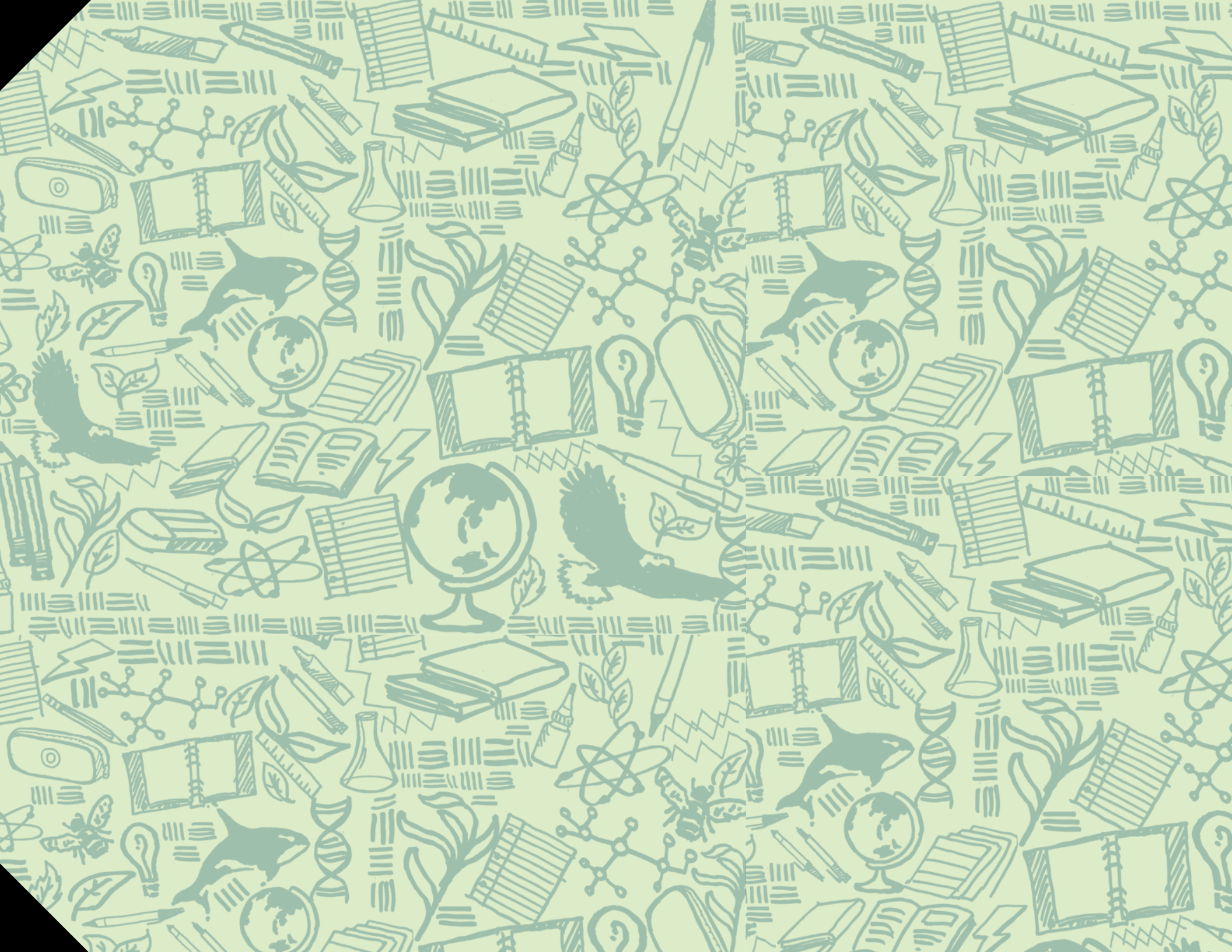




# **HOMESCHOOLING**

## **Procedures and Guidelines Manual**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SECTION I: OVERVIEW

About This Document	4
Who Should Use These Guidelines?	5
What Is Homeschooling?	5
Homeschooling Educational Program:	6
Registered Homeschoolers & Students; Homeschooling & Online Learning:	6
The Role of the Ministry of Education:	7
<b>Table 1: Differences between Homeschooling, Online Learning and learning in a Standard School</b>	7
<b>Table 2: Educational Program: Roles and Responsibilities</b>	8
Considerations When Exploring Homeschooling	8
Children / Youth with Disabilities and /or Diverse Abilities:	8
When Does A Homeschooler Cease To Be A Homeschooler?	9
Homeschooling & Graduation: Earning Credit for Graduation Through Online Learning	10
Considerations: Taking “for credit” Online Learning courses (Grades 10-12) while remaining registered as a homeschooler:	10
Considerations: entering or re-entering the BC education system:	10
B.C. Secondary School Transcript of Grades or Graduation Certificate:	10
Homeschooling And Post-Secondary Education	11
Homeschooling And Covid-19	11

