



BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center

Medical Homebound

Your child's doctor has recommended that he or she be placed on "medical homebound" status. During this absence from school, our homebound program will help protect your child from getting behind academically.

The doctor will sign a homebound form stating that your child is medically unable to attend school for a period of time. Homebound services are not intended to cover non-medical absences. When the school receives the homebound form, it will assign a homebound teacher to assist your child with missed school instruction.

To prevent a delay in beginning services, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to take the homebound form to the school in a timely manner. We encourage you to submit the form to the school either in person or via fax within three days of receiving it from the doctor.

Additional responsibilities of the parent/guardian include ...

- Obtaining make-up work from the child's classroom teacher until the homebound teacher is assigned
- Following up with the school on a weekly basis until a homebound teacher has been assigned
- Maintaining contact with the homebound teacher to plan homebound visits and communicating with the teacher when your child is unable to receive services (e.g., hospitalized or too ill to do the work)

Your child is due **ONE HOUR OF HOMEBOUND SERVICES FOR EVERY DAY MISSED**. These hours can be "banked" and used in larger increments, or they can be saved until after your child returns to school if additional help is needed for him or her to catch up academically.

The physician will communicate with you, the school district and the School Intervention Program team when your child is medically cleared to return to school.

Full-time vs. Intermittent Homebound

In a full-time homebound situation, the doctor has determined that your child is **medically unable to attend school for a period of time**. These forms have a beginning and an end date. Homebound instruction provides your child the opportunity to make up the missed work during this period.

Once you submit the homebound form to your child's school, the school will forward it to the district office for approval. Please note the dates are important. **Keep a copy of the form for yourself so that you are aware of the dates.** Once the form expires, the school will expect your child to return to school unless a new homebound form is signed by the doctor and returned to the school by the parent.

In an intermittent homebound situation, the child's doctor has determined that because of side effects of treatment, there will be **days** when the child is unable to attend school (e.g., low blood counts, fever, recovering from a procedure), but is otherwise medically able to attend school most days.

This form keeps the parent from having to request individual school excuses for every day missed. The child is expected to attend school on days when he or she is well enough to do so. If the intermittent homebound form is not used appropriately, truancy concerns may arise. We are able to provide medical excuses only under limited circumstances to cover absences.

Promotion Is at the School's Discretion

The presence of our homebound services does not guarantee that a child will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of the school year. The school has the option to retain your child in his or her current grade level. Excessive absences, incomplete work and not using available academic services could contribute to this decision.