Eligibility for Hospital/Homebound

All students considered for Hospital Homebound must meet eligibility requirements following guidelines established by Exceptional Student Education including:

1. Is expected to be absent from school due to a physical or psychiatric condition for at least fifteen (15) consecutive school days, or the equivalent on the block schedule, or due to a chronic condition, for at least fifteen (15) school days, or the equivalent on a block schedule, which need not run consecutively;

2. Is confined to home or hospital and has restricted activities; Will be able to participate in and benefit from an instructional program;

3. Is under medical care for illness or injury which is acute, catastrophic, or chronic in nature; and

4. Can receive instructional services without endangering the health and safety of the instructor or other students with whom the instructor may come in contact.

Students who are referred by the physician for Hospital Homebound services must be confined to the home or hospital continuously for the period of time identified by the physician for Hospital Homebound services. The student’s physical ability to attend school functions, travel, access community activities, club or civic activities or otherwise leave the home for non-medical appointments will be considered when making a determination for eligibility for Hospital Homebound services.

Can Parents choose to place their child on Hospital/Homebound?

Hospital Homebound is a program under Exceptional Student Education and is considered the most restrictive setting in public education. Students must be found eligible following state and district guidelines before services can be initiated. Students will not be found eligible for Hospital Homebound if the student’s zone school can provide appropriate health services to the student.

There are several parent-choice educational programs available to students. Please contact your child’s school counselor for additional information on parent choice educational programs or (click on this link, insert link for VOL)

How does the Hospital/Homebound program work?

Hospital Homebound is designed to be a short-term program to assist students during a period of confinement to the home or hospital. Hospital/Homebound does not replicate a
traditional school day. The amount of direct instruction provided to the student is greatly reduced from the time that would be spent in a traditional school setting. Through a variety of service delivery models, the student remains connected to their brick and mortar school (known as the zone school); however, they will access the curriculum outside of the school setting. The most common way students access their instruction is through virtual education. Under certain conditions, an instructor may be assigned to work with the student in the home or hospital setting only.

Student course schedules will be developed following the Volusia County Schools student progression plan. Consideration will be given to the student’s medical condition when developing this schedule of classes.

Grades earned while participating in the Hospital/Homebound program will be shared with the student’s zone school. Any academic credit received through Hospital/Homebound will count as appropriate toward student progression and graduation criteria. For students who are in the Hospital/Homebound program at the end of the school year, final decision regarding promotion, retention, or graduation will be made by the Hospital/Homebound staff.

Students participating in the general education curriculum prior to determination of eligibility for Hospital/Homebound services will still be required to demonstrate mastery of standards to earn passing grades in coursework. Standardized testing and required exams will not be exempted based upon participation in Hospital/Homebound.

Additional Information for your consideration:

- The Physician’s referral is considered by the committee when making the determination for eligibility for Hospital/Homebound, but final decision regarding Hospital/Homebound services is made by the IEP eligibility committee.

- Prior to eligibility for services, it is expected that all efforts are made by the zone school to provide accommodations to the student in order for them to attend school.

- Students must be able to benefit from an educational program while participating in Hospital/Homebound. This includes accessing virtual coursework per schedule on a consistent basis, meeting with assigned instructors for prescribed periods of time, completing assignments and participating in standardized testing following state guidelines.

- Students must be currently enrolled in a Volusia County School in grades K – 12 prior to a physician making a referral for Hospital/Homebound services. Students age 3-5 (Pre K) must have an identified disability in order to be considered for Hospital/Homebound services.
Hospital/Homebound is not a “make-up program” when students get behind due to illness. Parents are expected to get missing assignments from the zone school when the student is absent. Hospital/Homebound classwork will only be assigned and graded beginning with the initiation of services after the eligibility staffing.

School attendance is monitored while Hospital/Homebound services are in effect. Students will be expected to sign an attendance contract upon initiation of Hospital/Homebound services. Unexcused student absences will be reported to the zone school. Excessive unexcused absences from Hospital/Homebound instruction will be referred to the School Social Worker for interventions. Continued eligibility in Hospital/Homebound may be impacted by unexcused student absences.