

Home and Hospital Teaching

What is home and hospital teaching?

Home and hospital teaching (HHT) provides educational continuity to students who are unable to attend their usual school of enrollment due to an emotional disability, physical illness, or chronic illness. In order to qualify, the student must provide a statement from the relevant doctor stating why the condition prevents the student from attending school and for how long. Most school systems have a HHT application form that must be completed by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist.

Which conditions qualify special education students for HHT?

- Emotional disability – a condition that presents for a long period of time and adversely affects a child's education such as:
 - Anxiety disorder
 - Bipolar disorder
 - Conduct disorder
 - Eating disorder
 - Obsessive compulsive disorder
 - Psychotic disorder
- Physical illness – applies to students with a physical condition that prevents a student from attending school for an anticipated three weeks such as:
 - An acute medical condition
 - Surgery
- Concurrent enrollment or chronic illness – applies to students with a chronic illness including, but not limited to:
 - Asthma
 - Cancer
 - Sickle cell anemia
 - Kidney failure
 - Juvenile diabetes
 - Cystic fibrosis
 - Cardiac disorders
 - Emotional conditions such as depression or bipolar disorders

We are all born with great potential.
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Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
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Can schools refuse to provide HHT to qualifying children because there is virtual schooling available?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) does not permit the U.S. Department of Education or school systems to waive the requirement of providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE), of which HHT is a part. Due to COVID-19, if online schooling is available, this may be appropriate rather than HHT. However, if a child's illness prevents them from participating in a full day of remote/distance education, HHT services may still be needed.

Are students with health and immunity risks able to refuse in-person instruction?

HHT services are triggered by a note from a relevant doctor explaining why the student's health condition makes them unable to participate in regular schooling. Should schools return to in-person (without an option for remote/distance education) while COVID-19 is still a risk, students with health and immunity risks are able to acquire doctors' notes stating their inability to attend school in-person. This note should include the following:

- The patient's medical condition;
- How the patient's medical condition affects schooling; and
- The length of time the student is expected to be out of school.

It is important that the doctor's note indicate why the student's health is at elevated risk during COVID-19. As with all HHT services, the individualized education program (IEP) team will take the doctor's note into consideration and make an eligibility determination.

To apply for HHT services, contact your child's IEP team or your school system's HHT office to request a HHT application.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
HHT technical assistance (TA) bulletin (18-01):
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/TAB.aspx>.

Contact information

For more information, please contact us at **443-923-4414** or visit **ProjectHEAL.KennedyKrieger.org**.

Location: 716 N. Broadway, Office 106
Baltimore, MD 21205

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