



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

August 28, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

HB 39 and HB 706 passed during the 2012 session of the General Assembly require parents who teach their children at home in a home study program to provide to the Georgia Department of Education, rather than local school districts, an annual notice of intent to home school and an annual attendance report. The legal requirements for conducting home study programs in Georgia may be found at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690. Information describing the change in law is available on the Georgia Department of Education's website at the following link:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx>

The role of the Georgia Department of Education regarding home study programs is very limited. The Georgia Department of Education is only authorized to collect the name and ages of the students that attend home study programs, the address where the home study program is located, and a statement of the 12 month period that is to be considered the school year for that home study program. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Education is only authorized to require attendance records once per year.

Neither the Georgia Department of Education nor its employees shall be considered the school or school official for home study programs. Students attending home study programs are students of their respective home study programs and shall not be considered students of the Georgia Department of Education. Employees of the Georgia Department of Education will not complete any form, letter, or other paperwork that designates them as a school official for a home study program or the Georgia Department of Education as the school for a student attending a home study program.

If you have any questions regarding the role of the Georgia Department of Education and home study programs, please contact Mr. Patrick Blenke, Program Manager for the Georgia Department of Education, at ablenke@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-1765.

Sincerely,

Gregg Stevens
Deputy General Counsel

cc: Mr. Patrick Blenke

"Making Education Work for All Georgians"