

## **HOME EDUCATION**

### **Background**

Parents are the primary educator of the child and parents have a right and a responsibility to make decisions regarding the education of their children. The Division, therefore, recognizes that parents may exercise this responsibility through a home education program with assistance from and under the supervision of the Division in order to ensure that the parents' educational goals are in accordance with the *Home Education Regulation* and their child will have an opportunity to meet provincially approved standards.

### **Procedures**

1. Parents of a student, or a student who is of legal age, are required to notify the Divisional Home Education Coordinator by completing the Alberta Education Intent to Home School form.

1.1 Students eligible to register in home education include:

1.1.1 Children who become six (6) years of age or more by September 1 of the school year in which they are to be enrolled.

1.1.2 Children who become six (6) years of age after September 1 of the school year in which they are to be enrolled and who are recommended for enrollment by school personnel, in consultation with the parents; and

1.1.3 Students who are less than twenty (20) years of age on September 1 of the school year they are to be enrolled.

2. The home education program must meet the requirements established by the Minister.

2.1 A parent who offers a program referred to in subsection 3 of the Home Education Regulation in the Education Act must provide a plan or program appropriate to the age and abilities of the student, including the following:

2.1.1 The skills and competencies to be taught in each subject area and the other learning objectives to be achieved;

2.1.2 The instructional methods and resources materials to be used to achieve the learning objectives; and

The Division will provide professional assistance and advice to parents who are preparing the above plan.

2.2 The Home Education Coordinator, shall decide on the suitability of the home education program and will give approval or non-approval. Parents will be notified of their right to appeal the decision of the Home Education Coordinator to the Superintendent, if the

program is not approved.

- 2.3 For students who have not been registered in a school, a cumulative record shall be started for that student.

### 3. Supervision and Evaluation

- 3.1 The Home Education Coordinator shall carry out monitoring and supervision activities required by the Home Education Regulation. Records regarding such matters as student data, visits, programming and progress shall be kept by the Home Education Coordinator and will be shared with the parents at their request.
  - 3.2 Home education students will be given the opportunity to participate in Alberta Achievement Tests.
  - 3.3 The Home Education Coordinator must ensure that home education programs include an assessment such as a portfolio or other documentation for evaluation purposes. Assessment is not limited to testing.
4. An ongoing assessment of home educated students will be carried out by the Home Education Coordinator to ensure parents educational goals are in accordance with the *Home Education Regulation* or their child will have an opportunity to meet provincially approved standards.
    - 4.1 Assessment of student achievement shall follow the guidelines as established by Alberta Education: Home Education Regulation, AR 89/2019.
    - 4.2 If reasonable achievement is not being shown, the parent shall be advised in writing.
      - 4.2.1 A copy of the letter shall be kept on file
      - 4.2.2 The letter shall include areas of deficiencies, recommendations for remediation and an offer to assist in meeting the expectations.
    - 4.3 If after one (1) month, reasonable achievement is still not being shown:
      - 4.3.1 In the case of Distance Learning courses, the parents/student shall be informed that the student will not be enrolled in any further Distance Learning courses by the Division; and, if they are under sixteen (16) years of age, that they must attend school.
      - 4.3.2 If after one (1) month, reasonable achievement is still not being shown, the Home Education Coordinator will notify the Superintendent to direct the child back to school.
      - 4.3.3 Parents will be advised of their right to appeal the decision to the Board.
5. Financial Support
    - 5.1 Parents will receive an instructional materials rebate as outlined by the following procedures.
      - 5.1.1 In a parent-directed program, parents can expect fifty percent (50%) of the education grant for home education students for the purchase of educational materials that are directly related to their home education plan. This rebate is based on receipts supplied by the parent and is subject to approval based on

the recommendations of Alberta Education of what should and should not be reimbursed.

- 5.1.2 In a shared responsibility program, parents will receive the percentage of the education grant for which they are responsible for and this is to be used for the purchase of educational materials that are directly related to their home education plan. This rebate is based on receipts supplied by the parent.
  - 5.1.3 When the school has provided materials for the parent directed portion of the student's programming, the full cost of distance learning materials/tuition will be deducted from the grant.
6. Parents of home education students and the Home Education Coordinator may enter into agreements with schools in the student's attendance area for the use of school facilities and equipment.
- 6.1 The parent may request use of school programs/facilities through the Home Education Coordinator.
  - 6.2 Parents shall consult with the Home Education Coordinator in cases where access to school programs or facilities is desired, e.g., learnings commons, computers, and specific courses of study.
  - 6.3 Admission of students for school-sponsored, extra-curricular activities will be at the discretion of the school Principal. If costs are involved, parents will be informed of the costs prior to approval.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/FEB 2019/JUL 2020

Reference: Section 3, 11, 18, 20, 32, 33, 42, 43, 44, 52, 53, 204, 222 Education Act  
Home Education Regulation 89/2019  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12  
Home Education Handbook