

# EASTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: TEMPORARY MEDICAL  
EXCUSALS

ADOPTED: December 6, 2011

REVISED:

<p>1. Authority SC 1301, 1326, 1327 Title 22 Sec. 11.12, 11.13, 11.41, 12.1 Pol. 204</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">204.1. TEMPORARY MEDICAL EXCUSALS</p> <p>The Easton Area School District, pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code and State Board of Education regulations, will review and consider approval of temporary requests for excusals from the compulsory attendance requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for individual instruction to students confined to the home or the hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons.</p> <p>Temporary Medical Excusals (TMEs) may not be used as a way to avoid compulsory school attendance and must be based on a certified/licensed medical doctor, psychologist, and/or a psychiatrist’s recommendation. In conformity with the School Code, temporary medical excusals shall only be granted where the condition is temporary in nature and where the student is unable to attend any part of the school day. The district shall consider recommendations made by a student’s physical, but such recommendation shall not automatically result in approval of a TME. Parental consent is required to verify a physician’s recommendation and for continual communication with the referring physician.</p> <p>A student will be considered for a TME under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A <u>temporary</u> medical and/or psychiatric condition considered medically urgent and so severe that:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It is likely to persist for more than four (4) weeks for the elementary/middle schools and two (2) weeks for the high school during which school is in session (tutoring is not provided over holidays/vacations or after the last day of school).</li> <li>b. It is a condition that will prevent the child from attending <u>any part of the school day</u> for a specific period of time. The specific period may not exceed three (3) months in one period as per Pennsylvania Code.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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<p>Pol. 117</p>	<p>2. The district has received the Physician’s Recommendation form, fully completed, from a certified/licensed medical doctor, psychologist and/or psychiatrist (signatures of Licensed Nurse Practitioners will <u>not</u> be accepted).</p> <p>The following additional conditions apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The district has permission of the parent/guardian to contact the recommending physician for verification of information within the TME application form.</li> <li>2. If the district believes that additional information is needed, with legally required consent, the district may contact the recommending physician to seek additional information.</li> <li>3. At any time, the district may utilize its school physician to review and deny or approve a request for a TME.</li> <li>4. The district reserves the right to refer a student to a physician of the district’s choice, at district expense, if it so chooses.</li> <li>5. In the event that the district chooses to refer a student to its own physician to determine the necessity for homebound services, and the district physician’s opinion is contrary to the family physician, or the recommending physician is unable to substantiate the recommendation, the administration will be authorized to honor the opinion of the district physician. The child will be requested to return to school. In such a case, the student shall be denied any further homebound services and the child would then fall under the mandatory school attendance regulations.</li> </ol>
<p>Pol. 116, 117</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Any breach of the above conditions, in part or in whole, may result in the withdrawal of approval of a homebound excuse. Homebound tutoring is a temporary instructional program and should not be considered as a replacement to attendance and instruction in the regular school setting.</li> </ol> <p>A TME may be revoked by the district at any time with a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours’ notice to the Parents.</p> <p><u>Sixty (60) Day Approval Period</u></p> <p>Temporary Medical Excusals approved by the district shall be effective for a specified time period, not to exceed a maximum of sixty (60) days. Upon the expiration of the sixty (60) day period, the student will no longer be lawfully excused from school. However, the parent/guardian may apply for a renewal of the medical excusal by following the approval process outlined above.</p>

Participation In Co-Curricular And Extracurricular Activities

Students on homebound are not eligible to participate in any clubs, athletics, field trips, and other extra-curricular activities. A student must be participating in the regular school day program at least part-time to become eligible to participate, and the physician that is recommending homebound on a part-time basis must submit in writing that the student is able to participate in these co-curricular activities without a risk to the student's health and/or safety nor that of the district's school body.

Tutoring During A Temporary Medical Excusal

Tutoring during a TME may be provided at the discretion of the district. Such tutoring is not intended to replace regular instruction, but, rather, is intended to assist with maintaining current skills and prevent regression, if possible, until the student is able to return to school. Credit received during a TME is discretionary. If homebound is requested and approved beyond the first three (3) months allowed by PA law, the student may receive partial or no credit.

Once eligibility is determined, tutoring will be considered. Tutoring is discretionary and may be refused or terminated at any time for any reason. If approved, tutoring will be provided only be provided under the following limitations and conditions:

1. Tutoring shall only be provided where the TME period is expected to exceed four (4) weeks.
2. Assigned tutors shall be of the district's choosing.
3. The hours of tutoring shall not exceed five (5) hours per week maximum or the maximum that the health and well-being of the student will allow, whichever is less.
4. The availability and amount of such instruction is subject to the availability of certified teachers to provide such services in the home. If a certified teacher is not available, then homebound will not be provided. The district will attempt to reschedule missed sessions, although it is under no obligation to do so.
5. Sessions cancelled by the parents/guardians may be rescheduled at the discretion of the district but are not required to be rescheduled.
6. Tutoring during a TME will be based upon provision of assignments and materials from the student's current courses, as provided by the student's teachers. Such teachers have discretion to substitute alternate assignments if the regular assignments are not appropriate for in-home tutoring.