## SECTION II: LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS AND BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES

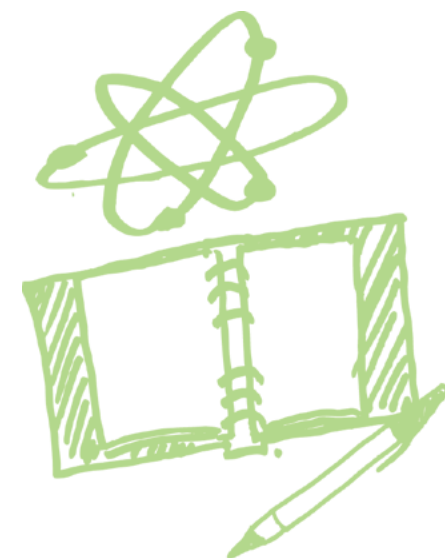
1. Registration Process	12
2. Educational Program	21
3. Educational Services	26
4. Health and Well-Being	33
5. Duty to Report Concerns that a Child may be in Need of Protection	35

## SECTION III: GLOSSARY

Emergency Numbers	39
-------------------	----

## APPENDIX ONE: SUMMARY BY KEY USER GROUPS

40



## SECTION I: OVERVIEW

### About This Document

The Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual provides an overview of the Homeschooling framework in British Columbia and a summary of requirements and better practices to support Registered Homeschoolers.

This version of the document is a consultation draft intended to be posted to the Ministry of Education [website](#) for broader review. Please send feedback by April 2, 2021 to [EDUC.Homeschooling.Guidelines@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Homeschooling.Guidelines@gov.bc.ca).

Suggestions will be considered in advance of publication of the final Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual, anticipated prior to the end of the 2020/21 School Year.

The right to choose Homeschooling is afforded to parents and legal guardians in British Columbia through legislation.

The manual is divided into **THREE SECTIONS**:

#### 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. Better practices are not legal requirements. Better practice considerations are therefore 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 five topics.

Topic 1: Registration

Topic 2: Educational Programs

Topic 3: Educational Services

Topic 4: Health and Well-being

Topic 5: Child Protection Concerns

Information is organized according to the different stakeholder groups that play a role in Homeschooling. This presentation is intended to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group, and to outline differences between Public and Independent School responsibilities. Appendix One, at the end of this document, presents requirements and better practices in a table that is organized by key stakeholders (as a primary organizer).

The following groups are considered to be homeschool stakeholders:

Home Educators

Registered Homeschoolers

Registering Public Schools

Registering Independent Schools

Boards of Education

Independent School Authorities

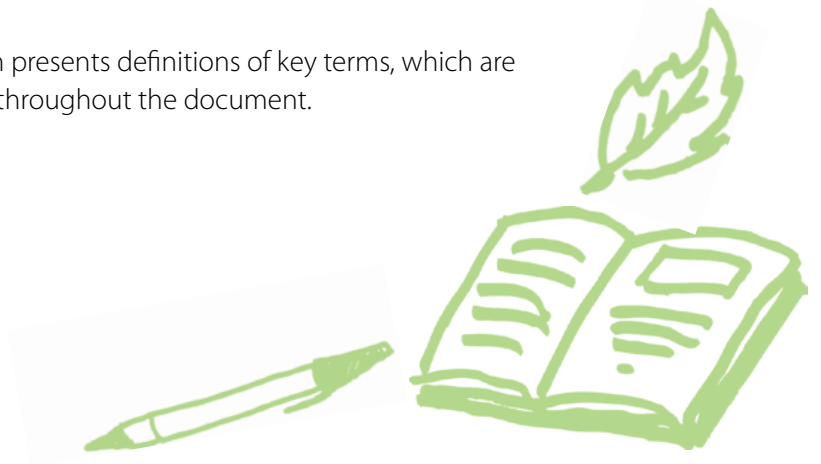
Superintendents / Dir. Général of the Francophone Education Authority

Field Staff

Community Partners

#### 3 | Glossary

This Section presents definitions of key terms, which are capitalized throughout the document.



This document was collaboratively developed between the spring of 2020 and early 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.

## Who Should Use These Guidelines?

This document is intended 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, Field Staff (e.g. social workers, child and youth workers) 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.

