

Homeschooling

PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Manual



An overview of the homeschooling framework, summary of requirements and better practices in British Columbia.

» UPDATED NOVEMBER 2024



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care



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*** NOTE: TWO SEPARATE SUPPORTING APPENDIX DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE**



*** Appendix One: Homeschooling Legislative Requirements and Better Practise Guidelines (Summary by Key Topic)**

*** Appendix Two: Non School-Based Supports for Children and Youth**



About this document

The Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual supplements the Ministry of Education's [Homeschooling Policy](#). It provides an overview of the homeschooling framework in British Columbia and a summary of requirements and better practices to support registered homeschoolers and their parents/legal guardians (home educators). The right to choose homeschooling is afforded to parents and legal guardians in British Columbia through legislation. It is a valid educational option, and a part of B.C.'s educational landscape. This document is intended to provide information for all involved in home education. It is not intended to be used as a tool to assess a specific home educator or their educational program.

The manual is divided into four sections: **1** Overview **2** Requirement & better practices **3** How to report concerns for children & youth **4** Glossary

1. Overview

Section 1 provides an overview of the homeschooling framework in British Columbia (B.C.) and is intended for a broad audience.

2. Requirements and better practices

Section 2 maps homeschooling requirements and better practices to support registered homeschoolers, in relation to key stakeholders. Better practices are not legal requirements. Better practice considerations are optional and are provided with the intent to assist with helping each stakeholder group to consider topics that may or may not be relevant to their circumstance. Information is presented as four topics.

*Information is organized according to the different stakeholder groups that play a role in homeschooling. This manual is intended to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group in relation to topics 1 to 4. In addition, this manual outlines differences between registering public and independent school responsibilities. A separate document entitled **Appendix to the Homeschooling Manual: Legislative Provisions and Better Practice Guidelines (Summary by Topic)** is posted on the Ministry website and presents requirements and better practices in a table that is organized by topics to enable an "at a glance" overview of the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group in relation to each topic.*

Topic 1: Registration

Topic 2: Educational Programs

Topic 3: Educational Services

Topic 4: Health and Well-being

The following groups are considered to be homeschool stakeholders:

- Home Educators
- Registered Homeschoolers
- Registering Public Schools
- Boards of Education
- Registering Independent Schools
- Independent School Authorities
- Superintendents/Dir. Général of the Francophone Education Authority
- Child Welfare Worker (this includes Ministry of Children Family Development workers and staff employed by Delegated Aboriginal Agencies)
- Community Partners

3. How to report concerns for children and youth

This Section maps out how to report concerns for children and youth, including:

- Concerns that a child may not be attending school or registered as a homeschooler
- Concerns that a child may not be receiving an educational program
- Concerns that a child may be in need of protection (Duty to Report Child Protection Concerns)
- Concern over potential criminal activity

4. Glossary

This Section presents definitions of key terms.

It is the Ministry's intention to post on the Ministry website, as companions to this document, three additional standalone documents meant to summarize key information in a more succinct and readable format for the following user groups:

1. Home educators
2. Registered homeschoolers
3. Indigenous home educators and registered homeschoolers

This document was collaboratively developed between the spring of 2020 and spring 2021 by a working group comprised of education sector and provincial government representatives. The Ministry of Education wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following groups for collaborating on the development of these guidelines: B.C. Council for Administrators of Inclusive Supports in Education, the B.C. Home Educators' Association, the B.C. School Superintendents' Association, the B.C. Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association, the Federation of Independent School Associations, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the First Nations Schools Association and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. It is the Ministry of Education's intention to update this manual to reflect future legislative or policy changes, as required.

A draft of this document was posted on the Ministry of Education's website for public review and the submission of feedback early spring 2021. All feedback received was reviewed and considered by the working group, resulting in substantive revisions to the document that have made it more user-friendly.



Who should use these guidelines?

This document is intended to supplement the Ministry of Education's [Homeschooling Policy](#) and to be used by current or prospective home educators, registered homeschoolers, and the people who support them, including: registering schools; boards of education and independent school authorities; superintendents, child welfare workers (including Ministry of Children and Family Development workers and staff employed by Delegated Aboriginal Agencies) and community partners.

The intent behind including registered homeschoolers as one of the key groups in this document is to be child-centered and accessible to children and youth. This approach aligns with current research in educational best practice and with British Columbia's redesigned curriculum, which emphasizes the personalization of student learning to address the diverse needs and interests of children and youth and the engagement of children and youth – in age-appropriate ways – in the development of their educational programs and in the assessment of learning.



Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The Province of British Columbia is committed to true, lasting reconciliation by implementing the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#), the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(DRIPA\)](#), and the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). The Province's commitments under DRIPA include implementing the Act in a manner that takes into consideration the diversity of Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, particularly the distinct languages, cultures, rights, and governance structures of Indigenous peoples, and by authorizing agreements for shared decision making for the purposes of reconciliation. UNDRIP recognizes that "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning" ([Article 14.1](#)). The autonomy and authority afforded to parents/guardians of registered homeschoolers can align with UNDRIP.

What is homeschooling?

Homeschooling is an alternative method of teaching and learning outside of the B.C. K-12 education system and is not the same as learning at home through a public or independent B.C. online learning school. The homeschooling educational program (planning, delivery and assessment), is the responsibility of the home educator. Typically, a family member delivers the educational program to the registered homeschooler (homeschooled child/youth) at home or elsewhere. The home educator often incorporates community resources into the homeschooling educational program. Homeschooling may take various forms and may or may not resemble the educational program that would otherwise have been provided to a student by a public or independent school.

The right or entitlement of a parent or guardian to homeschool their children is recognized within the Ministry of Education's legislative and policy framework ([School Act](#) and the [Independent School Act](#), Ministry [Homeschooling Policy](#), [Ministry Online Learning - Policy for Homeschoolers](#) and this document, the [Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual](#)). Home educators have the option of accepting the offer of educational services from the registering school or independently selecting and providing educational services for their homeschooled child.

Registered homeschoolers represent a relatively small proportion of the school-aged population in B.C. The percentage of homeschool registrations across the education system remained fairly static (below 0.4%) for nearly two decades. Likely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of homeschool registrations suddenly increased across the province and for the 2020/21 school year, homeschoolers represented 0.8% of the school-aged population (based on a September 30, 2020 snapshot). Provincial data illustrates that most registered homeschoolers

are in the elementary and middle school age range, and that the proportion of homeschool registrations from the age of 14 and above (once eligible to begin the Graduation Program: Grades 10-12) is much smaller than the 5-13 age range.

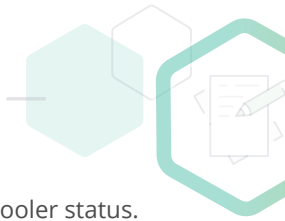
Indigenous home educators and Indigenous registered homeschoolers

NOTE: Indigenous homeschoolers means registered homeschoolers who have ever self-identified as Indigenous – as a student and/or registered homeschooler.

Over the last decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of Indigenous registered homeschoolers in both school districts and independent schools. In 2011/12, 4% of registered homeschoolers (82/2,084) across the province self-identified as Indigenous. In 2020/21, 13% of registered homeschoolers self-identified as Indigenous (717/5,551). Over the same period, the number of Indigenous registered homeschoolers increased 774% (from 82 to 717).

Indigenous home educators are responsible for making decisions about their children's education. Home educators can provide varying types of learning opportunities that may reflect their Indigenous identity and cultural heritage, and foster connection to their lands and territories. Article 14.1 of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#) states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning."

[SEE BC'S DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.]



Homeschooling educational program

The *School Act* defines an “**educational program**” as a set of learning activities that is designed to enable learners (enrolled students and registered homeschoolers) to become literate, to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy. Within the context of homeschooling, the parent has the authority to determine how the homeschooling educational program meets the requirements of this definition.

Differences between registered homeschooling and online learning

Legislative changes to online learning through Bill 8 have taken effect (as of July 1, 2021). Amendments to existing online learning policies, reflective of Bill 8, have been made. This version of the Manual reflects Bill 8 but does not yet reflect the final consolidated Online Learning Policy which is currently under development.

There can be confusion around the distinction between a registered homeschooler and a student who is enrolled with a school and taking online learning courses. In both cases, the learning takes place at home or elsewhere and often online. The key difference between a registered homeschooler and an enrolled student is who delivers and oversees the educational program. In the case of a registered homeschooler, the home educator is entirely responsible for the educational program. For students enrolled with a public school (in-person or online), or with a Group 1, 2 or 4 independent school (in-person or online), a B.C. certified teacher, employed by a board of education or an independent school authority, is responsible for planning, delivering and assessing the educational program as part of their duties of employment.

