

Home and Hospital Services Frequently Asked Questions

Questions Regarding Eligibility

Are students who attend private schools while enrolled part-time in a public school eligible for H/H services?

Yes. A student who is enrolled part-time in a public school prior to their absence is eligible for H/H services. However, the H/H services are limited to the classes that the student is enrolled in at the public school and cannot include the student's private school classes.

Are students who are home schooled while enrolled part-time in a public school eligible for H/H services?

Yes. Students who were enrolled part-time in a public school prior to their absences are eligible for H/H services. However, the H/H services are limited to the classes that the student was enrolled in prior to becoming absent and would not include any home school curriculum.

Are students who are home schooled and not part-time enrolled in a public school, eligible for H/H services?

No. Only students who are part-time or full-time enrolled in public school are eligible to receive H/H services.

Are H/H services available for students enrolled part-time or full-time in an Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) program?

This would be dependent on the attendance requirement of the ALE program. H/H services are available to students who are temporarily unable to attend school. If the ALE course does not require attendance in a classroom and daily absences are not recorded, the student's ALE enrollment would not be eligible for H/H services. If instead there were a component of seat-time in a classroom required by the ALE course and if the student is expected to be absent for at least four weeks from the classroom requirement, then the student's ALE enrollment would be eligible for H/H services.

Can a student who is expelled qualify?

No. Students are eligible for H/H services because they are unable to attend school due to a temporary illness or injury. A student who is expelled would not qualify for H/H services because they are not attending school due to expulsion. However, districts are responsible to provide educational services to expelled students. The services could look like H/H services, where a tutor is sent to the home to provide the educational services, but these visits cannot be claimed for H/H services.



Can a student enrolled full time in a private school, enroll in public school just for the purpose of receiving H/H services?

No. A student must be first a public-school student prior to becoming absent. H/H services provide tutoring for classes a student is enrolled in at a public school – not tutoring for a student’s private school classes.

If a student is hospitalized in a district that is different from the district the student is enrolled in, which district is responsible for providing the H/H services?

A student’s resident district is responsible to provide H/H services. If a student is hospitalized for an extended period of time in a hospital located in a different school district, then the student’s resident district will change. A resident district is one in which a student is expected to reside for at least 20 consecutive days (See [WAC 392-121-115](#)).

However, even if a student’s resident district changes, the student’s original school district may continue to provide the H/H services since the student will be returning to the original district. Ideally, the district where the hospital is located, and the student’s original district should work together to best accommodate the student’s H/H service needs.

Can a student who is hospitalized at Seattle Children’s Hospital qualify for H/H services?

No. Seattle Children’s Hospital is provided direct funding from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to offer tutoring for hospitalized students. More information can be found at their website: [Seattle Children's Hospital, School Services](#), or by phone at 206-987-6534.

While a student is hospitalized at Seattle Children’s Hospital, H/H services cannot be claimed. Additionally, students may not be claimed for state funding on the monthly Forms P-223 or P-223H.

Can a student receive H/H services in the summer?

If the student is enrolled in summer school classes that are designed to earn credit and are not enrichment, the student may be eligible to receive H/H services if all H/H criteria are met.

Can a student with a baby postpartum qualify for H/H services?

Yes. A student is eligible for H/H services during her postpartum recovery, provided a qualified medical practitioner certifies that the student is expected to be absent for at least four weeks. H/H services are not available for students caring for an infant.

Questions Regarding Week Limitations

If a qualified medical practitioner writes an order for four weeks and the student returns to school sooner, is the district still eligible to receive H/H reimbursement?



Yes. If the student returns to school earlier than the expected four weeks of absence, the district can receive H/H reimbursement for the amount of time the student received H/H services.

Is the amount of time a student will receive H/H services limited to a qualified medical practitioner’s estimated weeks of absence?

No. To initially qualify for H/H services, a student must be expected to be absent from school for a minimum of 4 weeks as certified by a qualified medical practitioner. However, if a student is absent for a longer amount of time than what the qualified medical practitioner estimated, the student could continue to qualify for H/H services for up to 18 weeks.

Are H/H services limited to 18 weeks per student illness or 18 weeks total for the school year?

H/H services are limited to 18 weeks total per school year. Exceptions may be granted based upon individual circumstances. To request an extension, contact Health Services at OSPI.

What are the factors that are considered in determining extensions?

The factors that are considered include:

- The nature of the health condition, whether it is projected to be resolved soon or if it is ongoing.
- Whether there are, less than four weeks left in the school year.
- Whether the student is scheduled to graduate that school year.
- Whether or not the student is expected to be well enough to attend school the following year.

Keep in mind that any condition expected to be ongoing (past 18 weeks) does not meet the temporary condition requirements for H/H services. Alternative options for student access to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) should be considered, including Section 504 or special education services for conditions expected to exceed 18 weeks.

What occurs if the qualified medical practitioner writes a request for H/H services for longer than 18 weeks?

The program is limited to 18 weeks per school year, with rare extensions granted after consultation with OSPI.

What is the obligation if a student’s need for H/H services extends beyond the 18 weeks limitation?

If a student requires tutoring or home/hospital services because of a medical condition for more than 18 weeks, the district, charter school, or tribal compact school should carefully consider referring the student for an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services for homebound services. Refer to FAQ #27.



Does time provided in the Seattle Children’s Hospital program count against the 18-week limitation?

No. The program at Seattle Children’s Hospital is a separate program. The student’s time at this hospital does not count towards the 18 weeks limitation for H/H services.

