

NLSchools refers to all public K-12 English schools and school-related facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, Education Operations Branch and all employees working therein, and all employees providing services and supports to such schools, including those who work in the areas of school facilities, student transportation, program implementation, student services, and procurement.

Policy Name

Home Schooling

Policy Statement

The Department of Education shall review and consider requests for home schooling within the context of the [Schools Act, 1997](#), the guidelines established by the and the criteria outlined in this policy and accompanying administrative procedures.

Background

In accordance with the [Schools Act, 1997](#), the department permits parents to educate their child in a home environment subject to approval of the instructional program by the Superintendent of Schools. Parents who wish to educate their child in a home schools setting are bound by the provisions of the [Schools Act, 1997](#), Sections 6 and 7 and must receive written approval for home instruction from the Superintendent of Schools annually. While the [Act](#) makes provision for parents/guardians to exercise that right in a setting other than the formal school system, it also mandates that the Superintendent of Schools is responsible for receiving and considering applications from parents/guardians for home schooling. This policy establishes guidelines for the application process for Home Schooling.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all schools within NLSchools and applies to students of mandatory school age attendance, as per the [Schools Act, 1997](#).

Definitions

Zoned School

A school zone is "the geographical boundary associated with a particular school, encompassing all residences within, for the purposes of student registration and attendance." For the purposes of this policy the Zoned School is within NLSchools to which a home school student is assigned and which carries certain responsibilities in

connection with that student.

Home school or home schooling

For the purposes of this policy Home School or home schooling is defined as an educational program administered by a parent/guardian outside school, using the provincially authorized curriculum or a recognized alternate curriculum.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

The person(s) having care of a child and applies to both parents of a child. Where the child is in the care or legal custody of one parent or a person other than the child's natural parent, then this applies to that person only.

Policy Directives

1. Approval for home schooling will take into account the criteria outlined in the administrative procedures/regulations for this policy.
2. Parents/Guardians who wish to educate their child in a home school setting are required to make application to the Superintendent of Schools, requesting that the child be excused from attendance at school by reason of being "... under satisfactory instruction at home or elsewhere, for a period specified by the Superintendent..." in accordance with the [Schools Act, 1997](#), Section 5(c).
3. In accordance with Section 7 of the [Schools Act, 1997](#), the Superintendent shall approve home school instruction for a period no longer than a school year and may renew approval upon application each school year.
4. The Superintendent shall consider all requests for home schooling and determine whether the proposed educational plan constitutes satisfactory instruction and is in the best interest of the child.
5. The Superintendent will approve for home schooling only those curricula that have been approved by the department.
6. The Superintendent shall revoke the authorized approval for home schooling if it becomes evident that the best interest of the child is no longer being served by the home school process.
7. The Superintendent shall oversee a home school program for a student who is five years of age or older before January 1 in that school year and until a student is 16 years old as of August 31 of that school year.

8. A child who is five years old as of December 31 of a school year is eligible for kindergarten. However, kindergarten is not compulsory in Newfoundland and Labrador. A child must start a school year when they are six years of age as of December 31, but a child who is five years of age as of December 31 can be kept home for one more year at the discretion of the parent/guardian. Such a decision will not be considered home schooling unless a parent/guardian has received written approval for home schooling from the Superintendent.
9. When the home schooling program is the provincially authorized curriculum, parents shall receive the teaching resources for the courses from the Department of Education, and student resources will be available from the school that the student is registered in.
10. Given the department's responsibility to monitor student learning, home schooled students will be required to complete assessments at various times as required by the Superintendent.

Administrative Procedures

1. Home Schooling

- 1.1. The [Schools Act, 1997](#) provides for home instruction of students required to attend school. Such arrangements must be approved by the Superintendent of Schools. Parents/guardians may make arrangements for home schooling by applying to the Superintendent of Schools or designate, the home schooling coordinator for the Region. Parents/guardians who home school may use the provincial curriculum of Newfoundland and Labrador or may choose to use an approved alternate home school curriculum.
- 1.2. A student record will be established and maintained for each student who is approved for home schooling. The record will contain the [home school application](#); curriculum guide used; documentation of any meetings with parents/guardians and the student; progress reports; educational plans; and, any other documents deemed relevant by the home schooling coordinator or zoned school administrator to the educational programming and progress of the student.
 - a) The original application is housed at the office of the home schooling coordinator and a copy of the approval letter is sent to the

zoned school principal. The original home schooling report and work samples are maintained at the school in the cumulative file while a copy is shared with the home schooling coordinator.

- b) Where the record is maintained at the school, it must be transferred to the next school (e.g., from junior high to senior high) as a student moves through the grades.

2. Home Schooling Coordinator

A home schooling coordinator will be designated for each of the four NLSchools regional offices (Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Corner Brook, Gander or St. John's). An application for home schooling will be managed by the home schooling coordinator as designated for the relevant region.

