classes, foreign language classes, higher level math classes, and classes which require the use of equipment only available in the classroom. East Side professionals will always do their best to accommodate a students educational needs, but sometimes the educational limitations cannot be overcome.
- We do not have to wait for three weeks before home teaching is started. As soon as a doctor has made a valid diagnosis, home teaching can be authorized.
- Home teaching is a voluntary assignment for teachers, so there may be occasional delays in assigning a teacher.