Often families with a child enrolled in online learning courses through a B.C. public or independent school, who primarily learns in the home, view themselves to be homeschoolers. However, aligning with the legislative definitions, the Ministry only recognizes registered homeschoolers as homeschoolers. Children/youth who learn at home (via online learning) through a public or independent school are “students” and not registered homeschoolers, by Ministry definition, with the exception of registered homeschoolers who are taking online learning courses at

the grades 10-12 level while retaining their registered homeschooler status. [Ministry of Education staff with responsibility for Homeschooling](#) and the [B.C. Home Educators' Association](#)¹ would be pleased to provide additional clarification between homeschooling and online learning, as required.

Another important difference between homeschooling and online learning is the level of Ministry of Education funding provided to boards of education/ independent school authorities for their enrolled students versus registered homeschoolers. Boards of education and independent school authorities receive a larger amount of funding from the Ministry of Education for providing an educational program to students. The Ministry provides a minimal grant to cover the administrative costs associated with the registration process and the requirement to offer educational services for registered homeschoolers. In both cases, funding is not delivered to parents/guardians, but rather to the board of education or independent school authority.

A registered homeschooler is a child/youth that has been registered as a homeschooler, as per sections 13 of the [School Act](#). A **home educator** is a parent/guardian of a registered homeschooler, who is responsible for providing the homeschooled child with an educational program, as per section 12 of the [School Act](#).

In brief, homeschooling is NOT:

- Supervised by a B.C.-certified Teacher, as part of their duties of employment with a B.C. school
- Required to follow the provincial curriculum
- Inspected by the Ministry of Education

¹Links to external organizations, such as the B.C. Home Educators' Association, are provided for information. These external entities are completely separate from the B.C. Ministry of Education and the Ministry is not responsible for the information provided by these groups and the groups are not authorized to speak on behalf of the Ministry.

The role of the Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education is responsible for setting policy and for providing funding to boards of education and independent school authorities. Provincial homeschooling grants are provided on an annual basis to boards of education and independent school authorities for each registered homeschooler that is reported to the Ministry of Education in the fall.

Homeschooling grants are intended to cover administrative costs associated with the registration process and the requirement for registering schools to offer educational services.

No provincial funding is sent directly from the Ministry of Education to home educators or registered homeschoolers.

- Boards of education receive \$250 for each homeschooler registered with a public school within the school district
- Independent school authorities holding a certificate of group 1 or group 2 classification receive \$175 for each registered homeschooler. Note that independent school authorities also have the ability to set a fee for homeschool registration.

TABLE 1 – Differences between homeschooling, online learning and in person learning

CRITERIA	HOMESCHOOLING	ONLINE LEARNING THROUGH B.C. PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	IN-PERSON LEARNING THROUGH B.C. PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
Must follow the B.C. Curriculum	No	Yes	Yes
Learning must be supervised by a B.C.-certified Teacher, as part of their duties of employment with a B.C. school (responsibilities include planning, selecting Educational Resource Materials, facilitating learning activities and documenting learning)	No	Yes	Yes
Learner progress must be evaluated, and report cards prepared by a B.C. certified Teacher	No	Yes	Yes
Learner must participate in Provincial Graduation Assessments and Foundation Skills Assessments	No <i>(FSA & Grad Assessments are optional)</i>	Yes	Yes
Religious beliefs may be taught	Yes	No - in public	No - in public
		Yes - in independent	Yes - in independent
"Status" in a school	Registered Homeschooler*	Enrolled Student	Enrolled Student

* Registered Homeschoolers who are eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 courses may remain a homeschooler while also enrolling in Online Learning courses at the Grade 10 to 12 level.

TABLE 2 – Educational program: roles and responsibilities

RESPONSIBILITIES	HOMESCHOOLING	ONLINE LEARNING THROUGH B.C. PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	IN-PERSON LEARNING THROUGH B.C. PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
Facilitating Learning Activities	Home Educator (required)	B.C. Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority	B.C. Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority
Extended Assessments, (facilitating and covering the cost)	Home Educator (at the discretion of the home educator)	Board of Education/ Independent School Authority*	Board of Education/ Independent School Authority*
Developing the Learning Plan (and individual Education Plan - if required)	Home Educator (at the discretion of the home educator)	B.C. Certified Teacher	B.C. Certified Teacher
Selecting Resources	Home Educator (at the discretion of the home educator)	B.C. Certified Teacher/Board of Education/Independent School Authority	B.C. Certified Teacher/Board of Education/Independent School Authority
Evaluation and Assessment	Home Educator (at the discretion of the home educator)**	B.C. Certified Teacher/Board of Education/Independent School Authority/ Ministry of Education	B.C. Certified Teacher/Board of Education/Independent School Authority/ Ministry of Education
Documenting Learning	Home Educator (at the discretion of the home educator)	B.C. Certified Teacher	B.C. Certified Teacher

* Parents/guardians of students at an independent school may be expected to pay for extended assessments.

** Registering schools have some responsibilities with regard to offering access to evaluation and assessment services

Considerations when exploring homeschooling



Choosing homeschooling means that the home educator is solely responsible for providing and supervising all aspects of their child's educational program, including curriculum and learning materials. Homeschooling comes with legal responsibilities, which have been summarized in Section 2 of this document. For families with the time, resources and interest, homeschooling can be a rewarding educational option.

A range of factors should be considered when deciding whether homeschooling is a good fit and will support the child/youth's education and development. These include the reasons for and commitment to homeschooling the child/youth, as well as the home educator's ability to [provide a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning](#). Additional factors for the parent/guardian's² consideration include:

- Supporting the child/youth's overall health and wellness
- Accessing recreation, sports, and arts
- Accessing nature and outdoor-based learning opportunities
- Accessing community supports / networks
- Fostering cultural connections and identities of children/youth, including Indigenous children/youth
- Meeting and responding to disabilities or diverse abilities
- Supporting the child/youth's longer term and life goals (e.g. support for post-secondary transitions)
- Balancing the home educator's career and/or other commitments

Sometimes a family will become interested in homeschooling as a result of a situation where they feel that a child's needs have not been met in a particular school environment. Families may wish to explore the full spectrum of educational options that are available in addition to exploring homeschooling. School districts and independent schools can offer a range of settings and experiences for students, ranging from in-person to online and / or blended, as well as alternate or specialized programs.

To help decide whether homeschooling is a good fit, homeschooling advocacy groups, such as the [B.C. Home Educators' Association \(BCHEA\)](#), can provide more

information on homeschooling, and its advantages and challenges. In addition to the BCHEA, there are a variety of sites and organizations that support the interests of home educators within B.C., Canada and worldwide.

Children/youth with disabilities or diverse abilities

Children with disabilities or diverse abilities may require a range of educational supports and services. When such students are enrolled with a public or independent school, they may be entitled to additional supports provided by the board of education or independent school authority. Boards of education and independent school authorities receive supplemental inclusive education funding from the Ministry of Education for eligible enrolled students to support their needs. In the case of a registered homeschooler, parents are choosing to opt out of an array of specialized supports and expertise that enrolled students with disabilities or diverse abilities benefit from, and it is the parent/caregiver's responsibility to provide the homeschooled child/youth with an appropriate and supportive educational program. The Ministry of Education directs both operational and supplementary funding to K-12 enrolling schools; it does not provide supplementary inclusive education funding to registering schools or to home educators who have opted out of the formal K-12 educational system. Registered homeschoolers with disabilities or diverse abilities are not eligible to receive inclusive education supports through the registering school or assistance in developing their educational program.

To ensure homeschooling families are aware of additional supports that may be available to them via other Ministries, Ministry staff conducted outreach to partner ministries in 2023. To learn about supports and services provided to eligible children and youth (including registered homeschoolers) by other ministries, please review [Appendix Two: Non School-Based Supports for Children and Youth](#). Other Ministries include: *Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.*

NOTE: *Online learning schools may set their own policies with regard to enrolling students with a disability or diverse ability, but these students are funded at the same rate as students in in-person schools.*

²These considerations are at the discretion of the home educator.



Homeschooling & graduation pathways to obtaining a B.C. graduation credential and/or post-secondary entry

A registered homeschooler cannot obtain a B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) through homeschooling alone. There are two ways for a registered homeschooler to obtain sufficient credit to graduate from the B.C. education system.