Each home schooling coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that:

- 2.1 A student record is established and maintained for each student who is approved for home schooling.
- 2.2 Information is communicated with parents/guardians regarding reporting requirements; student evaluation; potential student participation in any regular school services or activities; and, resources available to the parent/guardian and student.
- 2.3 The principal of the zoned school will notify the home schooling coordinator that outcomes have been met or not met for the school year.

3. Application of Intent to Home School

- 3.1 To apply for home schooling, parent(s)/guardian(s) must complete **The Application for home schooling form** and submit to the appropriate regional office (Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Corner Brook, Gander or St. John's), **attention to the home schooling coordinator**.
- 3.2 New home schooling applications for the current school year that are submitted after the Easter Break will only be considered if there are extenuating circumstances.
- 3.3 Students who are five years of age or older as of December 31 in a school year, and those who are 16 years of age as of August 31 in a school year, are eligible to avail of a NLSchools-approved home schooling program.

- a) Parents/guardians have the discretion to keep children out of school who are five years of age as of December 31 in any given year. In such a situation, if a parent/guardian decides to keep a child home, s/he has not been approved for home schooling. Kindergarten is not a compulsory program in Newfoundland and Labrador. However, for a child who has been kept out of school for an additional year, it is usually recommended that they enter the school system at the preparatory Kindergarten level in the next year.
- b) Home schooled high school students are exempted from the supervision of the NLSchools at the end of the school year in which the student turns 16 years of age (up to and including August 31). After this time, no further [home schooling application](#) is required. However, if a student older than 16 years of age continues as a homeschooler in their zoned school, an application is required. In these cases, home schooling supports continue as long as the programming is compliant with this policy.

4. Consideration of Home Schooling Request

- 4.1 The Superintendent of Schools or designate will consider all requests for home schooling and determine whether the proposed educational plan constitutes satisfactory instruction and is in the best interests of the child.
- 4.2 A teacher/instructor of a home school must satisfy the Superintendent of Schools or designate that they are capable of providing appropriate educational instruction. S/he must be able to provide the structure and instructional leadership necessary for the academic success of the student under his/her instruction. The teacher/instructor should be able to commit to a minimum of one year of instruction, or to the remainder of the current school year.
- 4.3 The home school teacher is not required to be certified as a teacher by the Department of Education Teacher Certification Division, but the person must have a sufficient level of education to deliver the program to the student.
- 4.4 When choosing a home school curriculum, individuals may choose

provincial, national or international curriculum of reputable bodies of education which have been approved by the department.

- a) If the parent/guardian chooses to use the provincial [Program of Studies](#) to home school a child, the school shall provide course descriptors, links to curriculum guides and/or student textbooks to the home school. Copies of teacher editions of textbooks may also be provided to parents/guardians through the Learning Resource Distribution Centre. Textbooks and teacher editions are expected to be returned at the conclusion of the course/program by the parents.
 - i. Provision of teacher-generated instructional materials to the parent/guardian will be at the discretion of the school administrator.
- b) Should the parent/guardian wish to use another curriculum that has been previously approved by the department, s/he will be responsible for obtaining the curriculum and any related resources. [For examples of such curricula, see [Appendix B](#)].
- c) Should the parent/guardian wish to use a curriculum not previously approved by the department, they will need to provide sufficient information to the home schooling coordinator to enable the department to carry out an appropriate assessment of the curriculum.

5. Intent of Home Schooling

- 5.1 A final decision regarding the acceptance of the [home school application](#) shall be communicated in writing by the Superintendent of Schools or designate to the parent/guardian and the school administrator for the zoned school.
- 5.2 In accordance with Section 7 of the [Schools Act, 1997](#), acceptance for a home school will be granted for one year.
- 5.3 All applications for home schooling must be reported to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, who is responsible for tracking all approvals or denials for home schooling for the NLSchools, as well as the outcomes of the home schooling process for each student on an annual basis.

6. School Responsibilities

- 6.1 The home schooling coordinator will notify the relevant zoned school once an application for home schooling has been approved.
- 6.2 For approved home schooling, the student must be registered at the school zoned for his/her community or residence.
- 6.3 Upon receipt of the letter of approval from the NLSchools, the zoned school will code the student as "Home Schooled" in the demographic section of PowerSchool. The student must not be enrolled in a homeroom nor courses at their zoned school, unless the home schooled student attends their zoned school for a particular course(s).
- 6.4 Where it does not create problems for the school and where no special transportation demands are made upon the system, the school administrator shall endeavor to accommodate home schooled students in selected elective courses, if requested to do so.
 - i. If home schooled students attend their zoned school for select courses, they must be enrolled in those courses in PowerSchool and attendance must be taken for those courses.
- 6.5 The school and home schooling coordinator will work together to ensure that a student record is established and maintained in accordance with 1.2.
- 6.6 Unless otherwise required by the home schooling coordinator, the zoned school will accept and review Progress Reports and other documentation as submitted by the home schooler. If requested by the parent, the administrator will meet with the homeschool parent at the time of the submission of the report.

7. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- 7.1 A parent/guardian requesting approval for home schooling shall apply/re-apply to the Superintendent of Schools or designate for each school year.
- 7.2 The parent/guardian must register the home school student at the identified zoned school.
- 7.3 The costs of the home schooling program, other than the provincially-prescribed curriculum, are the full responsibility of the parent/guardian.

- 7.4 The parent/guardian must submit [Progress Reports](#) to the zoned school administrator, unless the home schooling coordinator indicates that the documentation should be submitted directly to the coordinator. It is also recommended that parents/guardians check in with the school administrator at the time that Progress Reports/work samples are submitted.
- 7.5 In Newfoundland and Labrador the Department of Education establishes the requirements for high school graduation. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to determine if a proposed alternate program (non-provincial) meets the standard for high school credit in this province.

8. Student Assessment and Evaluation and High School Credits

- 8.1 Parents/guardians are responsible for providing sufficient to substantial evidence of work samples per subject to the zoned school/home school coordinator to indicate that the home schooled student is making progress. [Home Schooling Progress Report](#)/work samples are to be submitted as required.
- 8.2 Home schooled students will be evaluated as follows:
- a) In the first year, the parent/guardian must submit **three Home Schooling Progress Reports**/work samples. at the end of November, March and Mid -June. The Progress Report/work samples should include, but not be limited to:
 - i. An overview of all assessment and student work in academic, social and emotional domains, including representative samples of student work and assessments completed in each subject or course.
 - ii. Progress notes on the goals and outcomes of any individualized program, if applicable.
 - iii. Any other applicable documentation that demonstrates the student's progress throughout the period.
 - b) In subsequent years of approved home schooling, where the student has successfully completed the previous school year, the parent/guardian will be required to submit **two** Progress

Reports/work samples in January and June.

- c) If the student has demonstrated academic success over a two-year period, the Superintendent or designate may determine that the parent/ guardian will only be required to submit **one** comprehensive Progress Report/work sample at the end of the third year and in any subsequent years.
 - d) Where required by the home schooling coordinator, the school administrator and grade level teacher(s) will review all submissions by the home schooling parent/guardian. The administrator will discuss any concerns with the coordinator. Other NLSchools staff, such as program specialists, may be involved in the review of submissions as necessary.
- 8.3 The parent/guardian is strongly advised to consult with the zoned school or the home schooling coordinator regarding the student's progress and strategies for improvement.
- 8.4 Students with identified exceptionalities who need modified prescribed courses and/or alternate programs and courses should have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP can define the curriculum and the student would be evaluated based on the goals and objectives in the IEP. It is recommended that parents/guardians consult with the Special Services Team at the zoned school in developing IEP goals and appropriate programming. If needed, the Program Specialist for Student Support Services or other staff at the relevant regional office may also support this process.
- 8.5 Students who are on track for a high school leaving certificate should have an individualized program that meets their needs.
- 8.6 No school-based examinations will be administered for alternate curriculums.
- 8.7 It is strongly advised that all students enrolled in a homeschooling program using Newfoundland and Labrador provincial curriculum in Grade 3 or higher, write all provincial assessments and standardized testing administered to in-school counterparts, unless exempted under the same guidelines that apply to their counterparts.

- 8.8 If home schooled students are doing the provincial curriculum and want a graduation certificate from NL, they must write any provincial assessments and evaluations that are required for graduation or contribute to a portion of a course mark.
- 8.9 It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that all work samples and reports for the year are submitted as required to NLSchools.
- 8.10 The Superintendent of Schools may require a student who is home schooled to complete an assessment, where there are concerns about whether progress has been demonstrated.
- 8.11 The Department of Education will only award credits or certificates of graduation for those students using the provincial curriculum.

Appendix A - Home Schooling

The curriculum to be followed in all home schools must be approved in advance, according to the following guidelines:

1. The prescribed provincial core curriculum or an approved alternate is to be followed in a minimum of four areas of study:
 - English Language Arts (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Viewing)
 - Mathematics
 - Science(s)
 - Social Studies/World History/World Geography
2. In addition to the requirements of the core curriculum, a minimum of two electives should be taken. These should be selected from areas such as:
 - Religious Education
 - Physical Education
 - French language
 - Art/music/fine arts
 - Practical arts/home economics/auto mechanics/computer.
3. A home schooled student who has identified exceptionalities (special needs) and who needs modified prescribed courses and/or alternate programs and courses should have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) developed by a program planning team [e.g. Parent, Instructional Resource Teacher (IRT), School Administrator/home schooling coordinator, Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), and Occupational Therapist (OT)]. The IEP will be considered the student's curriculum, based on indicated strengths and needs.
4. When parents/guardians are deciding whether to request use of an alternate home school curriculum (other than the provincial curriculum or a recognized alternate program), the following conditions should be taken into consideration:
 - The department must review the proposed curriculum and approve in advance.