7. The district, at its sole discretion, may permit a student to complete course work for credit if a student is physically and mentally able to independently complete schoolwork in a satisfactory manner while on a TME. This is completely discretionary on the part of the district and should not be viewed as an automatic right by students and/or parents of students on temporary medical excusals. If permission to complete course work for credit is granted, the student must keep up with the class's regular assignments and schoolwork in a timely fashion in order to earn credit. The tutor may administer tests if deemed appropriate by the tutor. If a student is permitted to complete course work for credit, the tutor will collect classroom work from the student's regular teacher. It shall, however, be the responsibility of the student to complete the course work satisfactorily. Lack of independent work on the part of the student or non-completion of assignments may result in the loss of credit or failure of the course. The district shall make the final decision on an award of credit for a course.
8. Due to the nature of course content, it may not be possible for the TME tutor to deliver or teach the course content. In this regard, the student will be required to reschedule this course(s) during the next available semester.
9. Each hour of tutoring during TME provided is to be supported by one (1) to three (3) hours of independent study, depending on grade level, by the student if medical condition allows this.
10. The parent/guardian is required to provide the TME tutor with an educational learning environment within the home conducive to conducting the assigned course work.
11. A parent/guardian or other adult authority must be present in the home during TME tutoring. It is expected that family members will not interfere with tutoring sessions. It is expected that students will be prepared for sessions. Eating during sessions is not permitted unless necessary for medical reasons. If an environment conducive to learning is not provided, TME tutoring may be terminated. The student will be excused without instruction or course credit until the student's condition allows him/her to return to school.

The Superintendent or designee reserves the right to discontinue tutoring at any time and for any reason, including when:

1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health and/or safety of the teacher.
2. A parent/guardian or other responsible caretaker is not at home or does not remain in the home with the student during the hours of instruction;

3. Parents/Guardians and/or student routinely cancels tutoring sessions;
4. The medical condition of the student is such as to preclude any benefit from such instruction;
5. A student is routinely unprepared for tutoring sessions – each hour of tutoring is expected to be supported by one (1) to three (3) hours of independent study; or
6. The home environment is not conducive to learning (loud noise or other distractions; family members or other individuals interfering with work; no suitable place to work; unsanitary conditions; etc.).

Where a tutor is unable to teach or deliver a particular course content due to the nature of the course content, the student may be required to reschedule the course(s) for the next available semester.

Tutors may not conduct tutoring sessions at times when a parent legal guardian is not present in the home. Such sessions will not be rescheduled. In the event that tutoring is terminated or refused by the district, parents may pick up work for the student in the school office after providing at least two school days for the district to gather the assignments from the teachers.

#### Disability Accommodations

TMEs are designed for students with temporary medical conditions and are not intended to be and may not be substituted for appropriate in-school accommodations for students with disabilities who are able to attend some part of the school day. Students with disabilities may be entitled to accommodations during the school day under Section 504 and the ADA. Parents/Guardians seeking accommodations for their students should contact the school guidance counselor.

#### Temporary Medical Excusal NOT A Special Education Placement

In some cases, a student may receive special education instruction (FAPE) in the home through his/her IEP. This is called “instruction in the home” and is **NOT** the same as a TME. “Instruction in the home” is a placement within the special education continuum that may be chosen by an IEP team when an eligible student cannot properly receive a Free Appropriate Public Education in any other setting. A special education placement in the home (or “instruction in the home”) can be obtained only by going through the normal IEP process. Any placement determination, including a placement of “instruction in the home,” **must** be determined to be appropriate by the IEP team, and an IEP must be implemented that

is specifically designed for such a placement. The nature of “instruction in the home,” as well as the process for obtaining such instruction, is distinctly different from a TME. Any parent or guardian who has additional questions about instruction in the home or needs further clarification of the differences between the two and which is appropriate for a particular student should contact the Director of Special Education.

If a parent/guardian believes his/her child may be eligible for special education services, the parent has the right to request that the child be evaluated for special education services. Requests for evaluation should be made to the Director of Special Education.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1301, 1318, 1326, 1327, 1327.1, 1329, 1330, 1332, 1333, 1338, 1339, 1354, 1501, 1504, 1546

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.5, 11.8, 11.12, 11.13, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23, 11.24, 11.25, 11.26, 11.28, 11.32, 11.34, 11.41, 12.1

Board Policy – 000, 115, 116, 117, 118, 137, 200, 218, 233