

Alberta Education
Home Education Program Regulations
In Layperson's Language

Notification: The parent sends a Notification form (not an application) as a parent does not have to ask for permission to home educate, to a prospective supervising school authority. The school must respond within a notice period.

Education Plan: The education plan is a document that the parent files along with or soon after school acceptance of the Notification Form, to indicate how the outcomes of the *Schedule of Learning Outcomes For Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow The Alberta Programs of Study, (SOLO)* will be met during the following year. It is a working document and easily changed by emailing a revised plan to the supervising school authority. For example, if a parent wanted to purchase ski lessons with funding in January, they would add that item to the document.

Funding: Parents are provided an amount of funding to offset the costs of resources. Funding is allocated to the supervising school authority based on the Notification form filed on September 30th of the year. Parents are not paid as they are not certified teachers. Receipts must be submitted to substantiate the funding and the item/service must be listed in the education plan. Supervising school authorities receive 1/4th the amount of public school per student funding and one half of that amount must be given to the parent.

Reports: Each home education student gets a 30 minute visit twice a year (usually October and May) with the supervising school's certified teacher, usually in the home environment. The Fall visit is where the parent and teacher finalize the home education program plan and plans resource purchases. The Spring visit is when the teacher chats with the student and parent and records what they have accomplished.

Marks: No marks are given. The teacher signs off on whether the *Schedule of Learning Outcomes For Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow The Alberta Programs of Study*, outcomes has been met, in their professional opinion, and gives a copy of the final report to the parent.

Time Limits: There are no time limits for the *Schedule of Learning Outcomes For Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow The Alberta Programs of Study* outcomes as the student is expected to accomplish all 22 outcomes by the age of 19 years.

Grade Level Achievement: Grade levels are only used if the student is following the Alberta Programs of Study (APS) which all school students must follow but home education students do not. The Alberta Program of Studies has approximately 1400 outcomes per grade, in contrast to the 22 outcomes for the home education schedule. Home education students may follow either the APS or the SOLO outcomes, but neither are marked from grades 1 to 9.

High School: In High School, students can continue to follow the SOLO outcomes without marks or credits, but are not eligible to apply for a high school diploma. However, under *Section 6 of the Alberta Home Education Regulations*, students can present high school course work to a supervising teacher or principal for marks and credits, if the teacher/principal assesses that the course meets the Alberta Programs of Study outcomes for that particular course number.

Thus, students who home educate, self-direct, or take online/correspondence courses can acquire an Alberta High School Diploma.

Home education students can write the diploma exams for core courses at age 19 with no prior coursework, to demonstrate self-directed education.

Testing: Home education students are not required to write the Provincial Achievement Tests in grade 3, 6, and 9 because they follow the SOLO outcomes instead of the APS outcomes. Home educators who choose to voluntarily follow the APS outcomes may voluntarily write the exams.

All students, whether home educated or in school, whether following the SOLO or the APS outcomes, must write the Alberta Education Diploma Exams if they desire marks and credit in diploma exam grade 12 courses.

Shared Responsibility: Formerly called Blended. The parent may want to teach some courses/subjects and outsource some courses/subjects to the school. The parent plans, teaches and assesses their courses according to the SOLO outcomes and may receive home education funding for resources. These courses are governed by the Home Education Regulations. The

courses taught to the student, by the school, have no reimbursement funding and are governed by the School Act. They are planned, delivered, taught and assessed by the school and must follow the Alberta Programs of Study outcomes. The parent would receive a report card.

Forms: The SOLO and the Notification form can be accessed here:

<https://education.alberta.ca/home-education-blended-programs/responsibilities/>

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