

Home-based vs. Homeschooled vs. Homebound

Helping Special Education Directors, Teachers, and Staff Identify Key Differences

These learning environments can be confusing, and some are often misinterpreted or misused. Each environment has specific statutory references or policies and procedures for implementation. Review the comparison below to understand the key differences in each.

Home-based Home Placement Home Instruction

Home Placement (Home-based Instruction) is one of the most restrictive placement options along the continuum of service delivery models available for students with disabilities. The individualized education program (IEP) team determines the student's least restrictive environment (LRE), reviews and revises the student's IEP as necessary to ensure a free appropriate public education (FAPE) continues to be provided. This placement is not typical and often may be temporary.

Homeschooled

As outlined in A.R.S. §15-802, homeschooled means a non-public school taught primarily by the parent, guardian or other person who has custody of the child or non-public instruction provided in the child's home. If eligible, homeschooled students may receive special education and related services under a service plan. There is no entitlement to special education and related services, however, the student may be provided equitable services through a service plan under a school district's proportionate amount of federal funding on students in this type of parental/private placement (34 CFR §§300.130-300.144).

Homebound Hospitalized

Governed by A.R.S. §15-901(B)(15), a homebound or hospitalized setting is used when a student is unable to attend school due to illness, disease, accident or other health condition(s). The student must be examined by a medical doctor and be certified by that doctor as being unable to attend regular classes for a period greater than three school months. The medical certification shall state the general medical condition, such as illness, disease or chronic health condition. Homebound or hospitalized setting includes a student who is unable to attend school for a period of less than three months due to a pregnancy if a medical doctor, after an examination, certifies that the student is unable to attend regular classes due to risk to the pregnancy or to the student's health. Please contact School Finance for further information not involving special education.