



September 2007
Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this Issue

1 Arizona Interscholastic Activities Rules and Regulations

2 Help Us With Address Changes

2 Redesigned Web Pages for Home Schooling

2 Withdrawal

3 Home School Tips

3 Editorial

4 Quotes on Education

Home School Liaison:
Candace Cochran

Phone: 602-506-3866

FAX: 602-506-3753

**Maricopa County
Superintendent of Schools**
4041 N. Central Suite 1100
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dr. Sandra E. Dowling
Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools

Home School Highlights

High School Activities

Many home schooled students want to participate in varsity athletics and other school activity programs when it comes time for high school. This may mean football, basketball, track, baseball, volleyball, softball, wrestling, swimming, tennis, golf, soccer, cross country, cheer, spirit line or any other authorized sports.

It also may include activities such as speech and debate, chess, theatre, music, J.R.O.T.C., and winter guard. These activities also fall under the guidelines of the Arizona Interscholastic Association rules and regulations.



Arizona Revised Statutes

Specific restrictions on open enrollment and sports and other programs are created by Arizona Revised Statute 15-802.01, which addresses children instructed at home and participation in interscholastic activities.

15-802.01. Children instructed at home; eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities

A. Notwithstanding any other law, a child who resides within the attendance area of a public school and who is instructed at home shall be allowed to try out for interscholastic activities on behalf of the public school in the same manner as a pupil who is enrolled in that public school. Registration, age eligibility requirements, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior and performance policies for home schooled students shall be consistent with those policies established for students enrolled in that public school. The individual providing the primary instruction of a child who is instructed at home shall submit written verification that provides:

1. Whether the student is receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.
2. Whether the student is maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement or promotion.

B. A child who is instructed at home and who was previously enrolled in a school shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities for the remainder of the school year during which the child was enrolled in a school.

C. A school district shall not contract with any private entity that supervises interscholastic activities if the private entity prohibits the participation of children instructed at home in interscholastic activities at public, private or charter schools.



What the Rules Mean

Home schooled students must register for interscholastic activities at the high school in which attendance boundaries the student resides. There are no exceptions for this under Arizona law.

Continued from Page 1

Most parents of home schooled students are aware of the open enrollment choices available for academic courses. However, those liberal rules do not apply to inter-scholastic activities.

In addition, any student who has attended any school within the past school year is not eligible to participate in the interscholastic activities for the following school year.

(photos courtesy: *Sonoran News*)

Address Changes

The Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools is responsible for maintaining records of students being home schooled. To help us with that assignment, we are asking you to

contact us with any changes in address.

Usually, the post office will forward mail for a while, but some future deliveries may be returned to sender.

To help us stay in touch with you and to help us maintain our records we ask that that you please call us with address changes. Or, just add us to the list of those who will get change of address cards. Mail your change to the attention of Home School Liaison at 4041 N. Central Ave, Suite 1100, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

You can reach our Home School Liaison at 602-506-3144.

New Web Look

Three have been some major changes to the home schooling sections of the

Internet site for the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools. Candace Cochran, Home School Liaison, worked closely with Technical Services to create a web site that was functional and efficient for parents to use.

The web address is:

www.maricopa.gov/Schools



Besides an ever changing bulletin board of tips for home schooling, the newly designed site provides information on getting started at home, provides forms, lists resources you can use, and makes requesting an appointment with us easy to do. The site also has a suggestion box for you to give us ideas on serving you better.

Withdrawal

Sometimes parents decide to place their children into a public, charter, or private school. Often, this is because the child has become high school age or wants to go to middle grades with his or her friends.

When you move your child into another educational setting, please let our office know. The records are very important so that we count home schooled students properly. Also, by letting us know, we will save additional taxpayer dollars by not mailing unnecessary documents to your home.

Call our Home School Liaison to advise of such changes at 602-506-3144.

Home Schooling is a Valuable Choice for Parents

Dear Parents –

I have long supported choices for our students for their education. In Arizona, we now have options of using regular public schools, charter public schools, private schools, on-line classes, and home schooling. It was the support of choice that encouraged me to create the Pappas Schools that help educate the homeless children in our communities. While those children could attend other schools, there was an obvious need to provide services and support an environment that was directed at meeting their special requirements.

Those who choose home schooling recognize the particular needs of their children. It's a choice that can make a difference in your child's future.

Parents who make the commitment to instruct their children at home are to be commended. It's a big task to plan curriculum, purchase books and supplies, create lesson plans, teach classes, and create opportunities for outside activities that add to the learning process.

