

MEMORANDUM

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

TO: CPS Regional Directors
CPS Program Administrators
CPS Program Directors

FROM: Audrey Deckinga
Assistant Commissioner for CPS

SUBJECT: Home School Policy for
Children and Youth in DFPS
Conservatorship



DATE: November 5, 2012 **PSA 13-011**

This memorandum serves to remind CPS staff on the established policies and procedures concerning home school education and its application to children and youth in the conservatorship of DFPS. DFPS staff is not responsible for monitoring the home school education and instructional delivery to children and youth not in DFPS conservatorship.

CPS Policy 15230 Exceptions to Standard School Options directs caseworkers to enroll children and youth in DFPS conservatorship into local neighborhood schools. Local neighborhood public schools can provide students with standard statewide curriculum, assessments, intervention strategies to address academic and behavior issues, as well as provide services to support special education needs and accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

- Reports involving the abuse or neglect of home-schooled children are assessed based on the same criteria and intake guidelines as any other CPS report. The practice of home schooling is not a sole factor in investigating reports for child abuse or neglect.
- Home schools are not subject to inspection, monitoring, or regulation by the Texas Education Agency or by local school districts. (See 4491 Reports of Abuse or Neglect That Involve Home Schooling-SWI Policy and Procedures December 2010)
- State law allows parents to choose to educate their child outside of the public school system. Home schooling can take many forms, including participation in a home school co-operative, enrollment in a computer-based or online instruction, or blended instruction with public or private

school providers. Curriculums will vary from accredited programs to individualized instruction.

- **CPS Policy 15231 (Requesting an Exception for Home Schooling)** establishes the procedures to request an exception to the requirement to enroll children and youth in DFPS conservatorship in local neighborhood public schools. Current foster parents can request an exception to the education policy through the DFPS caseworker and the review and approval from the CPS assistant commissioner. Prospective foster parents and caregivers should be made aware of the DFPS home school policy during initial and subsequent training.

For additional information, please contact Kristine Mohajer, CPS Education Program Specialist at (512) 438-3148 or your Regional Education Specialist.

Action:

Supervisors must review this information with CPS workers.

Contact:

Kristine Mohajer, Regional Education Specialist, at (512) 438-3148.