

HOME SCHOOLING

Background

Under the provision of Section 12 of the *School Act*:

"A parent of a child who is required to enrol in an educational program provided by a board under section 3 may

- Educate the child at home or elsewhere in accordance with this Division, and
- Must provide that child with an educational program."

Procedures

1. Parents are required to register home-school students by September 30 of each year with a public, independent, or correspondence school. Failure to register a child is an offence under the *School Act*. Anyone who has reason to believe that a home-school student is not registered or is not receiving an educational program has the power to report this to the Superintendent. The Superintendent has the duty to investigate the allegation.
2. If a parent fails to register a child and refuses to do so after being advised by the Superintendent of the obligation to do so, the Superintendent has a duty to notify the police.
3. If a parent fails to provide an educational program and a child is in need of protection, the Superintendent has a duty to report the matter to the Regional Operating Officer, Ministry for Children and Families.
4. Parents have the right to select an educational program most suited to their child's needs, together with the accompanying responsibility to provide the home-school student with an appropriate "educational program," with minimum intervention from the Ministry of Education.
5. The Principal, at which the home-school student is registered, does not have the authority to supervise the educational program, unless requested to do so by the parent. However, the Principal does have the duty to offer evaluation and assessment services for which a fee may be charged. The Principal also has the duty to make available educational resource materials to the home school student on a similar basis as to students in the regular school system.
6. A child who is registered as a "home-school student" may not participate in the regular educational programs offered by the District at the school of registration.
7. Re-entry into regular programs of the District is to be age-appropriate and in accordance with normal procedures.

8. Registering Home School Students

- 8.1. Principals are to register home-school students on the regular registration record, noting on the record card "HS" for Home Schooler, and are to send a copy to District Learning Services where a central District register is kept.
- 8.2. The Principal also includes the home-school student on the Ministry's form 1701 and sends it to the Manager, Information Systems, who transmits the information to the Ministry of Education.

9. Entitlement of Home School Students

In accordance with the *School Regulation* and Minister of Education *Orders*, the Principal shall offer the following to the home-school student.

- 9.1. "Evaluation and assessment services sufficient to enable them to determine the educational progress achieved by the child in relation to students of similar age and ability."
 - 9.1.1. These services will normally be limited to standardized achievement tests and provincial assessment instruments. Children requiring diagnostic or psychological tests will be referred to other community agencies, such as the Vancouver Health Department. If further diagnostic or psychological testing is to be provided by the District, the Principal of the school at which the home school student is registered will make a referral to the Area Learning Services Team who will contact the family and arrange for the appropriate testing of the home school student, for which a fee may be charged.
- 9.2. "The loan of educational resource materials, sufficient to enable the child to pursue an educational program."
 - 9.2.1. It is recommended that resource materials be limited to text books and other provincially authorized and recommended resource materials. Parents agree in writing, at the time of registration, to be financially responsible for the cost of replacement of lost and damaged materials and library books.
- 9.3. Home-school students registered at a school are to be entitled to B.C. Transit student identification cards, where applicable.

10. Access to Library Resources

- 10.1. Students registered with a school for home schooling may borrow educational resource materials from the library resource centre.
- 10.2. Students registered with a school for home schooling may work in the library resource centre.
- 10.3. Limited services will be provided by the library resource centre.
- 10.4. The specific conditions for access to library resources are clarified in *Administering the School Resource Centre - Handbook of Procedures*.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 12, 13, 22, 65, 85 School Act

Adopted: November 2, 1992

Revised: September 1994; February 1999; September 24, 2018