In my experience, the results of your efforts to teach your children have been outstanding. Children that are home schooled consistently master the content areas of individual subjects. Your opportunity for choice in education will continue to be defended by this office.


Dr. Sandra Dowling

TIPS FOR HOME

From Our Web Site

1. Organize, organize, organize. Organization will make it easier for you to teach and for your student to learn.
2. Make learning fun for you and your student.
3. Design a set schedule for your home schooling time and focus only on educating, not on other distractions.
4. Be flexible in your teaching style and change things up for your students sometimes.
5. Be confident that you can educate your child and do a good job doing it.
6. When all else fails, READ!
7. Be sure to use the library and check into programs or events that they may be having.
8. Make curriculum development more manageable by taking it piece by piece.
9. Know what your home school rights are and what the statutes say about home schooling.
10. Collaborate with other home school families to get tips and ideas on lesson plans, curriculum, and activities.
11. Get your child involved with home school activities.
12. Be creative when designing your home school lessons, the kids won't get bored and neither will you.
13. Field trips can sometimes offer the most valuable lessons.
14. If your current curriculum isn't working for you, change it.
15. Take comfort in the fact that your student is getting a one-on-one education that is completely personalized.
16. Become familiar with your student's learning style and cater to it.
17. Get new home school ideas and materials by attending a home school conference or curriculum fair.
18. Keep track of your student's progress so that they can see what they're achieving.

19. Let your children's creativity run wild! This keeps learning and fun in the forefront.
20. Don't forget to let your student learn about the arts.
21. Give yourself and your student a little bit of time to adjust to home schooling and to get into a routine.
22. Don't just be your student's teacher, but their cheerleader too.
23. There are going to be rough home school days. Know this and learn to turn them around.
24. Listen to what your student is really saying: "I'm bored", "This is too easy", or "This is too hard".
25. Encourage your student's goals and help them in any way you can to accomplish them.
26. Know that there is never a dull moment when home schooling and use it to your advantage.
27. Lessons can be learned in just about every situation in life. Take all that you can out of it.
28. Home schooling doesn't mean you have to be stuck in the house.
29. Take an interest in what your student is interested in.
30. Always encourage your students to reach to new educational heights. You can never go too high.

 *In the future, quarterly editions of Home School Highlights can be accessed on our website at www.maricopa.gov/schools*



OPINION

Nearly everyone is aware of the charges brought against Dr. Sandra Dowling, Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools. There have been allegations of misappropriation, theft, fraud, and nearly any such claim as could be thought of by the government.

Many home schooling parents have called and asked about those charges and the status of Dr. Dowling.

Through all of this, Dr. Dowling has repeatedly noted she denies each and every one of the alleged actions. Many of the claims against her have been dismissed by a judge who ruled that the prosecution withheld evidence from the grand jury in a systematic manner. The evidence would have given reasons for the grand jury to believe Sandra Dowling **did not** commit the crimes alleged against her.

Terry Goddard, the Arizona Attorney General who brought the case against the Superintendent has since withdrawn from the matter because of a conflict of interest.

The goal of the Board of Supervisors appears to be to remove Dr. Dowling from office.

A civil case brought by the County Supervisors against

Continued from Page 3

Dr. Dowling has been dropped by the Board. Since then, they have brought a separate civil action against Dr. Dowling that is pending in the courts. The reason for the change in courts appears to be, according to friends of Dr. Dowling, designed to create insurmountable legal fees for her.

Still, Dr. Dowling has maintained her determination to see this to the ultimate vindication of her character. In the meantime, she continues to serve the people of Maricopa County as the Superintendent of Schools, including the parents who home school their children.

With nearly 20 years of service to our children and residents, Dr. Dowling remains committed to the education of our young people.
- Alan Richardson



"...no endeavor is more important than the education of our children..."

**-Dr. Sandra E. Dowling,
Superintendent**

THOUGHTS ON HOME SCHOOL

"In general the best teacher or care-giver cannot match a parent of even ordinary education and experience." --Dr. Raymond Moore

"My grandmother wanted me to get an education, so she kept me out of school." --Margaret Mead

"If the schools were perfect, I would still home school my children--because it isn't about school. It's about families taking their children back and educating them as they see best. It's about giving birth to a child and loving that child enough to want to nurture him and be a part of his life until he no longer needs you. It is the natural thing to do. School is only a substitute for the real thing." --Kathleen McCurdy



Dr. Sandra E. Dowling
Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools
4041 N. Central Ave. Suite 1100
Phoenix, Arizona 85012



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