Pathway 1 – Entering or re-entering the B.C. education system

A common pathway is for a registered homeschooler to transition to ‘enrolled student status’ and begin taking courses through a BC public or independent school that can be applied towards a B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma.

For further information, including education relation data and trends across the Province, visit [Data BC](#).

Please review the [Ministry of Education’s Graduation Program Handbook of Procedures](#) for information regarding the paths to graduation and corresponding requirements.

Registered homeschoolers are free to move in and out of the B.C. school system if and when their needs change. To return or enter the B.C. education system, contact a board of education or an independent school. Staff can assist and place the child/youth in an appropriate educational program offered by a board of education or independent school authority.

- Registered homeschoolers contemplating enrolling in a school to pursue a path to graduation should consult with school staff regarding course readiness, relevant prior learning and educational support measures currently utilized by the transitioning student (in the home learning environment) prior to transition
- [The Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies policy](#) provides information on some of the alternative ways that fully enrolled students can earn credit towards graduation in B.C. This policy may be helpful for registered homeschoolers who may be considering transitioning to enrolled student status.

Pathway 2 – Retaining registered homeschooler status while enrolling in online learning (grades 10-12 only)

It is also possible for a registered homeschooler to retain their status as a homeschooler, if desired, while enrolling in graduation program (Grades 10-12) online learning courses made available by a board of education or independent school authority. This option, which is referenced in the School Regulation and the Independent School Regulation, enables registered homeschoolers, who wish to retain their registered homeschooler status, to earn credits that can be applied towards graduation from the B.C. education system (earning a B.C. Certificate of Graduation or an Adult Graduation Diploma), and/or to facilitate a pathway to application or entry to post-secondary education (e.g. to complete pre-requisite courses). It is important to note that a registered homeschooler who enrolls in an educational program offered by a board of education or independent school authority does not retain their registered homeschooler status, unless they are eligible for Grades 10, 11 or 12 and enroll in online learning courses only.

The [Ministry of Education’s Graduation Program Handbook of Procedures](#) provides in depth information regarding the paths to graduation and corresponding requirements. Additional considerations include:

- Registered homeschoolers contemplating enrolling in Grades 10-12 courses via online learning should consult with staff at the school offering the online learning course regarding course readiness, relevant prior learning and universal educational support measures utilized by the registered homeschooler in the home learning environment.
- If the school where the registered homeschooler is taking an online course is not the registering school, home educators should ensure that the school knows where the student is registered at the time of course enrollment. The registering school is the school of record and is responsible for reporting final grades to the Ministry of Education and ensuring that the course(s) are recorded on the registered homeschooler’s Ministry of Education transcript.

B.C. secondary school transcript of grades or graduation certificate

To order an official B.C. Secondary School Transcript of Grades or Graduation Certificate (Dogwood), please visit the Ministry of Education’s Student Transcripts Service (STS) website at <http://www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca>.

Retaining registered homeschool status while auditing a course at a public or independent school (in-person or online)

For children entitled to enrol in K-9

Registered homeschoolers may attend (audit) educational programs offered by a board of education or independent school authority, subject to any terms and conditions established by the board or authority, including the payment of a fee. However, a registered homeschooler does not receive credit for taking instruction in this manner.

For persons of school age and entitled to enrol in grades 10-12

If registered homeschoolers wish to take courses not delivered through online learning, they may audit in-person courses offered by a board of education or independent school authority subject to terms and conditions established by the board or authority. This may include payment of a fee. However, in these circumstances, credit is not awarded for the course.

Post-secondary transitions:

Registered homeschoolers without a B.C. graduation credential

Registered homeschoolers who do not earn a B.C. Certificate of Graduation can still pursue post-secondary education. Many post-secondary institutions provide alternate admissions pathways, and registered homeschoolers without a B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma have successfully transitioned to colleges and universities. Registered homeschoolers who do not intend to earn a B.C. graduation credential and wish to attend a post-secondary institution should research admission requirements for potential programs of choice and confirm eligibility and admission requirements and any alternate admissions processes directly with the institutions. It is advisable to start this process early (e.g. in the early teen years). Homeschooling advocacy groups may also be of assistance.

The BC Transfer Guide may also be a helpful resource:

<https://www.bctransferguide.ca>



Homeschooling and COVID-19³

Be advised that the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) and the [BC Centre for Disease Control COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#) are not applicable in a home setting. Home educators are encouraged to adapt relevant sections of these documents to their homeschool setting and to take as many preventative measures as possible when organizing group homeschooling activities. Measures such as physical distancing, mask use when physical distancing is not possible, frequent hand hygiene, and cleaning/disinfecting are all encouraged, particularly when interacting with people outside of your social bubble. Home educators are also advised to keep up to date with any [Province-wide restrictions](#) including those relating to public health.

³This section on COVID-19 will be updated in the future, as required.



SECTION II: LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS AND BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES (BY KEY USER GROUP)



- NOTE*:**
1. The information presented in the “Legislative Provisions” column throughout relates to legal requirements or entitlements. Adherence to “Better Practice Guidelines” is not required by legislation and are optional. Home educators have the discretion whether to follow better practise guidelines or not.
 2. The legislation and policy provisions noted throughout do not comprise an exhaustive list of all relevant provisions. All entities are advised to conduct legal due diligence and to comply with all applicable legislation.
 3. This document does not contain legal advice and is intended only to present some of the relevant considerations.
 4. The Francophone Education Authority is included under the category “Boards of Education”.

Definitions of key topics:

1. Registration Process:

The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a child/youth and the registering school's rocess for registering a child/youth as a homeschooler, including reporting registrations to the Ministry of Education.

2. Educational Program:

The *School Act* defines an “educational program” as a set of learning activities that is designed to enable learners (enrolled Students and homeschooled children) to become literate, to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy. Within the context of Homeschooling, the parent has the authority to determine how the homeschooling educational program meets this definition.

3. Educational Services:

Registering schools have a requirement to offer educational services. These include the loan of educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services. Note: Parents/guardians of registered homeschoolers may accept or reject the offer of educational services from a registering school.

4. Health and Wellbeing:

This topic addresses specific elements of child/youth health and wellbeing, including helpful resources.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (HOME EDUCATOR)

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to s. 3 of the School Act, from age 5 or 6 until the age of 16, children who are resident in British Columbia are required by the School Act to take part in an educational program or course of studies: options for doing so include enrolling with a school or registering as a homeschooler. • Registration as homeschooler or enrollment as a student by Sept. 30 of the school year a child turns 5 is optional, but it is mandatory by Sept. 30 of the school year a child turns 6. • After that, registration or enrollment continue to be mandatory until the child reaches the age of 16. • Section 13 of the <i>School Act</i> allows for the registration of homeschoolers. • Home educators are required to register homeschooled children by September 30 (annually) at the Home Educator's school of choice (School Act, section 13). • It is an offence not to register a homeschooled child - <i>School Act</i>, section 13(4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better Practice Guidelines. • Understand the roles and responsibilities of home educators. • Understand the differences between registering as a homeschooler and taking online learning courses as an enrolled student. • Understand that registering schools are required to offer educational services (educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services). • Be informed of the educational services registering schools can provide in order to choose the school of registration that best suits each homeschooler's needs. • Be informed of any fees and / or deposits that the registering school may require. • Be informed that each board of education and independent school authority may determine whether a person is <u>ordinarily resident in BC</u> based on objective evidence as to whether that a person has established a regular, habitual mode of life in B.C. • Families that opt to homeschool after Sept. 30 (i.e. transition from enrolled to registered part-way through a school year), should register the homeschooler with a public or independent school at the time of the transition. This includes families that move to B.C. after Sept. 30 and choose to homeschool for the remainder of the school year.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (HOME EDUCATOR) CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that the superintendent of a school district has an obligation to follow up on any reports received that a child who is being educated at home is not registered or may not be receiving an educational program. This responsibility extends to registered homeschoolers who are registered at an independent school. This is set out in an order made by the Minister of Education entitled "Investigation by Superintendent Order." • Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the superintendent's investigation. • Aside from providing basic information to the registering school, home educators may choose the degree to which they wish to engage in additional elements of the registration process (e.g. discussion on alternative educational settings in the B.C. K-12 school system, and on educational services offered by the registering school).
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<p>Parents/guardians (Home Educators) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide their homeschooled child / youth with an educational program (School Act, section 12). • Ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (Statement of Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore various methodologies for home education to assist with creating your educational program. • Consider ways to keep your homeschooled child engaged in their learning; high levels of engagement are linked to better outcomes. • Consider ways to include First Peoples' Principles of Learning into the Educational Program and consider accessing resources that are listed on the Ministry of Education Indigenous education resources webpage as well as FNEC's Learning First Peoples Classroom Resources webpage. • Connect with other home educators and home educator networks for support and guidance.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (HOME EDUCATOR) CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out appropriate professional or supplemental services if the homeschooler has disabilities, diverse abilities and/or other needs. • Research options for post-secondary transitions, including the option to take Grade 10-12 courses via online learning while retaining registered homeschooler status. • Be aware that a registered homeschooler may be able to audit courses offered by the registering school (not for credit), with special permission of the board of education. Note that this may involve the payment of a fee. • Understand that the superintendent of a school district has an obligation to follow up on any reports received that a child who is being educated at home may not be receiving an educational program. This responsibility extends to registered homeschoolers who are registered at an independent school.
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering schools are required to offer homeschoolers educational services (educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services) : section 13(3) of the School Act; section 3 of the School Regulation; and section 6 of the Independent School Regulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know that registering schools must offer educational services (educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services). • Be aware of the different requirements for registering public and independent Schools. • Be informed of the services offered by the registering schools and any related procedures (e.g. you may have to make a written request to access services). • Select educational services that best support the homeschooled child's educational program and learning goals, as needed (through the registering school or other). • Consider joining a network of home educators and registered homeschoolers. • Be aware of additional resources available to you (community-based, online, etc.).

