



# What is the difference between Home-based School and Home-education?

## Glossary of Homeschooling Terms

By Judy Arnall

Join a group of homeschooling parents for a play date with kids and parental conversation can leave a new or prospective homeschooler perplexed with the jargon used. Here is a quick guide of definitions so you will know what they are talking about!

### **After-schooling**

When the regular school program is supplemented by tutoring from outside sources or parents.

### **Aligned Program**

A school planned, delivered and marked program that is delivered in the home but is totally responsible to Alberta Education by the school. Because the school is totally responsible for the home-based program, and controls it, the program must follow the mandated Alberta Program of Studies outcomes and approved curriculum materials. This is not home education. This is school, even though it is in your living room. You are not expected to teach anymore than a parent with a child in a physical building school.

### **APS - Alberta Program of Studies (Outcomes)**

A detailed list of goals and outcomes that the student is expected to prove mastery of, and is sorted by grade and subjects for grades Kindergarten to grade 12. This is the "bible" of outcomes for all students in all schools across Alberta, regardless of being private, public, French Immersion, charter, online, correspondence or home-based. The only exception is for traditional homeschoolers who can teach whatever and whenever they wish.

**Assessment**

How do you know what was learned? Assessment is the evaluation of learning taking place. It can be simply observation such as watching a child during those "aha!" moments that they display emotion upon suddenly understanding a concept, or giving a child a paper and pencil test.

**Blended****(See also shared responsibility)**

Blended was the old term for shared responsibility. Because the rest of the world uses the term, blended, to mean a totally school delivered and controlled program that is partially taught in a classroom and partially taught through online means, Alberta Education has changed the meaning in its texts to align with the rest of the education world.

**Board**

A local or not-so-local private school, or school board in Alberta, that agrees to supervise and support the parent and child in the traditional home education program. Boards can also provide the school directed portion of a shared responsibility program.

**Correspondence**

Paper-based courses that has content delivered by the school.

**Curriculum**

The materials, methods, lessons, books, manipulatives, discussions, games, films, toys, items, textbooks, travel, zoos, equipment, museums, computer games, tutors or devices used to teach an outcome.

**Deschooling**

The practice of letting children play and not imposing any academic program demands on children while they decompress and acclimate to the new reality of learning at home.

**Diploma Exams**

Mandatory exams set by Alberta Education that must be written by all students seeking credit and marks in certain core grade 12 subjects. The current weighting of diploma exams is 30% of the final course mark or 100% of the final mark if the child has graduated or is over age 19.

**Eclectic Schooling**

When the home education plan changes during the day, week, or month depending on the needs of the parent and child.

**School Act**

The rules, rights and responsibilities set forth for accredited schools and school boards by the Minister of Education and the Government of Alberta. Was slated to be called the "Education Act" but that didn't pass in government, so is still called, the "School Act." The document also embraces learning outside of school walls, but still directed, controlled and delivered by certified teachers. Within the School Act, is the Home Education Regulations.

### **Education or Learning Plan (Ed Plan)**

The proposal written by a parent describing the goals, curriculum resources, and means of assessment of the child's educational program for the current year. Can be one paragraph of intention or 20 pages of item by item learning outcomes. It is only required for those subjects that will be undertaken by home education. It is not required when the school directs, controls and delivers a shared responsibility portion of the program.

### **E-live, Blackboard, Elluminate, Webinars**

Online courses that have a live component where the teacher and all the students gather at their respective home-based computers and work on a lesson over a software program such as blackboard or e-live. Some courses offer regular webinars and others offer help and tutoring on an as-needed basis. This fulfills the requirement that teachers and schools provide up to 1000 hours of instruction for grades 1-9 and 125 hours of instruction for each high school course.

### **Facilitator**

An Alberta Education certified teacher that supports the home education program and provides advice and help if the parent needs it. Also called a Home Education Manager, or Supervisor, or Learning Coordinator.

### **Funding**

The reimbursement of resource receipts submitted to the school board for the purchase of curriculum, resources, tutoring or lessons, in order to offset the parental cost of delivering the home education program.

### **Home Education**

Generally considered the educational **program** in which the parent and student is responsible for and controls. Parents are not a "school." Parents run the "home education" program. In the homeschooling community, it's also called the "traditional" program or parent-directed homeschooling. In society, is used more inclusively and is considered to be anything learned at home including online and correspondence courses.

### **Home Education Regulations (The Regs)**

The regulations entrenched within the School Act that governs the rights and responsibilities of parents choosing to direct the education of their child.