May a student who receives H/H services in one school year, be eligible for H/H services in the next school year?

Yes. H/H services provided in one school year does not limit eligibility for the next school year. However, for the new school year, the student must meet the eligibility requirements independent of the previous year’s request and a new request for H/H services is required. Consideration should be taken to ensure that the student’s needs are being met solely with H/H services. It may be appropriate to consider the student’s needs through a Section 504 plan or special education services.

Questions Regarding Tutor Requirements

Who can act as a H/H tutor?

A school district, charter school, or tribal compact school determines who will act as H/H tutor and how many hours per week of H/H services will be provided. A H/H tutor must be employed or contracted by the school district. Volunteers, parents, and students who are not employed or contracted with the district are not eligible to provide H/H services.

Does a H/H tutor need to be a certificated instructional staff member?

If a student’s H/H services will include direct teaching instruction, the tutor must be a certificated instructional staff member. If the H/H services will only include assistance to help a student to remain current with his/her school assignments, then the tutor does not need to be certified. However, if the student were eligible to receive Title I or special education services, additional requirements would apply. See the following links for additional information:

- [Paraeducators Guidelines](#)
- [Special Educator, Paraeducator](#)

Can a H/H tutor administer a state assessment?

Yes. However, the H/H tutor must be trained as a proctor as described in the directions for administering the assessment.

Who determines how H/H services will be implemented?

Generally, a school district determines when, how often, and by whom H/H services will be provided based on its district policy. However, if a student were eligible for special education, then the IEP team would determine the H/H services. See WAC 392-172A-02100.



Can H/H services be provided over a weekend?

Yes. There is nothing that prohibits H/H services from being provided over the weekend. However, the reimbursement amount would not be more, since weekends are not school days.

Reporting Students Receiving H/H Services

How is H/H services funding calculated?

H/H reimbursement is funded based on the amount of weeks a student received H/H services. To calculate the weeks, you begin with the first day of H/H services, count each missed school day until the last day of H/H services and then divide by 5.

Can a student receiving H/H services be counted for basic education funding on the monthly Form P-223?

In most cases, students who are absent for more than 20 consecutive school days are excluded from being counted on the monthly Form P-223 for basic education funding. However, if the student participated in a course of study during the current school year, prior to his extended absence, and the parent/guardian and the district create a written agreement that states the student's academic progress will continue while absent and the student will return to school by the end of the school year, the student's enrollment can be counted on the next two months Form P-223. If the student does not return to school, the enrollment must be removed from the two months he/she was claimed while absent.

Students who do not attend school at the beginning of a school year due to an extended absence requiring H/H services, would not meet the requirement of participating in a course of study prior to becoming absent, and cannot be claimed on a monthly Form P-223 until participation begins.

Can a student receiving H/H services be counted for special education funding on the monthly Form P-223H?

Yes. A student who has an active individual education program (IEP) and current evaluation in place on the monthly count day, and who received special education services in the prior month, can be claimed for special education funding on the Form P-223H. The special education services can be provided at the student's home or hospital.

How should a student who is absent and receiving H/H services be reported for CEDARS?

It would depend. If the student is actively participating in educational services, he/she should not be reported as absent in CEDARS. If the student is not participating, the school days he/she is absent should be reported in CEDARS as excused absences.



504 Questions Regarding Eligibility

What services must a school district provide if a student is anticipated to remain absent for more than 18 weeks?

H/H services are designed to be only temporary and, in most cases, can only be provided for 18 weeks. If a student is expected to be absent for longer than 18 weeks due to an ongoing medical condition, a school district must take steps to determine if the student requires a Section 504 plan or should be referred for a special education evaluation. Under federal and state Child Find requirements the school district must take steps to conduct child find activities calculated to locate, evaluate, and identify all students who are in need of a Section 504 plan or special education and related services, regardless of the severity of their disability. H/H services should not be used to delay a referral for a Section 504 or special education evaluation.

Section 504 Plans - Most students with a health condition, that requires a student to be homebound, would qualify as a student with a disability under Section 504 and may require a 504 plan and related accommodations. Accommodations may include providing home tutoring beyond the time available under the H/H program. A student's 504 team determines how to provide a student who cannot attend school with a free and appropriate education (FAPE).

It should be noted that an impairment that is episodic or in remission constitutes a disability under Section 504 for purposes of FAPE if it would substantially limit a major life activity for the student when active. If it is foreseeable that a student's illness would require H/H services on an intermittent basis, the student should be evaluated, and a Section 504 plan developed that could include H/H services depending on the student's needs. For more information, see:

- [A Parent & Educator Guide to Free Appropriate Public Education](#)
- [OSPI Equity & Civil Rights Website](#)

Special Education Services – A student with a health condition, which requires a student to be absent from school, may be eligible to receive special education services. A school district who suspects a student may have a disability and may be in need of special education services, must follow special education referral procedures as stated in [WAC 392-172A-03005](#). See also [OSPI Special Education, Technical Assistance Paper No. 1 \(TAP 1\) Revised](#).

If a student becomes hospitalized or homebound due to a medical condition, and is already eligible to receive special education services, then the student's IEP team would determine if the student's placement should be changed to a homebound placement and what services the student will receive in the homebound placement.

Can a student be on a Section 504 plan and obtain H/H services at the same time?

Yes. H/H services may be used on a temporary basis for a student with a Section 504 plan.



If a student is currently receiving H/H services, but a Section 504 plan is developed, can H/H services continue?

H/H services should continue as directed until a Section 504 plan is implemented.