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (HOME EDUCATOR) CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/guardians have a responsibility to ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (Statement of Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of community supports and emergency services. Childhood immunizations are provided in an in-person school setting. Home educators are responsible for ensuring their child/youth is immunized in accordance with the standard vaccination schedule should they choose to adhere to the recommended immunization guidelines. Be aware that immunization is an important part of protecting the health of children and youth, individually and collectively. <div data-bbox="1220 662 1961 743" style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>➔ Immunization Resources: Immunize BC About the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware that registering schools are required to disclose Student lists (including registered homeschoolers) to health authorities upon request. Be aware of the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation (Ministry of Health), that supports the collection of immunization records of school-aged children so that all records are stored in one place.



REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLER (CHILD/YOUTH)

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children/youth can be homeschooled but must be registered with a B.C. school (School Act, section 13). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered homeschoolers should understand that there is a legal requirement for home educators to register a homeschooled child/youth with a public or independent school.
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Homeschoolers: Are entitled to be provided, by their home educator, with an educational program (School Act, section 12). Are entitled to a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (Statement of Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89). While in grades 10-12, may retain their registered homeschooler status when enrolling in online learning courses. School Regulation, Section 3(3); Independent School Regulation, Section 6(3). May be able to audit courses offered by the Registering School (not for credit), with special permission of the Board of Education Independent School Authority School Regulation, Section 3(2). Note that this may involve the payment of a fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of the right of all enrolled students and registered homeschoolers to an educational program. Be aware of the different educational options for school-aged children/youth, including: in person, online, specialized/alternate programs and homeschooling. Be aware that homeschooled youth are not eligible to graduate in the B.C. education system through homeschooling alone. Be aware that a youth who is eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 can retain registered homeschooler status and enroll in all or part of an educational program offered through online learning only. Credits towards graduation (B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma) can be earned this way. Communicate your learning goals and preferences to your parent/guardian. Participate in choosing learning activities and resources. Engage in learning activities. Reflect on learning. Research how to access post-secondary programs as a homeschooler and proactively make enquiries with post-secondary or other educational institutions regarding entrance requirements.

REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLER (CHILD/YOUTH) CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered homeschoolers are entitled to access educational services from the registering school: section 13(3) of the School Act; section 3 of the School Regulation; and section 6 of the Independent School Regulation. <div data-bbox="567 454 1249 714" style="border: 1px solid #00a6d6; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>United Nations Rights of Children: Every child in Canada and around the world from birth to 18 has rights. Rights are what you should have or be able to do to survive, thrive and meet your full potential. All rights are equally important and are connected to each other. You are born with these rights, and no one can take them away. See the linked poster for more information on children's rights. https://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/2016-11/crc_poster_en.pdf</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know that registering schools must offer educational services (educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services). <div data-bbox="1302 479 1984 730" style="border: 1px solid #00a6d6; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The Rights of Indigenous Peoples (including Indigenous children): As an Indigenous learner, you have the right to all levels and forms of education without discrimination. UNDRIP also states that effective measures should be taken in order that Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and language. See the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for more information on your rights as an Indigenous person.</p> </div>
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<p>N/A</p> <div data-bbox="567 730 1249 1510" style="border: 1px solid #00a6d6; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Emergencies: If you are in immediate risk, please call 911 immediately.</p> <p>Non-emergency health concerns: Kids Help 1 800 668 6868 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text: 686868 <p>Mental Health: If you are concerned that you or someone you know is in immediate risk to hurt themselves, call 9-1-1 immediately.</p> <p>Suicide Crisis Helpline: Call or Text 988 (988.ca) Suicide Crisis: 1 800 SUICIDE (1 800 784 2433) Mental Health issue: 310 6789</p> <p>Youth in BC chatline (online chat is available from noon to 1:00am in BC and Yukon): https://youthinbc.com</p> <p>24-hour crisis lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Vancouver: 604 872 3311 Howe Sound and Sunshine Coast: 1 866 661 3311 TY (teletypewriter for deaf and hard of hearing) 1 866 972 0113 <p>Indigenous Crisis Lines: Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society operates a 24-hour provincial Indigenous crisis line for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults/Elders: 250 723 4050 Child/Youth: 250 723 2040 Toll-free line: 1 800 588 8717 </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of your individual rights (see United Nations Rights of Children), including a right to an education. If you are an Indigenous registered homeschooler, be aware of your rights as an Indigenous person (see the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) including Indigenous children. Be aware of the home educator's responsibility to ensure that homeschoolers are provided with a healthy and supportive environment for learning. Be aware of community supports. Be aware of emergency services (e.g. crisis helpline). (See contact info in the Emergency Contact Information for Children and Youth section at the end of this manual). Registered homeschoolers should also monitor their own health and well-being and ask for help from a responsible/trusted adult when needed (e.g. parent/guardian, family friend, healthcare professional).

REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principals of public schools are required to register the child of a parent/guardian if that parent/guardian notifies a school of their intent to homeschool - School Act, section 13(2). Public schools (all delivery models) are required to register the child of any parent/guardian, regardless of where they live (in or out of catchment). Registering schools must report homeschool registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701). <div data-bbox="453 581 1220 1187" style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>1701 Form: Required Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Education Number (Schools must request PENS for any new students/homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry). Legal names Birth Date Gender BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child. <p>Enter code (HS) in the grade code field if the child's education program is being led by the parent or guardian and has been registered with your school.</p> <p>NOTE: Registered homeschooled child must be of school age (must be 5 years of age by December 31, but not 19 years of age or older as of July 1, of the current School Year).</p> <p>Student Data Collections Ministry webpage has more information about the 1701 data collections.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the start of the school year in which a child turns 5 (although it can be deferred until the start of the school year in which a child turns 6) until the child reaches the age of 16. Accept homeschool registrations at any time of year. To ensure consistency of practice, establish a homeschooling policy that is consistent with the legislation and addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The registration process (before and after Sept. 30)</i> <i>Educational services</i> <i>Procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program</i> <i>What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology</i> <i>The registration process and purpose</i> <i>The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (including a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program)</i> <i>What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional).</i> Identify a school or board of education contact person who understands the intricacies of homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways and post their name and contact information online. Ensure school (or board of education) policies and procedures are up to date, accurate and publicly available. Establish a process for clarifying the differences between homeschooling and enrolling in online learning. For example, during the registration process, offer to provide an opportunity where a staff member who is well-versed in educational pathways could explain different educational options.

REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create accessible registration forms and a welcoming registration process, including access to information on educational services, any fees and deposits that may be required, and any other opportunities whereby homeschoolers may engage with the school community. • Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/ board of education policies and practices around the registration of homeschoolers. • Provide a “receipt” of homeschool registration to the home educator. • Registering schools should request records for newly registered homeschoolers (i.e. new to the school district or school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record, as required. • Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled students (or their future home educators) opting into homeschooling. • Send parents/guardians of registered homeschoolers an end of year communication, congratulating families on their achievements and reminding them to register by Sept. 30 the following school year, if continuing to homeschool. • Understand that the superintendent of a school district has an obligation to follow up on any reports received that a child who is being educated at home may not be registered.
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to s. 3(3) of the School Regulation, registered homeschoolers in grades 10-12 may enroll in online learning courses offered by public or independent schools and retain their registered homeschooler status. • Section 3(2) of the School Regulation provides that a registered homeschooler may audit public school courses with the permission of the board of education and subject to the terms and conditions imposed by the board of education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals & staff should be aware that registering schools do not have the authority to review, approve or oversee homeschoolers’ educational programs. • The School Regulation allows registered homeschoolers eligible to enrol in Grades 10-12 to retain their registered homeschooler status while enrolling in online learning courses (Grades 10-12 only). • Registered homeschoolers may, in certain circumstances, be able to audit a course (not for credit), while retaining their registered homeschooler status. • Staff should be aware of the superintendent’s duty to investigate the reported belief that a registered homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program.

REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School policies and practices must align with legislative requirements regarding educational services. <p>School Regulation, section 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public schools are required to offer the loan of educational resource materials that are, in the opinion of the board of education, sufficient to enable the child to pursue their educational program and on a similar basis to the offer of such educational resources to enrolled students. <p>NOTE: Registering public schools may require a deposit for the loan of educational resource materials – School Act, section 82(4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Schools are required to offer evaluation and assessment services free of charge for the parent to determine the homeschooled child's progress in relation to Students of a similar age and ability - School Regulation, section 3(1). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware that that the legislative requirements for registering public and independent schools are different. The services offered by public schools to registered homeschoolers must align with the School Regulation. Clearly communicate through their policies (and as an intrinsic part of the registration process) what educational services are offered by the school and how to access those services. Clearly communicate in advance with homeschooling families if homeschoolers have the option of participating in any supplemental educational activities /events (e.g. field trips, assemblies, sports teams, performance groups, music groups). Nominate a staff member at the school with responsibility for homeschooling-related procedures and make the name and contact information of this person freely available (e.g. website, handbook). Consider the needs of potential homeschooler registrations when ordering class sets of resources and materials, digital subscriptions, etc. <div data-bbox="1249 938 2003 1523" style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 10px;"> <p>Examples of educational resource materials NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats</i> <i>Access to library and online subscriptions</i> <i>Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner)</i> <p>Examples of evaluation and assessment services NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy)</i> <i>General education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas)</i> <i>End of term/year exam sessions</i> <i>Portfolio assessments</i> <i>Optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled Students assessments (e.g. SAT's) on a fee basis</i> </div>

REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other services that some registering schools may offer to provide: <div data-bbox="1249 373 1990 812" style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 10px;"> <p>Optional for Registering Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group).</i> - <i>The option to access transition planning (to post-secondary).</i> - <i>The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable.</i> - <i>The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</i> </div>
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and independent schools are required to disclose student records (including those of registered homeschoolers) to someone who is planning (in accordance with per the Student Records Disclosure Order and Student Records Order linked below) for the delivery of, or delivering, health services, social services or other support services to that student or the child. This includes providing health authorities with records in relation to Vaccination Status Reporting. Authority: The Student Records Disclosure Order, section 3 (School Act); and The Student Records Order, section 6 (Independent School Act). • Ensure personal information is stored in accordance with applicable information and privacy laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer registered homeschoolers and home educators the option of receiving routine health and wellness communications and ensure home educators receive relevant health and wellness related updates from the Ministry of Education. • Make home educators aware of health and wellness resources (e.g. parent / child resources on the Ministry of Education's erase website).

REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent schools have the authority to determine if they will register homeschoolers (Independent School Act, section 10). Registering Schools must report homeschool registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701). <div data-bbox="451 495 1218 1128" style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>1701 Form: Required Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Education Number (Schools must request PENS for any new Students / homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry). Legal names Birth Date Gender BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child. <p>Enter code (HS) in the grade code field if the child's education program is being led by the parent or guardian and has been registered with your school.</p> <p>NOTE: Registered homeschooled child must be of school age (must be 5 years of age by December 31, but not 19 years of age or older as of July 1, of the current School Year).</p> <p>Student Data Collections Ministry webpage has more information about the 1701 data collections.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with the <i>Protection of Information and Privacy Act</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the year a child turns 5 (can be deferred until 6) until they reach the age of 16. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For homeschoolers, registration is REQUIRED by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16. For homeschoolers, registration is OPTIONAL: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1. Provide clarification in school policies regarding the registration of homeschoolers, including information regarding any decision made not to register homeschoolers. Develop homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around homeschooling. To ensure consistency of practice, independent school authority homeschooling policies/procedures should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registration process (before and after Sept 30), Educational services Procedures around follow-up on reports of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Homeschoolers not being registered Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program The policy should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology The registration process and purpose The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program) What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional) Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.

REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a school or independent school authority contact person who understands the intricacies of homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways and post their name and contact information online. • Establish a process for clarifying the differences between registered homeschooling and enrolling in a school (in person learning and online learning options). For example, during the registration process, offer to provide an opportunity where a staff member who is well-versed in educational pathways could explain different educational options. • Create accessible registration forms and a welcoming registration process, including access to information on educational services, any fees and deposits that may be required, and any other opportunities whereby homeschoolers may engage with the school community. • Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/board of education policies and practices around the registration of homeschoolers. • Provide a “receipt” of homeschool registration to the home educator. • Registering schools should request records for newly registered homeschoolers (i.e. new to the school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record, as required. • Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled students (or their future home educators) opting into homeschooling. • Send parents/guardians of registered homeschoolers an end of year communication, congratulating families on their achievements and reminding them to register by Sept. 30 the following school year, if continuing to homeschool. • Understand that the superintendent of a school district has an obligation to follow up on any reports received that a child who is being educated at home may not be registered. This includes registered homeschoolers who may be registered with an independent school.

REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to s. 6(3) of the Independent School Regulation, registered homeschoolers in grades 10-12 may enroll in online learning courses offered by public or independent schools and retain their registered homeschooler status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principals and staff at registering schools should be aware that registering schools do not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the homeschooling educational program. Be aware of the legislative provision whereby a registered homeschooler who is eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 courses can retain their registered homeschooler status while enrolling in online learning courses (Grades 10-12 only). Staff should be aware of the superintendent's duty to investigate the reported belief that a registered homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program. This includes registered homeschoolers that are registered with an independent school.
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School policies and procedures must align with legislative requirements regarding educational services. <p>Independent School Regulation, section 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent schools that register homeschoolers must offer, free of charge, evaluation and assessment services normally offered to students by the independent school in which the child is registered Independent schools that register homeschoolers may loan authorized and recommend educational resource materials provided by the Ministry of Education that in the school's opinion are sufficient to enable the child to pursue his or her educational program. Independent schools that register homeschoolers may loan learning materials used by the students of the independent school that, in the school's opinion, are sufficient to enable the child to pursue his or her educational program. Registering independent schools may require a deposit for the loan of educational resource materials and learning materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware that that the legislative requirements for registering public and Independent Schools are different. The services offered by independent schools to registered homeschoolers must reflect the details set out in the Independent School Regulation. Clearly communicate through their policies (and as an intrinsic part of the registration process) what educational services are offered by the school and how to access those services. Clearly communicate in advance with homeschooling families if homeschoolers have the option of participating in any supplemental educational activities / events (e.g. field trips, assemblies, sports teams, performance groups, music groups). Nominate a staff member at the school with responsibility for homeschooling-related procedures and make this person's name and contact information freely available (e.g. website, handbook). Consider the needs of potential homeschooler registrations when ordering class sets of resources and materials, digital subscriptions, etc.

REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<p>NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</p> <p>Examples of educational resource materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats</i> - <i>Access to library and online subscriptions</i> - <i>Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner)</i> <p>Examples of educational learning materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Paper</i> - <i>Writing tools</i> - <i>Calculators other than graphical calculators</i> - <i>Student planners</i> - <i>Exercise books</i> <p>Examples of evaluation and assessment services that are normally offered to students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy)</i> - <i>General education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas)</i> - <i>End of term/year exam sessions</i> - <i>Portfolio assessments</i> - <i>Optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled students assessments (e.g. SAT's) on a fee basis</i> <p>OPTIONAL FOR REGISTERING SCHOOLS</p> <p>Other services that some registering schools may offer to provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group)</i> - <i>Option to access transition planning (to post-secondary)</i> - <i>The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable</i> - <i>The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</i>

REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and independent schools are required to disclose student records (including those of registered homeschoolers) to someone who is planning (in accordance with per the Student Records Disclosure Order and Student Records Order linked below) for the delivery of, or delivering, health services, social services or other support services to that student or the child. This includes providing health authorities with records in relation to Vaccination Status Reporting. Authority: <p>The Student Records Disclosure Order, section 3 (School Act); and The Student Records Order, section 6 (Independent School Act).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure personal information is stored in accordance with applicable information and privacy laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer Registered homeschoolers and home educators the option of receiving routine health and wellness communications and ensure home educators receive relevant health and wellness related updates from the Ministry of Education. Make Home Educators aware of health and wellness resources (e.g. parent / child resources on the Ministry of Education's erase website).



BOARDS OF EDUCATION

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boards of Education are required to ensure that the principal, vice-principal or director of instruction responsible for schools in their jurisdiction register the child of a parent/guardian requesting such registration - <u>School Act, section 13 (2)</u>. Boards of education are required to have published a schedule of fees to be charged and deposits required for homeschooling educational resources, in accordance with applicable legislation - <u>School Act, section 82 (4-6)</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop district homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around homeschooling. To ensure consistency of practice, board of education homeschooling policies / procedures should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registration process (before and after Sept 30), Educational services and Procedures around follow-up on reports of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Homeschoolers not being registered Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program. The policy should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology The registration process and purpose The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program) What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional) Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation. Board of education policies and procedures regarding reporting child protection concerns should also apply to registered homeschoolers. Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures to follow when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be registered or may not be receiving an educational program. Ensure board of education policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and homeschooling families. In public-facing information, identify a contact person for homeschooling. It could be useful if this contact also had responsibility or information on alternate education programs and diverse educational pathways.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that registering schools understand that parents /guardians are entirely responsible for providing and overseeing the educational program and that the schools does not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the homeschooling educational program. • In public-facing information, identify a contact person for homeschooling. It could be useful if this contact also had responsibility or information on alternate education programs and diverse educational pathways. • Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program. Ensure that staff understand that the superintendent's duties extend to registered homeschoolers who may be / are registered with an independent school.
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<p>Board of education homeschooling policies must align with the School Regulation's specific requirements in relation to educational services - School Regulation, section 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boards of education may set their own terms and conditions regarding registered homeschoolers auditing educational programs offered by the board of education. Fees are permitted under the legislation. • Boards of education are required to have published schedule of fees for homeschooling educational resources, in accordance with applicable legislation - School Act, section 82(4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure schools are aware of their obligation to offer educational services, as per legislation and should have a process for ensuring that there are adequate resources for enrolled students and registered homeschoolers. • To ensure consistency of practice and of information shared with homeschooling families (current and potential) should be written in a welcoming and accessible manner and should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The educational services offered by the schools within the school district</i> - <i>How to access the services</i> - <i>Information regarding auditing courses</i> • Boards of education should make information about educational services freely available (e.g. website). • Ensure school policies are aligned with board of education policies.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for registering public and independent schools are different. • Boards of education should identify a staff member / key contact within the board of education with responsibility for coordinating homeschooling related procedures and services. Consider making this the same person with responsibility for alternate education and diverse educational pathways • Consider monitoring the use of the grant provided by the Ministry of Education for each registered homeschooler. • Be aware that the intent of the Ministry grant is to support registering schools in providing education services (in alignment with legislative requirements) to registered homeschoolers. The Ministry does not intend for the grant (or a portion thereof) to be provided directly to parents/guardians.
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that registered homeschoolers are included in pandemic response planning. • Establish procedures for disseminating health and wellness related updates to registered homeschoolers and home educators.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent school authorities have the ability to determine if they will register homeschoolers - <i>Independent School Act, Section 10 (1)</i>. Independent school authorities may set a fee for homeschooler registration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clarification in school policies regarding the registration of homeschoolers, including information regarding any decision made not to register homeschoolers. Develop homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around homeschooling. To ensure consistency of practice, independent school authority homeschooling policies/procedures should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The registration process (before and after Sept 30),</i> <i>Educational services</i> <i>Procedures around follow-up on reports of</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Homeschoolers not being registered</i> <i>Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program</i> The policy should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology</i> <i>The registration process and purpose</i> <i>The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program)</i> <i>What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional)</i> Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation. Authority policies and procedures regarding reporting child protection concerns should also be applicable to registered homeschoolers. Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures to follow regarding concerns that a homeschooler may not be registered or may not be receiving an educational program. Ensure staff are aware that a superintendent's duties in this regard extend to registered homeschoolers who may be / are registered with an independent school.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure independent school authority policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and homeschooling families. • In public-facing information, identify a contact person for homeschooling. It could be useful if this contact also had responsibility or information on alternate education programs and diverse educational pathways. • Ensure school-based administrators are versed in homeschooling policies and procedures and provide training to relevant staff in homeschooling related processes. • Independent school authorities should have published payment/deposit/refund policies and schedules for homeschooling related services or resources.
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that registering schools understand that parents guardians are entirely responsible for providing and overseeing the educational program and that the schools does not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the homeschooling educational program. • In public-facing information, identify a contact person for homeschooling. It could be useful if this contact also had responsibility or information on alternate education programs and diverse educational pathways. • Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent school policies must align with the Independent School Regulation, section 6, and specific requirements regarding educational services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Independent schools that register homeschoolers must offer, free of charge, evaluation and assessment services normally offered to students by the independent school in which the child is registered</i> - <i>Independent schools that register homeschoolers may loan authorized and recommend educational resource materials provided by the Ministry of Education that in the school's opinion are sufficient to enable the child to pursue his or her educational program</i> - <i>Independent schools that register homeschoolers may loan learning materials used by the students of the independent school that, in the school's opinion, are sufficient to enable the child to pursue his or her educational program</i> - <i>Registering independent schools may require a deposit for the loan of educational resource materials and learning materials</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure schools are aware of their obligation to offer educational services, as per legislation and should have a process for ensuring that there are adequate resources for enrolled students and registered homeschoolers. • To ensure consistency of practice and of information shared with homeschooling families (current and potential) should be written in a welcoming and accessible manner and should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The educational services offered by the schools within the independent school authority</i> - <i>How to access the services</i> - <i>Information regarding auditing courses</i> • Independent school authorities should make information about educational services freely available (e.g. website). • Ensure school policies are aligned with independent school authority policies (if different). • Registering schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for registering public and independent schools are different. • Independent school authorities should identify a staff member/key contact within the independent school authority with responsibility for coordinating homeschooling related procedures and services. Consider making this the same person with responsibility for alternate education and diverse educational pathways • Consider monitoring the use of the grant provided by the Ministry of Education for each registered homeschooler. • Be aware that the intent of the Ministry grant is to support registering schools in providing education services (in alignment with legislative requirements) to registered homeschoolers. The Ministry does not intend for the grant (or a portion thereof) to be provided directly to parents/guardians.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that registered homeschoolers are included in pandemic response planning. • Establish procedures for disseminating health and wellness related updates to registered homeschoolers and home educators.

SUPERINTENDENTS/DIRECTEUR OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
TOPIC 1: Registration Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with section 1 of The Investigation by Superintendent Order, after receiving a report that a child who is required to be registered under section 13 of the School Act is not so registered, the superintendent must investigate the report and shall discuss the report with the parent/guardian of the child. • If the superintendent determines that the child is not registered, they shall advise the parent of the child of the obligation to register. • If the parent refuses to comply with the law, the superintendent shall inform the police having jurisdiction over the area in which the child resides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the year a child turns 5 (can be deferred until 6) until they reach the age of 16. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>For homeschoolers, registration is REQUIRED by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</i> - <i>For homeschoolers, registration is OPTIONAL: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</i> • Be aware of the duty of superintendents, imposed by Ministerial Order, to investigate specific concerns about homeschoolers (not being registered and possible lack of an educational program) that reside within their jurisdiction (including homeschoolers who are registered with an independent school). • Boards of education may wish to explore the possibility and implications of delegating these duties. • Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the superintendent's investigation.

