

HOME EDUCATION

Background

The Division believes the parent has a right to choose Home Education as an alternative method of schooling for their child(ren). This option for parents and their children is available in partnership with the neighbourhood school and the Alberta Distance Learning Centre.

Procedures

1. Where the choice of Home Education is exercised, the Division will assume a supportive role to the parents to ensure the student's access to resources and to ensure satisfactory student achievement.
2. The student must be enrolled in a full-time program under the supervision of a host school. Students in grades 1 to 9 must register before September 30 in any school year. Students enrolled in a high school program must do so in consultation with a high school counselor or one of the Outreach programs.
3. Students enrolled in a home schooling program apply for and receive distance education courses. The courses are divided up into modules. Each module represents a distinct learning concept or topic that is required to complete the course. The number of modules varies according to the course subscribed for, but eight (8) is not an unusual number. When a student has completed a module, it is usually mailed away for evaluation. The instructions for this are contained in the parent package. When all the modules are complete and have been evaluated, the student is ready to write the final exam.
4. A learning plan which meets the Alberta Program of Studies outcomes must be developed for each student. Home school parents and students are to contact the Principal of their host school to develop a learning plan. Included in the learning plan are timelines, course selection and reporting standards. The Division will receive a nominal yearly grant per student from the provincial government and schools may pay for a significant portion of the student's planned program, not exceeding the funded amount. Such a plan must include the requirements of daily assignments and a commitment to at least 30 hours of study per week.
5. Schools may be able to provide textbooks, library access, or supplemental support for home school students. This is arranged on an individual basis and may involve additional costs. In some cases, students may arrange for a *blended* home school program that gives the student the opportunity to take selected school courses and/or participate in extra-curricular activities. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the Principal.
6. The parent must commit to attend meetings and submit program reports to the host school.
7. Exams will be sent to the host school after the last assignment in the course has been received. A teacher or administrator will supervise the exam. If students are writing a diploma exam during the summer, they must register at one of the test

writing centres. Bonnyville High School (780-826-3366) or J.A. Williams High School in Lac La Biche (780-623-4271).

8. The student must write provincial achievement and diploma examinations as appropriate.
9. The Division operates a summer school program for high school students. Home school students are welcome to register for courses during the summer term.
10. The Superintendent believes every Division has a responsibility to support its own Home Education rate payers and the Division will act as a willing, non-resident Board for Home Education programs only in circumstances where there is concurrence and agreement from the resident Board.
11. More detailed home schooling program information can be found in the Home Schooling section posted in the NLSD website
<http://www.nlsd.ab.ca/HomeSchool/index.html>

Reference: Section 29, 39, 45, 123, 124, 125, School Act
Home Education Policy 1.1.2
Home Education Regulation 126/99
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12