

Home School Legal Clarifications – *Sent out in November, 2007*

Based on the questions that have come to the state office since the recent home school participation clarification, it appears that there is confusion concerning the regulatory guidelines for the involvement of home school students in NCCSA member schools. The NCCSA is not responsible for and has not established the legal academic requirements governing home school students. Neither can the NCCSA police how member schools interact with home school students in schools. The NCCSA athletic and fine arts participation guidelines for home school students that were recently revised have been established to protect member schools, and to provide continuity concerning eligibility requirements and competition.

North Carolina G.S. [115C-563\(a\)](#) provides the legal definition of a home school. In NC, home school students must receive their academic instruction from “*a parent; legal guardian; or, a member of the household in which the child resides.*” The key words are not **where** the instruction takes place, but **who** it is that provides the instruction. If a home school parent enrolls his child in a conventional school for academic instruction of core courses (language arts, math, science, and social studies), that parent could be in violation of compulsory attendance regulations and might be subject to charges from local officials. However, enrollment in elective learning activities such as foreign or sign language instruction, private music lessons, choral or band instruction, athletic related training, art instruction, keyboarding, computer usage, and other similar types of enrichment or skill development/enhancement activities would be legally acceptable for the home school student. In regards to NCCSA competitions, the recent clarification that was sent out will be enforced starting with the 2008-2009 school year.

Further explanation concerning home school regulations can be found on the North Carolina Division of Non-Public Education web site at:

<http://www.ncdnpe.org/hhh114g.htm>

Please feel free to contact me or the NCCSA state office if you have further questions.

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