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To: Potential Home School Parents
From: Lori Loving, Asst. Regional Superintendent
Lorenzo Pugh, Project-Stay in Truancy
Regarding: Major issues related to home schooling

Dear Parent,

Here is a summary of the major issues regarding home schooling in Illinois

1. The instruction must be for **five hours per day**.
2. The instruction must be in the **English language**.
3. The subjects must be comparable to what is taught in the public schools, including: (**Language Arts, Math, Reading, Social Studies, Science, and Health/Physical Education.**)
4. While the teacher does not have to be a certified teacher, they should be **competent** to give instruction to the student.
5. When and if the students return to public schools, **the public schools have the right to test the students and place them at the grade level they believe is proper**. This ruling is based on legal opinions the Regional Office has received from the Illinois State Board of Education. Those opinions are based on, and are an extension of, the Illinois School Code Section **10-20.12**.
6. **The parent who is starting home schooling should inform the local school of their intentions. This will assist** the local school in dropping the child from their rolls.
7. The parent should fill out the **Home School Registration Form** with the **Regional Office of Education**.
8. The parent should **keep records** as to what the student has covered in the subject matter areas. Sometime in the future, it is possible that an office of education may require an accounting of this type.
9. According to the following citation, parents **have the burden of proof** that their home schooling satisfies the law, should the home schooling become problematic. **The requirements that the instruction be for five hours per day, that the home schooling subjects are equivalent to those offered in the public school, and that the instructor is competent to give instruction have posed problems in the past.** Reasonable expectations have been established to satisfy the burden of proof.

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