- The implications for high school credit and possible university entrance should be considered.
- The proposed curriculum must be compared with the Provincial [Essential Graduation Learnings](#) as articulated in [The Atlantic Canada Framework for Essential Graduation Learnings in School](#).
- Where deficiencies are noted, supplementary resources and/or strategies must be in place to compensate.
- The costs of the home school program are the full responsibility of the parent(s) except as provided in the [Administrative Procedures](#).

Appendix B - Listing of Possible Home Schooling Curriculums

This is a sample listing of some programs that have been previously approved and used by various home schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. The list is not intended to indicate any preference for a particular program over any other.

Other programs not listed will be reviewed for possible approval as outlined in the NLSchools [Home Schooling Administrative Procedures](#).

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Appendix C - Graduation Guidelines for Home Schooled Students

General Information

- A student who is home schooled **using provincial curriculum** is eligible to receive high school credits and a graduation diploma. A long-term plan, beginning in Grade 9, is necessary to ensure that all required credits are obtained and the student meets graduation requirements upon school exit.
- If a parent/guardian chooses home schooling after a student has entered high school and the credit system, the same procedures apply. The following guidelines are recommended.

Procedures for the Grade 9 School Year

- The parent is strongly encouraged to obtain and review the [On Course – A Handbook for Grade 9 Students and Parents – 14th Edition](#), available through the school or the following link.
- The parent is strongly advised to consider the three-year plan to meet graduation requirements.
- The parent is advised to meet with the administration of the zoned school regarding course selection for Level 1, midway through the Grade 9 year.
- The parent is advised complete course selection based on the course offerings available at their Level 1 zoned school.

Procedures for High School

- The parent is advised to meet with the school administrator at the beginning of the school year to obtain textbooks and any resources that the school has available. Regular contact is strongly recommended as the school will be responsible for submitting a final mark to the department for each course.
- The parent will follow the [course descriptors for high school courses](#) to ensure that the student is prepared for the instructional content that will be assessed on midterm or final exams (if applicable).
- The school administrator will ensure that the student is included in Power

School and that marks and attendance (H) are submitted for courses.

- It is also strongly advised that administrators/ guidance counsellors check in with the home schooling parent/children at least once a month.
- Google classroom is permitted at the discretion of the zoned school administrator.
- For each high school reporting period, the parent will meet with the administrator/school team to submit the Home School Progress Report, which shall include an overall mark for each course. The parent will also provide substantial evidence of work samples, graded assignments, and assessments to demonstrate how the overall mark was determined.
- At the initial parent meeting, the administrator of the zoned school will identify the reporting periods for the school, as the dates of these reporting periods can vary depending on whether a school operates on a yearly or semesterised schedule.
- Each reporting period, the administrator/school team will review the Home School Progress Report and assessments to verify the marks, as per the following regulations:

School Responsibilities

- Unless otherwise required by the home schooling coordinator, the school will accept and review Progress Reports and other documentation as submitted by the home school Parents/Guardians and then supply a copy of the Home School Progress reporting form signed by the zoned principal to their regional homeschool coordinator.
- Student Assessment and Evaluation High School Credits
 - Where required by the home schooling coordinator, the school administrator and grade level teacher(s) will review all submissions by the home schooling parent/guardian.
- The school home schooling parent will use the marks from each progress report, along with submitted assignments and assessments and provide a mark to the

zoned school principal. If marks from any midterm or final exam were written at the school, they will also be used to determine a final mark for each course.

This mark will be submitted to the department for the home schooled student, the same as for any other student enrolled in the course.

- Parents will provide a progress report at each of the reporting periods for their zoned school. Depending on whether the school is operating on a semestered or yearly schedule, parents will submit the final January/June report with marks and work samples by the Friday of the first week of the month.

Student Assessment and Evaluation High School Credits

- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that all work samples and reports for the year are submitted as required to the School.

Other important considerations:

- Career Education requires volunteer hours as a requirement for credit – look at long-term planning
- [CDLI](#) resources: Materials are available to all students to support student learning Possibility of observer status for students to view class instruction.
- [NLSchools online resources](#) for Math.
- Option to participate in elective courses at the school eg. Physical Education/Music.
- Students with an identified exceptionality will receive the same approved accommodations for home schooling, i.e. reading of print materials, alternate format materials etc.
- Students maintain their connection with an IRT and/or Guidance Counselor as needed.
- Parents should discuss the implementation of a student's IEP/ISSP with the school Service Delivery Team.