### **Home Schooling**

Anything educational done in the home instead of attending a school building. When Government statistical researchers count home schoolers, they only count only "traditional" home education parents. Shared responsibility programs are not counted. Online, correspondence, blended, aligned, and home-based learners are not included, even if they spend most of their day at home because their program is delivered by a certified teacher, school and principal and is considered to be "school".

### **Home-Based Education**

A school responsible program that is planned, delivered and marked by an accredited Alberta school or school board. Just like a regular program delivered within a bricks and mortar school, but is usually delivered by correspondence or online from the school and can be worked on by the student at home.

### **ICHES-Independent Contracted Home Education Specialists**

Third party contractors that administer the home education programs provided by a school authority. Wisdom administers for Trinity Christian School, and ROOTS and T.H.E.E. administers for Morinville Christian School, Willow administers for Third Academy.

### **On-line**

A school delivered course that is either "live" classes or text read on a computer screen online. Content is then tested via quizzes or exams, and student responses are either faxed in or delivered back to the school via an online dropbox. Contact is between teacher and student, not parent. The online class is exactly like the physical classroom class, except the teacher and student are separated by distance and united by computers. All other school expectations are the same. The teacher regularly instructs and must have contact with the student at least once per week, and marks assignments and gives feedback.

### **Program**

The type of education delivery method chosen by the parent. It can be totally parent responsible and controlled program which is traditional home education, or totally school responsible and controlled one which is online, correspondence, school-building school, or a combination of both called shared responsibility.

### **Provincial Achievement Tests**

Exams set forth by Alberta Education for grades 3, 6, and 9. All Alberta students are encouraged to write the exams, but many families choose not to, because of educational philosophy, or because the topics do not fit with what home educators have chosen to learn. These exams are not mandatory, even for children who attend physical schools.

### **"Rescue" Families**

When parents pull their children out of school mid-year and decide to homeschool, they are required to find a supervising school board that will offer help mid-year even though the school board will not get funding for those students until the next Sept 30th deadline.

### **Roam Schooling**

When families travel and access a variety of course options including parent or school delivered. Also called *Worldschooling*.

### **Schedule of Learning Outcomes for Students Receiving Home Education Programs that do not Follow the Alberta Program of Study (SOLO)**

A one page list of broad, holistic goals and outcomes that home education students need to accomplish by the end of grade 12 or age 19 whichever comes first. On a Traditional program, a certified teacher will sign a certificate stating that the child has progressed toward these outcomes at the end of the year. This list of goals is parallel to the Alberta Program of Studies and can be used instead of the APS in home education programs. This list may or may not lead to a high school diploma, depending on requirements met.

### **Self-Directed Program or Course**

A school program or course that is delivered by a school, but the student is only allowed to choose their pace of learning by working ahead or taking breaks. The student is not allowed to choose content, assessment, delivery methods or materials.

### **Self-Directed Education (SDE)**

A home education program that is totally controlled by the learner. The learner determines what, when, where, how and if they are going to learn a topic. It is called SDE in a free school (one that does not receive government funding) and unschooling in home education.

### **Shared Responsibility**

A type of program where the school plans, delivers, teaches and marks at least half the subjects or 50% of the program, up to 90% of the program, taught to a child for grades 1-9. If the program is 100% parent controlled, it

is called home education and if the program is 100% school controlled, it is called distance education. For grades 10 - 12, the school has to be responsible as above, for at least 20% of the program and can be up to 80% of the program. Because the school is responsible, the subjects taught must follow the Alberta Program of Studies outcomes and the program is governed by the School Act. The portion that is parent-responsible is called home education and is governed by the Home Education Regulations.

### **Teacher**

An Alberta Education certified teacher that plans, delivers, evaluates and marks an approved school board subject.

### **Traditional**

A home education program controlled by the parent. The traditional program is one where the parent undertakes the full responsibility of providing an education for their child, either directly teaching their child, or allowing their child to learn by discovery, or by hiring someone else to teach their child. The traditional program is governed by the Home Education Regulations, within the School Act and the content, delivery, philosophy and assessment methods are chosen totally by the parent. Exams and curriculum are optional.

### **Unschooling**

The educational philosophy of total student-directed learning that encompasses planning, content, materials, pace, delivery, and evaluation. Also called interest-led, discovery learning, inquiry-based, delight-directed or child-led learning.

### **Visits**

The certified teacher of a supervising school board comes out to visit the home education family twice per year (Fall and Spring) according to the Home Education Regulations, in order to provide support, supplies, encouragement and advice for the family on the home education program.

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