SUPERINTENDENTS/DIRECTEUR OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with section 2 of The Investigation by Superintendent Order, where a superintendent receives a report that a child who is being educated in accordance with Section 12 of the <i>School Act</i> is not receiving an educational program, the superintendent shall investigate the report and shall discuss the report with a parent/guardian of the child. If the superintendent determines that the child is not receiving an educational program and that the child is in need of protection, the superintendent must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Report their belief to a director designated under the Child, Family and Community Service Act.</i> <div data-bbox="504 673 1186 820" style="border: 1px solid #8B4513; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Only a director designated under the Child Family and Community Service Act has the authority to make the determination of whether the child is in need of protection.</i></p> </div> <i>Provide a director designated under the Child, Family and Community Service Act with advice on educational matters pertaining to the child under investigation (by the superintendent).</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of the legislated duty of superintendents to follow up on reports concerning homeschoolers who may not be registered with a school and homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program. The duty relates to children/youth that reside within their jurisdiction (including homeschoolers who are registered with an independent school). Be aware that learning at home will likely look different to learning in the school setting. Contribute to the development of policies and protocols around follow-up on reports, including procedures when engaging with other ministries. Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the superintendent's investigation.
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of the board of education's responsibilities in relation to homeschoolers. Be aware of your homeschooling population. Be aware of Ministry funding and its purpose. Ensure school district allocations are aligned with homeschooler requirements.

CHILD WELFARE WORKERS

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per section 14 of the School Act, a person who believes that a child who is required to be registered under section 13 is not so registered may report that belief to the superintendent of schools for the school district in which the child/youth resides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of homeschooling as an educational option enabled by legislation and of the requirement for families to register their homeschooled child(ren) by September 30 annually. Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the year a child turns 5 (can be deferred until 6) until they reach the age of 16. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>For homeschoolers, registration is REQUIRED by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</i> <i>For homeschoolers, registration is OPTIONAL: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</i> Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with section 14 of the School Act, a person who believes that a homeschooled child is not registered or not receiving an educational program may report this belief to the superintendent of the school district in which that child resides. No action may be taken against the person making the report, unless the report is made maliciously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of/research the different educational options for school aged children/youth, including learning in an in-person school, alternate school environments, online learning options and a parent’s right to homeschool and corresponding parental responsibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To register their homeschooled child (annually by September 30)</i> <i>To provide registered homeschoolers with an educational program</i> If a child is registered as a homeschooler, be aware that there is a broad range of pedagogical philosophies and that learning in the home environment may not look like learning at school. Be aware of the definition of an educational program (<i>School Act</i>). The registering school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program.

CHILD WELFARE WORKERS CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that child welfare workers do not have the authority to determine whether an educational program is in place and that it is the parent's responsibility to confirm their registration / enrolment status with the registering school. • Encourage parents/guardians to get homeschooling support where needed (e.g., the registering school, homeschool advocacy groups, Ministry of Education website.) • Be aware of the ability of a person to report a belief that a child is not receiving an educational program to the superintendent of the school district within which the child resides. • Be aware of required follow-up by the local superintendent when receiving reports of <i>1. A homeschooler who may not be registered 2. A homeschooler who may not be receiving an educational program.</i>
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of the registering schools' responsibility to offer educational services to registered homeschooling families. • Be aware of the homeschooling families' ability to choose their own educational services to support the educational program for the homeschooled child. • Be aware of homeschooling and potential resources and be prepared to disseminate this information.
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of homeschooling and potential health and well-being resources and be prepared to disseminate this information to homeschooling families. • Be aware of the Duty to Report concerns that a child may be in need of protection.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 1: Registration Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per section 14 of the School Act, a person who believes that a child who is required to be registered under section 13 is not so registered may report that belief to the superintendent of schools for the school district in which the child/youth resides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of homeschooling as an educational option enabled by legislation and of the requirement for families to register their homeschooled child(ren) by September 30 annually. Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the year a child turns 5 (can be deferred until 6) until they reach the age of 16. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>For homeschoolers, registration is REQUIRED by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</i> <i>For homeschoolers, registration is OPTIONAL: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</i> Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.
<p>TOPIC 2: Educational Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with section 14 of the School Act, a person who believes that a homeschooled child is not registered or not receiving an educational program may report this belief to the superintendent of the school district in which that child resides. No action may be taken against the person making the report, unless the report is made maliciously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of/research the different educational options for school aged children/youth, including learning in an in-person school, alternate school environments, online learning options and a parent’s right to homeschool and corresponding parental responsibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To register their homeschooled child (annually by September 30)</i> <i>To provide registered homeschoolers with an educational program</i>

COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONT'D...

KEY TOPIC	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>TOPIC 3: Educational Services</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of the registering schools' responsibility to offer educational services to registered homeschooling families. • Be aware of the multiple paths to learning, including the homeschooling families' ability to homeschool and choose their own educational services to support the educational program for the homeschooled child. • If invited by the home educator, consider how to be a resource for a homeschooling family.
<p>TOPIC 4: Health and Well-being</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of homeschooling and potential health and well-being resources and be prepared to disseminate this information to homeschooling families. • Be aware of the duty to report concerns that a child may be in need of protection.



SECTION III: HOW TO REPORT CONCERNS ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUTH WELL-BEING



NOTE: Action may be taken in **more than one stream** - as required.



* Note that the lack of an educational program/not being registered is not grounds for protection under the *Children Family and Community Services Act*.

** This includes concerns regarding registered homeschoolers who are (may be) registered with an independent school.

Duty to report concerns that a child may be in need of protection

Duty to report abuse or suspected abuse

The *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) at section 14 requires that anyone who has reason to believe that a child or youth needs protection, must report the suspected abuse or neglect to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. For further information on when protection is needed, see [section 13 of the Child Family and Community Service Act](#).

WHAT TO DO:

- *If a child is in immediate danger, call police (call **911** or your local police) to intervene and a child welfare worker should be contacted to determine whether the child is in need of protection.*
- *If you think a **child** or **youth** under 19 years of age is being abused or neglected, you have the legal duty to report your concern to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Phone **1 800 663 9122** at any time of the day or night.*

Your call to the Ministry of Children and Family Development will be answered by the Provincial Centralized Screening team (PCS). Their primary role is to receive and assess child protection reports and initial requests for ministry service across the province, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Provincial Centralized Screening can be reached at the following number: **1 800 663 9122**.

For more resource information:

- Visit the [Reporting Child Abuse in BC - Ministry of Children and Family Development Webpage](#)
- Refer to the [Duty to Report Pamphlet](#) and [Poster](#) provide information on reporting concerns about children and youth.
- Learn more in the [Child Abuse Prevention Handbook](#).

*See Section 13 of the Child Family Community Services Act for when protection is needed. *Note that not registering a homeschooled child and/or a lack of an educational program is not grounds for protection under the CFCSA.*

If you are a child or youth and would like to talk to someone **CALL** the **Helpline for Children** at **310 1234**. You do not need an area code. You can call at any time of the day or night and you do not have to give your name.

A more comprehensive list of emergency numbers is provided in the Health and Well-being section and in the stand-alone document for registered homeschoolers.

SECTION IV: GLOSSARY

Audit — A registered homeschooler may, in certain circumstances, be granted permission by a board of education to audit (attend) a course, i.e. take a course alongside enrolled students while remaining registered as a homeschooler. This may involve payment of a fee. A registered homeschooler may not earn credit (e.g. grades reported to the Ministry of Education) when auditing a course through a public school.

Better Practice Guidelines — Better practice guidelines are recommended better practices. Guidelines are not legislative requirements.

Board of Education — There are 60 school districts, each led by a board of education comprising locally elected trustees. Boards of education provide district-level policy leadership, hire and manage the senior district staff, and ensure the prudent use and control of the school district's resources. School trustees also engage their local communities and meet to set policy and provide oversight of the school district's goals for student achievement and well-being. Boards of education are responsible for governing school districts based on the educational aspirations of their local communities and in accordance with the policy direction established by government. The *School Act* outlines the primary functions of boards of education, including:

- *Setting local policy for the effective and efficient operation of schools*
- *Employing the staff necessary for school district operations*
- *Establishing conditions of employment for employees*
- *Preparing and approving the school district's operating budgets and capital plans*
- *Hearing appeals from parents and students*

British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) — A certificate granted by the Minister of Education to students who meet secondary school graduation requirements by successfully completing Grades 10 to 12 required courses and elective courses. The [Student Credentials Order](#) set out the requirements for receiving the British Columbia Certificate of Graduation.

Child Protection Concern — This term is used to describe the circumstances when a child needs protection, as defined in Section 13 of the *Child Family Community Services Act*. Only a director designated under the *Child Family and Community Service Act* has the authority to make the determination of whether the child is in need of protection.

