



# MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Stanley W. DeJarnett, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Ralph M. Bennett, Jr., Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent

Sarah E. Burbach, Ed.S.  
Assistant Superintendent

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Summer 2010

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a great school year and a wonderful summer! Enclosed you will find your Declaration of Intent forms, attendance forms, and a letter concerning students with special needs. Return your Intent forms as soon as possible but attendance forms are not due until after your first month of school. Please remember to correctly total your days for each month and fill in the year-to-date total. This helps both of us keep up with the number of days you've had instruction. Please let me know of any changes that occur so that I can keep updated files. Please note that we are requesting email addresses this year on the Intent forms for use next summer. We will add a link to our website with the homeschool packet for the next year and would like to notify you by email with the link to the website instead of mailing the packets out to you. We are trying to cut back on mailing and printing costs and also make good use of the technology we have and we could get them to you quicker. If you prefer regular mail, note that on the Intent form.

If you know of events or organizations that may be of interest to other families, please call and let me know so I can pass the information on. We get new families throughout the year that request information that I often cannot provide. If I can enable them to network with families that are already home schooling; it would be a tremendous help. We have one Local Home School Association that you can call for help: ACHIEVE, contact person Debi Gallagher. (706)363-6866. Also, there is an Athens Area Homeschool Band. If interested, contact Karen Mullins at [knmeuph@gmail.com](mailto:knmeuph@gmail.com) or for more information about the homeschool band, you can go to [www.athenshomeschoolband.com](http://www.athenshomeschoolband.com).

Also, organizations ask for my home school mailing list to send you information that other public school students receive (such as the Recreation Dept or Dept. of Natural Resources); if you do not want your address given out, please note that on the Intent form when you return it.

If you have any questions, please call. **If you need forms or letters from me, i.e. drivers' license Certificate of Attendance, please call and give me at least a one-week notice.**

Thank you for your cooperation and I hope you have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Pamela Benford, LMSW  
School Social Worker

**MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*Special Student Services*

**Stanley Dejarnett**  
Superintendent

**1065 East Avenue**  
**Madison, Georgia 30650**  
**(706) 752-4600**  
**(706) 752-4601 Fax**

**Sarah E. Burbach**  
Director

Dear Parents:

State and federal special education rules (refer to 34 CFR 300.125) and regulations require that each local school system have in effect policies and procedures for the identification, location, and evaluation of all students with disabilities residing in Georgia, regardless of the services. These policies and procedures include students attending private schools and students who are home-schooled who are residents of the local school system.

If you suspect that your child is a child with a disability, the Morgan County School System will be able to provide assistance in determining eligibility for services and possible program development to assist your child. Please contact me at the Morgan County Board of Education for more information.

Sincerely,

Sarah Burbach, Assistant Superintendent  
Student Support and Community Relations

## Declaration of Intent to Utilize a Home Study Program

In accordance with provisions established by Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1) requiring that every parent, guardian, or other person(s) residing within this state having control or charge of any child(ren) between six and sixteen years of age shall enroll and send such child to a public school, a private school, or a home study program, I hereby give notice to the superintendent of     Morgan County     School System, of my intent to provide for the child(ren) named below a home instruction program that meets the following requirements.

1. Parents or guardians may teach only their own children in the home study program, provided the teaching parent or guardian possesses at least a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) equivalency diploma, but the parents or guardians may employ a tutor who holds a high school diploma or a general educational development diploma to teach such children;
2. The home study program shall provide a basic academic educational program which includes, but is not limited to, reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science;
3. The home study program must provide instruction each 12 months to home study students equivalent to 180 school days of education with each school day consisting of at least four and one-half school hours unless the child is physically unable to comply with the rule provided for in this paragraph;
4. Attendance records for the home study program shall be kept and shall be submitted at the end of each month to the school superintendent of the local school district in which the home study program is located. Attendance records and reports shall not be used for any purpose except providing necessary attendance information, except with the permission of the parent or guardian of a child, pursuant to the subpoena of a court of competent jurisdiction, or for verification of attendance by the Department of Driver Services for the purposes set forth in subsection (a.1) of Code Section 40-5-22 (Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act). *Because Code Section 40-2-22 applies to students above the age of 16, monthly attendance records should continue to be submitted for students who will be requesting a Certificate of Attendance in order to obtain their instruction permit or driver's license.*
5. Students in home study programs shall be subject to an appropriate nationally standardized testing program administered in consultation with a person trained in the administration and interpretation of norm reference tests to evaluate their educational progress at least every three years beginning at the end of the third grade and records of such tests and scores shall be retained but shall not be required to be submitted to public educational authorities; and
6. The home study program instructor shall write an annual progress assessment report which shall include the instructor's individualized assessment of the student's academic progress. Reports shall be retained by the parent(s) or guardian of children in the home study program for a period of at least three years.

<u><b>*Special Ed.</b></u>	<u><b>Name of Student(s) Enrolled</b></u>	<u><b>Birth Date of Student(s)</b></u>

\* Indicate by placing an "X" next to the name of any student who is identified as or suspected of needing special education services. Please note this section is optional.

The school year for this home study program is a 12-month period from \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ . I will notify the superintendent if my address changes or if I discontinue the home school program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Number) (City/State/Zip)

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**A Declaration of Intent must be submitted to your local school district within 30 days after the establishment of a home study program and by September 1 annually thereafter. You may find contact information for all school districts at [http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/\\_dbs/system\\_superintendents.asp](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/_dbs/system_superintendents.asp).**

