

Home Schooling in New Brunswick

Become familiar with the roles and responsibilities.

Home Schooling and the Law

In New Brunswick, the minister of education is responsible for administering the *Education Act*. The *Act* states that children from five to 18 years of age must attend school (section 15) unless the minister is satisfied that the child is under “effective instruction elsewhere” (section 16).

If a parent or guardian chooses to home school his or her child, the parent or guardian must provide for the child’s “effective instruction.”

This document addresses five steps that a parent or guardian who is considering home schooling must follow:

1. Ensure that the home schooling option is right for the family.
2. Apply each year for a home schooling exemption.
3. Plan a home school curriculum that provides “effective instruction.”
4. Establish a regular evaluation and record-keeping habit.
5. Prepare for the student’s eventual return to the public school system, post-secondary education or the work world.

Ensuring that Home Schooling is Right for your Family

The following requirements are essential for implementing a successful home education:

- 1 Adequate time:** In addition to daily one-on-one instruction time, effective home schooling requires preparation, hands-on activities, field trips, extracurricular activities, etc.
- 2 Adequate finances:** When budgeting, consider textbooks, supplies, equipment (up-to-date computer), field trips and extracurricular activities.
- 3 Strong parenting skills:** It is **essential** to have a healthy parent-child relationship **before** choosing the home schooling option.
- 4 Effective time-management skills:** Home schooling requires an ability to be organized and to stay on task.
- 5 Common vision:** Before choosing the home schooling option, be certain that the adults responsible for the child’s schooling and welfare are in agreement and working together.

Applying for a Home School Exemption

When choosing the home school option, the parent or guardian must obtain an **official exemption** from attending public school **each year** that the child is home schooled. The parent or guardian must complete an **Annual Home Schooling Application Form** each year and submit the completed form to the school district office. The form will be forwarded to the minister of education for review.

Planning the Home School Curriculum

In order to be considered “effective instruction,” the home school curriculum must include these areas from the Public school curriculum:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology
- Social Studies
- Health
- Career Development
- French
- Music
- Art
- Physical Education

The Department of Education publishes and makes available curriculum documents describing grade level outcomes for each area of the curriculum. You can access these documents from this website: www.gnb.ca/0000/anglophone-e.asp

Neither schools nor school districts are required to supply resources or services for the educational programming of children being home schooled. However, in some cases arrangements can be made to borrow certain materials from a school for a one-year period. These arrangements should be made directly with the school principal.

Home schooling is a full-time option. School districts are under no obligation to provide home schoolers with part-time attendance at school, or involvement in school events or extra-curricular activities.

Evaluation and Record Keeping

Parents and guardians who undertake home schooling are responsible to plan, deliver and document “effective instruction.” A critical part of effective instruction is the **evaluation** of a child’s development and the **recording** of that progress over time. A portfolio containing samples of a child’s work (e.g. projects, reports, tests, and dated writing samples) can be used to show growth in the child’s development.

The child’s progress should be reviewed at regular intervals and the child’s program should be adjusted to accommodate his or her changing needs, interests and abilities.

Home schooled children are welcome to take part in provincial assessment programs. Parents and guardians who are interested in this option should contact the district early in the school year.

Preparing for Continuing Education or Employment

Parents or guardians who decide to transfer their home schooled child to the public school system should contact their school district prior to the beginning of the school year. Common practice is that the child will be placed age appropriately with his or her peers; however, this placement will be monitored and adjusted by the school if necessary.

For home schooled students entering high school, the school will determine home schooling equivalences and establish the courses needed to meet New Brunswick graduation requirements. It is important to note that students who complete their education through home schooling are **not eligible** for a New Brunswick High School Diploma.

Home schooled students and their parents or guardians must take particular care to learn and understand the entrance requirements of any post-secondary institution that the student might wish to attend. Working closely with the institution’s admissions office is recommended.

*For further information,
please contact the school district in your region:*

District	Phone #
ASD-North	778-6075
ASD-South	658-5915
ASD-East	856-3222
ASD-West	453-5454

Department of Education & Early Childhood Development
Place 2000, 250 King Street Fredericton, NB E3B 9M9
506-453-2816

