

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Compulsory Attendance Ages: “Between the ages of five (5) and seventeen (17)...or until the completion of the twelfth (12th) grade or upon meeting the high school graduation requirements.” Commonwealth of the Marianas Code § 3-1131.

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days, 300 minutes a day in secular instruction. CNMI Administrative Code § 60-20-535(f)(1).

Required Subjects: None.

Homeschool Statute: Commonwealth of the Marianas Code § 3-1131 and CNMI Administrative Code § 60-20-535.

“The Commissioner may grant individual waivers to this compulsory attendance requirement in cases of approved home study.” CMC 3, § 1131.

1. An application must annually be submitted to the Commissioner at least 60 days prior to beginning of school year. “No one will be excused from attending a public or nonpublic school unless the Commissioner has granted a waiver.” CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(a).

The application must include:

- a. Name, address, and telephone of parent and student or tutor
 - b. Justification for the home study program
 - c. Auspices under which the home study will operate and curriculum will be taught
 - d. Description and qualification of parent-instructor or tutor and, for any hired tutor, police clearance for the past three years
 - e. Dates and hours of instruction
 - f. For a hired tutor, negative active tuberculosis records; and
 - g. Any other pertinent and necessary information as requested by the Commissioner of Education. CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(a).
2. The Commissioner will take action on a timely submitted application “before the beginning of the school year.” CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(b).
 3. At the end of the school year, submit a copy of the attendance record and goals of the homeschool program to the school the student would attend if he or she were enrolled in public school. “A chartered home study program shall keep adequate records for the student containing persons in attendance, goals and such information as required by the Commissioner. Records of courses taken shall be transferred at the end of the school year to a school where the student would otherwise be attending and shall be kept on file there for at least five years.” CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(d).

4. The parents shall submit to the Commissioner monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on the progress of the program. CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(e).
5. “The PSS [Public School System] shall monitor the Home Study Program to ensure compliance with its application and this section.” CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(f)(3).
6. “Parents/guardians, including mentors of any home study students, shall cooperate, provide information and access and assist the Commissioner in any inquiry or investigation conducted regarding application, monitoring and related matters. Failure to cooperate constitutes reason for disapproval of an application or suspension or revocation of a waiver.” CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(g).

Teacher Qualifications: None for parents. “Mentors of a home study program shall meet the qualifications stipulated by Board policies.” CNMI Admin. Code § 60-20-535(f)(2).

Standardized Tests: None.