



public and foreign  
relations department

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### **Education of children/youth with medical needs in hospital or at home**

Thank you for sending us information about the work and future plans of HOPE. Please find our answers to your questions about home and hospital schooling below.

1) Legislation that regulates the right of ill children to acquire education

The state and local governments shall ensure that everyone in Estonia has the opportunity to fulfil the obligation to attend school and the opportunity to engage in continuing education, under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure prescribed by legislation (*Republic of Estonia Education Act, § 4 (1)*)

#### **Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act:**

§ 17.(1) Children who attain 7 years of age by 1 October of the current year are subject to the obligation to attend school. Students are subject to the obligation to attend school until they acquire basic education or attain 17 years of age.

§ 20. The obligation to attend school may also be fulfilled by studying at home. The procedure for home schooling shall be established by a regulation of the Minister of Education and Research.

§ 4 (1) Depending on the need of students to receive special education, special support, special treatment due to behavioural problems, or treatment, a basic school or an upper secondary school may be a school for students with special needs or be a sanatorium school.

**Procedure for Home Schooling** (Regulation No. 83 of the Minister of Education and Research dated 21 December 2007)

#### **§ 1. Fundamentals for Organisation of Home Schooling**

(1) For the purposes of this regulation, home schooling shall mean organisation of studies outside the premises of a school due to the state of health of the pupil or due to the studies being organised by a parent (guardian, custodian).

(2) The rural municipality or city government of the residence of a pupil whose special educational needs that arise from his or her state of health (hereinafter *home schooling due to health reasons*) do not allow the pupil to take part in studies conducted in the premises of a school shall create opportunities for such a pupil to acquire basic education by studying outside a school (at home, in a day centre, etc.).

(4) Home schooling for hospitalised children who are acquiring basic education shall be called hospital schooling.

#### **§ 2. Home Schooling for Health Reasons**

(1) Pupils acquiring basic education who have a serious functional impairment, illness or disability, or whose state of health may cause it and whose nearest school in their place of residence does not have the possibilities

and conditions for conducting studies proceeding from the special needs of the pupil shall be entitled to home schooling for health reasons.

(2) The decision to allow for home schooling of a pupil due to health reasons is made by a counselling committee on the basis of a recommendation made by a specialist or general practitioner pursuant to the petition of a parent.

(4) The counselling committee may prescribe home schooling for up to three years after which the need to extend home schooling shall be reviewed. The minimum duration of home schooling shall be two quarters of an academic year. An individual curriculum shall be applied for the student in the event of a shorter period.

(5) After hospitalisation and with the consent of the parent (guardian, custodian), the attending physician may prescribe home schooling for the pupil for the duration of recovery until the end of the academic year.

### § 3. Organisation of Home Schooling for Health Reasons

(1) Home schooling for health reasons shall be organised by the school where the pupil is enrolled.

(2) The school cooperates with the parents of the pupil in home schooling to prepare an individual curriculum that considers the abilities and special needs of the pupil and is based on the recommendations of the attending physician and the counselling committee, and the mandatory subjects stipulated in the national curriculum that applies to the pupil. The teacher who conducts the home schooling shall be responsible for preparing the curriculum and organising the schooling.

(3) Schooling under the instruction of the school is conducted for pupils in home schooling in the extent of at least 8 lessons a week.

### § 4. Assessment of Pupils in Home Schooling due to Health Reasons

(1) The knowledge of pupils in home schooling shall be assessed according to the provisions of the individual curriculum, but a summary assessment must take place at least once in six months.

### § 9. Organisation of Hospital Schooling

(1) Hospital schooling is organised for children for whom school attendance is compulsory, but who are hospitalised.

(2) Hospital schooling is organised by the hospital and the local government in whose territory the hospital is located. The local government shall determine the school(s) whose teachers shall organise hospital schooling.

(3) Schooling shall be made available to hospitalised pupils from the first day of hospitalisation. Organisation of schooling and preparation of an individual curriculum shall be based on the pupil's state of health. The teacher shall coordinate the organisation of schooling with the attending physician and the content of the schooling with the home school of the pupil.

(4) The teacher's task is to support the pupil's motivation to study and to supervise their learning.

(5) The teachers shall keep a journal about the schooling, which shall contain the pupil's personal data (first name and surname, school and class), the time of their hospitalisation, the dates and content of consultations, their assessment and grades to the pupil.

(6) When the pupil leaves the hospital, the hospital schooling teacher will send a written notice to the pupil's home school detailing the content of the schooling conducted in the hospital, the verbal assessments and grades given to the pupil and recommendations about the further organisation of schooling.

### 2) Supervision and the obligation to organise schooling

*Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act.*

§ 17 (5) Rural municipality or city governments shall register children subject to the obligation to attend school. The rural municipality or city government along with schools shall monitor the performance of the obligation to attend school and create conditions for the compliance therewith.

§ 48 (1) The Ministry of Education and Research or the county governor commissioned by the Minister of Education and Research shall exercise state supervision over schooling and education in schools.

(5) The functions of a state supervisory agency shall be the following:

- 1) to monitor the compliance with the requirements arising from legislation in the field of education;
- 2) to analyse problems arising during the implementation of legislation regulating schooling and education.

Estonia has introduced the web-based Estonian Education Information System (EEIS) that is tied to the population register and contains registers of all pupils, teachers/lecturers, educational institutions, curricula and graduation certificates. All educational institutions are obliged to enter data in the register and it is the basis used for funding and statistics. The register allows all local governments to monitor that all children (including ill children) comply with compulsory school attendance and whenever necessary, they can take measures to guarantee that this is done.

### 3. Statistics

1,300 to 1,500 children per year receive hospital schooling in Estonia. These are children who are hospitalised for more than 10 days. Hospital schooling will be available from the first day of hospitalisation from 1 September 2008 and it is likely to increase the number of pupils who receive hospital schooling. Hospital schooling is currently offered in 5 hospitals (8 wards).

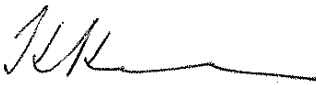
The number of pupils who were in home schooling due to health reasons in 2006/2007 was 1,047 (0.8% of all pupils of general educational institutions).

53 of these pupils (5% of all pupils) had to retake the whole year of schooling.

### 4. Preparation of teachers

Teachers in Estonia are not specially trained for home or hospital schooling.

Kind regards,



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Head of Department

Additional information:

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