Child Welfare Worker — Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) delegated workers (including but not limited to child protection workers) and staff employed by Delegated Aboriginal Agencies.

Community Partners — Community partners provide parts of the homeschooled child /youth's educational program and experiences. Examples include (not an exhaustive list): private language school, recreation centre, community sports team, local business providing work experience, speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, and tutor.

Disabilities or Diverse Abilities (Special Needs) — This term refers to those characteristics which make it necessary to provide a student undertaking an educational program with resources different from those which are needed by most students. Disabilities or diverse abilities are identified during assessment of a student and are the basis for determining an appropriate educational program (including necessary resources) for that student. A registered homeschooler with disabilities or diverse abilities may also require different resources and additional supports and services.

Educational Program — An educational program, in the case of a homeschooled child, is a set of learning activities that, in the opinion of the parent, is designed to enable the Homeschooled child to become literate, to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy. (As defined in the *School Act* in relation to registered homeschooling). The goals embedded in this definition are the same for all learners (enrolled students and registered homeschoolers) across the province.

GLOSSARY CONT'D...

Educational Services — In the context of homeschooling, these are the services that registering public schools are required to offer the parent / legal guardian as per s. 13(3) of the School Act and that registering independent schools may offer as per s. 6(1)(b) of the *Independent School Act*. These services are: 1. the loan of educational resource materials, and 2. evaluation and assessment services.

The requirements for public and Independent schools are different. Further information can be found here: public schools: [section 3 of the School Regulation](#); and independent schools: [section 6 of the Independent School Regulation](#). See also Section II of this document.

Educational Resource Materials — Educational resource materials, as defined in the [School Regulation](#) (*School Act*) means:

- A. *Information, represented or stored in a variety of media and formats, that is used for instruction in an educational*
- B. *Materials and equipment necessary to meet the learning outcomes or assessment requirements of an Educational Program*

BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- C. *Paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, Student planners, exercise books, computers used for online learning, computer storage media and other school supplies and equipment for a Student's personal use*
- D. *Appropriate personal clothing for school activities such as gym strip, footwear, outerwear and personal safety equipment*

Evaluation and Assessment Services — These can include standardized tests such as the Foundation Skills Assessment, Provincial Literacy Assessments and Numeracy Assessment, as well as selected classroom assessments. These do not include extended assessments (see definition). Home educators have the option of accepting or rejecting the offer of evaluation and assessment services from the registering school.

Extended Assessments — Assessments that are used to better understand a student's strengths and needs in order to plan more effectively for that student. Extended assessments include, but are not limited to, psycho-educational, behavioural, speech and language or occupational therapy assessments.

Francophone Education Authority (public) — In B.C., the francophone education authority is School District 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie Britannique), which, geographically spans the entire province and overlaps physically with the English-language school districts. The francophone education authority is the equivalent of a "board of education". (See [Part 8.1 of the School Act](#))

Home Educator — The parent/guardian of a registered homeschooler. While the home educator has primary responsibility for the homeschooling educational program, others may be involved in the delivery of the educational program.

Homeschooler — See definition for registered homeschooler.

Homeschooling — An alternative method of teaching and learning outside of the B.C. school system. While the homeschooling educational program (planning, delivery and assessment) is the responsibility of the home educator, others may be involved in the delivery of the program. The relevant sections of the [School Act](#) are sections 12, 13, and 14.

In-Person School — In an in-person school, learning is predominantly provided in-person. Also referred to as a standard school.

Independent School — A school, including an online learning independent school, that is, or is to be, maintained and operated in British Columbia by an independent school authority and that offers an educational program to 10 or more school age students, that meets the requirements of section 2 (e) of the Schedule to the [Independent School Act](#) and otherwise qualifies for a certificate of group classification, or for which an independent school authority holds a subsisting interim certificate issued under [section 4\(2\)](#).

Independent School Authority — An independent school authority (as defined in the [Independent School Act](#)) means: a society within the meaning of the [Societies Act](#), a company within the meaning of the [Business Corporation Act](#) or a corporation incorporated under a private Act, or a person designated, by regulation, as an independent school authority. Each independent school authority is certified by the Inspector of Independent Schools to operate one or more independent schools.

Indigenous Peoples — This term has the same meaning as Aboriginal peoples in section 35 of the [Constitution Act](#), 1982 and for the purposes of this Manual includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

GLOSSARY CONT'D...

Learner — Learner is used in this document when referring to both students and registered homeschoolers.

Learning Materials — Learning materials includes paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, student planners, exercise books, computers used for online learning, computer storage media and other school supplies and equipment for a student's personal use, and appropriate personal clothing for school activities such as gym strip, footwear, outerwear and personal safety equipment.

Online Learning — A method of instruction that relies primarily on communication between students and teachers by means of the Internet. The term “distributed learning” was updated to online learning on July 1, 2021 when legislative changes to the *School Act* and the *Independent School Act* changed the term used in the legislation from “distributed learning” to “online learning” and made other changes to the rules governing schools' delivery of online learning. Defined in [section 1 of the School Act](#).

Online Learning School — A public or independent school that offers instruction by means of online learning only. Online learning schools were called a “distributed learning school” in the *School Act* until July 1, 2021.

Public School — A body of students, teachers, other staff, and facilities organized as a unit for educational purposes under the supervision of an administrative officer and administered by a district board of education. Types of public schools include in-person, continuing education, and online learning schools.

Registered Homeschooler — A registered homeschooler is a child or youth who is registered as a homeschooler under section 13 of the [School Act](#). Throughout this document, registered homeschoolers are also referred to as a “homeschooled child or youth”, and “homeschooler”.

Registration — Registration means both the act of notifying a school (by a parent/ guardian) of the intention to homeschool and the registering school's process for registering a child/youth as a homeschooler.

Registering School — The school (public or independent) that registers the homeschooled child and reports the registration to the Ministry of Education. The registering school has responsibilities with regard to offering educational services.

Requirements — Requirements in this document are embedded in legislation ([School Act](#) and the [Independent School Act](#), and in related regulations and orders).

School District — A school district means a geographic area, created or constituted as a school district under the [School Act](#). See board of education for additional information.

School Year — Means the period beginning on July 1 and ending on the following June 30.

Student — A student is defined in the [School Act](#) as a person enrolled in an educational program provided by a board of education or by an independent school authority. A student is, by definition, enrolled in an educational program and is not a registered homeschooler.

Superintendent — Each of the 60 school districts has a superintendent who acts as its managerial head with responsibility for administering and overseeing the functions of the district on behalf of the board of education. Superintendents' responsibilities include advising and reporting to the board of education, supervising schools, implementing programs, evaluating senior staff, working with external stakeholders and overseeing budgets. The francophone education authority is included under the 60 school districts. The equivalent of the superintendent for the francophone education authority is called the directeur general.

Teacher — A teacher means a person holding a valid B.C. certificate of qualification who is employed by a board of education or independent school authority to provide an educational program to students in a public or independent school.

Emergency contact information for *children and youth*

EMERGENCIES:

If you are in immediate risk, please CALL **911 immediately**.

CHILD ABUSE HELPLINE:

If you are a child or youth and would like to talk to someone CALL the **Helpline for Children at 310 1234**. You do not need an area code. You can call at any time of the day or night and you do not have to give your name.

NON-EMERGENCY HEALTH CONCERNS:

Kids Help Phone provides kids and teens access to a professional counsellor by phone. Topics that they can help with include bullying, family, feelings, violence and abuse, LGBTQ+ and more.

Phone: 1 800 668 6868 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Text: 686868

MENTAL HEALTH:

If you are concerned that you or someone you know is in immediate risk of hurting themselves, CALL **911 immediately**.

Suicide Crisis Helpline: Call or Text 988 (988.ca)

Suicide Crisis: 1 800 SUICIDE (1 800 784 2433)

Mental Health issue: 310 6789

Youth in BC chatline (online chat is available from noon to 1:00AM in BC and Yukon)

<https://youthinbc.com>

24-HOUR CRISIS LINES:

- **Greater Vancouver: 604 872 3311**
- **Howe Sound and Sunshine Coast: 1 866 661 3311**
- **TTY (teletypewriter for deaf and hard of hearing): 1 866 972 0113**

INDIGENOUS CRISIS LINES:

Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society operates a 24-hour provincial Indigenous crisis line for:

- **Adults/Elders 250 723 4050**
- **Child/Youth 250 723 2040**
- **Toll-free Line 1 800 588 8717**



Homeschooling PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES Manual



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

