



## Home Education FAQ

1. To start, you must fill out paperwork. HOME EDUCATION is the only legal term for parent-controlled homeschooling. You must search for this term in school board and government websites. Do not use the term “homeschooling” because some public schools are using that term to mean virtual school and distance education. Home education empowers parents to choose what, when, why, how and if children learn certain topics. Parents notify a willing school board by sending in a Home Education Notification Form for each child to a supervising school or their child’s school from last Spring.  
<http://albertahomeschooling.ca/articles/Notificationform.pdf> The list of willing homeschool school boards is here: <http://albertahomeschooling.ca/articles/AHAHomeschoolboards2020-2021.pdf> Most are away from keyboard due to summer holidays but will be back in by August 15th. There are no caps on home education notifications from your local resident public school board at any time throughout the year. But if you wait until after Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, you won’t get funding or support from a school assigned facilitator.
2. You can choose your local public school, charter school, Catholic school or Independent School to notify with, but chances are they don’t know how to support you. The public system has very little knowledge about Home Education and many don’t know if it exists or what the regulations are. The list of 30+ willing non-resident home education school authorities have been supporting home education for years and are encouraging and knowledgeable.
3. If you sent in your notification forms and want to change boards, you still can up to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The sooner the better.
4. If you sign up with a faith-based board, you are not required to teach religion or have a faith. It just means that school correspondence will have a faith-based perspective. They still accept secular families unless otherwise stated.
5. After sending in the notification, the board has 15 days to “accept” your family. 99.999999% of all notifications are accepted. There are no limited numbers of seats like a classroom, so the board will hire more facilitators to meet demand. Your child will always have a home education spot in your local public school. At any time during the year, you can pull your child out of school and change the program (within the same school) to Home Education. At any time of the year, you can put your child back into their resident public school that has to take them. But be aware. If your school is a “school of choice” they don’t have to accept them back.
6. After acceptance by the school board, they will assign you a facilitator to help you fill out a Home Education Plan. This is a fluid, changeable plan that you will document resources that you wish to be reimbursed by funding.
7. You do not have to follow the Alberta curriculum, but can if you want to. You can teach what you want and personalize it to your child. The school board will help you pick resources to meet

the targets according to your beliefs. The board will also assign you a facilitator to support you for the year.

8. Home education that involves curriculum takes about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the time your child spends in school. You do not have to keep attendance records.
9. You do not have to teach. By choosing Home Education, you regain responsibility of your child's education that you had signed over to the school system when your child was age 5. With your child's education back under your control, you can outsource the teaching to your childcare professional, tutors, your child (unschooling or child-directed learning), siblings, free-lance teachers, parental teaching co-ops, A-la-carte online courses such as Outschool and Kahnacademy, or non-government full-time virtual micro-schools such as Galileo. See the giant list of resources here: <http://albertahomeschooling.ca/resources.html>
10. Many parents work part and full time while the home education teaching is done by another adult. Children should not be left unsupervised in the home under age 10.
11. Your child will get an Alberta Education Diploma on Home Education if they want one. Most universities in Canada do not require a High School Diploma for entrance. They only require 5 core Grade 12 courses.
12. Your child does not have to undergo testing. The only mandatory testing they might want to do is diploma exams in grade 12 for diploma credits. The diploma exams are only on grade 12 course content.
13. On Home Education, your child must meet 22 targets (SOLO outcomes) by the time they are age 20. (They can play Minecraft all day and still meet the targets.) Again, your board will help you fill out the plan to meet the targets in October.
14. You must notify by Sept 30 to receive funding. You send in receipts to the school board after Oct 1 and receive \$850 and more (some boards are offering more) reimbursement per child per year. Each school board has a list of items they won't accept over and above the government list. Ask them. Most boards accept school supplies, board games, Lego, some educational toys, learning aids, lessons, Science Centre and Zoo passes, tutor invoices, teacher invoices, online courses from around the world, museum tickets, theatre tickets, science, art, and physed supplies and more.
15. If you pull your child from school this year to home educate, you absolutely can register them next summer for the next grade in their school. There is no testing to determine which grade. Children go into the next grade based on their age. For example, if your child was in grade 2 last Spring, and you home educate for grade 3 this coming year, then in Fall 2021, you would register them for grade 4 back at their school.
16. Any program other than Home Education is School. It is Distance Education just like you have been doing during the Spring COVID at-home learning. These programs are called "BlendED, Shared Responsibility, Teacher-Directed, Print-based, Online, Virtual School, Aligned, "at-home learning, Ursa", and other marketing names. Your child will have to complete 1400 targets APS (Alberta Programs of Study) per grade and spend quite a few hours per day online in these programs, just like school. It is school but in your living room. You are not responsible for their education on these programs because you hand it over to their Alberta certified teacher who delivers the instruction. You support your child to make sure they do the homework. It is illegal for you to teach these programs.

17. Alberta Education does not recommend online classes for children under age 10 or grade 5 because children that age do not have the executive function to pay attention or concentrate that long. COVID-19 is over-riding that recommendation, however, children's brains have not adapted yet. Choose curriculum that is geared to your child's temperament, personality and learning style.
18. Many parents choose a Costco all-in-one curriculum workbook to use as the bones of what to teach. They can make it more real by relating the concept to real life experiences. A classroom teacher has to use paper-based textbook and workbook curriculum, but you don't. The more the learning touches all senses (ears, eyes, smell, taste, touch and experience) the more it sticks in memory.
19. Many home educated families don't get started until the weather is colder such as October, and take December off and quit in May. Many don't finish the year and start their kids in the next grade the next year.
20. Your school board will have two Zoom meetings with a facilitator, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. However, your facilitator becomes your mentor – you can contact anytime with questions and they will offer suggestions and support you.
21. Relax and have fun. Home educated children are involved in at least 8 activities a week (during non-Covid times) and associate with a more diverse population than a same-aged classroom. Yes, they have friends! You can't mess this up. Children are curious-they never stop learning.

Welcome to Home Education. You got this.

For more information please call The Alberta Government Education # 780-427-6272 or visit [www.albertahomeschooling.ca](http://www.albertahomeschooling.ca)

## Alberta Education Programs 2020

Regulations/funding is not based on where education takes place but who is the authority and responsible for the education program.

### Home Education Parent Controls

- Only called **Home Education**.
- Send "**Notification**" form to public, independent or charter school by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Parent plans, buys, delivers (or outsources) education program, and no marks given.
- \$850 per child, per year, reimbursement funding if Notified/accepted by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Can choose all resources and activities and keep supplies.
- May meet 22 SOLO targets by age 20, or 1400 APS targets per grade. Very flexible.
- Diplomas granted.
- Certified teacher facilitates and supports.

### Distance Education School Controls

- Called Online, Teacher-Directed, Aligned, Paper-Based, BlendED, Ursa, "at-home learning."
- **Register** with any school. No deadline.
- School/teacher plans, chooses resources, teaches, marks and reports. Parent does not teach. Parent enforces/supports completion as they do with homework.
- No funding. School may loan out resources that are returned at year end.
- **Must** meet 1400 APS targets per grade.
- Diplomas granted.
- Contact: school