This document is not intended to discourage parents or legal guardians contemplating Homeschooling or to create the impression that Homeschooling presents any inherent danger to children and youth. The document is also not intended to be used as a tool to assess a specific Home Educator or their Educational Program.

## What is Homeschooling?

Homeschooling is an alternative method of teaching and learning outside of the B.C. K-12 education system. 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 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 Distributed 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.

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). Most Registered Homeschoolers are in the elementary and middle school age range, as the majority of Registered Homeschoolers transition to B.C.'s education system by the time they are eligible to enroll in Grades 10, 11 and 12.

### 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 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 the requirements of this definition.

### Registered Homeschoolers & Students; Homeschooling & Online Learning:

There can be confusion around the distinction between a Registered Homeschooler and a Student who is enrolled with an Online Learning School. 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 (standard or online), or with a Group 1,2 or 4 Independent School (standard 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 an Online Learning 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. However, a Registered Homeschooler may retain their homeschooler status while enrolling in Online Learning courses made available by a Board of Education or Independent School Authority at the Grade 10-12 level. This exception was established to enable Registered Homeschoolers to earn credits

that could be applied towards graduation from the B.C. education system, and/or to facilitate a pathway to application or entry to post-secondary education (e.g. to complete pre-requisite courses). If the homeschooled child / youth does not enroll in Online Learning courses at the grade 10-12 level, they will not meet the graduation requirements to earn a B.C. certificate of graduation.

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 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 or Authority.

A **Registered Homeschooler** is a child / youth that has been registered as a homeschooler, as per section 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

### 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 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 Learning in a Standard School**

CRITERIA	HOMESCHOOL	ONLINE SCHOOL	STANDARD SCHOOL
Must follow the <a href="#">B.C. Curriculum</a>	NO		
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		
Student progress must be evaluated, and report cards prepared by a B.C.-certified Teacher.	NO		
Student must participate in Provincial Graduation Assessments and Foundation Skills Assessments	NO Although optional for Grades 10-12		
Religious texts / resources may be used		NO in Public Schools  in Independent Schools	NO in Public Schools  in Independent Schools
"Status" in a school	Registered Homeschooler*	Student	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**

<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>HOMESCHOOL</b>	<b>ONLINE SCHOOL</b>	<b>STANDARD SCHOOL</b>
<b>Responsibility for Extended Assessments, (facilitating and covering the cost)</b>	<b>Home Educator</b> (at the discretion of the Home Educator)	<b>Board of Education/ Independent School Authority*</b>	<b>Board of Education/ Independent School Authority*</b>
<b>Responsibility for Evaluation and Assessment</b>	<b>Home Educator</b> (at the discretion of the Home Educator)**	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority / Ministry of Education</b>	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority / Ministry of Education</b>
<b>Responsibility for Developing the Learning Plan (and Individual Education Plan, if required).</b>	<b>Home Educator</b> (at the discretion of the Home Educator)	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher</b>	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher</b>
<b>Responsibility for Selecting Resources</b>	<b>Home Educator</b> (at the discretion of the Home Educator)**	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority</b>	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority</b>
<b>Responsibility for Facilitating an Organized Set of Learning Activities</b>	<b>Home Educator (required)</b>	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority</b>	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher/ Board of Education/ Independent School Authority</b>
<b>Responsibility for Documenting Learning</b>	<b>Home Educator</b> (at the discretion of the Home Educator)	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher</b>	<b>B.C.- Certified Teacher</b>

\*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 educational services (loan of educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services).



## Considerations When Exploring Homeschooling

Homeschooling comes with great responsibility. Choosing this option means the Home Educator must provide and supervise all aspects of their child's Educational Program, including curriculum and Learning Materials. For families with the time, resources and interest, Homeschooling can be an extremely rewarding educational option. However, some families who are interested in Homeschooling may not find it possible or practical.

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 before choosing to homeschool their child. School Districts and Independent Schools can offer a range of settings and experiences for Students, ranging from standard to alternate and highly specialized in-person and online programs.

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 Home Educator's consideration include:

- meeting and responding to any Disabilities and /or Diverse Abilities the child / youth may have;
- providing social opportunities;
- providing access to community supports / networks;
- providing access to recreation, sports and wellness facilities;
- supporting the child / youth's longer term and life goals (e.g. support for post-secondary transitions); and
- balancing the Home Educator's career and / or other commitments.

To help decide whether Homeschooling is the best option, [Homeschooling advocacy groups](#) can provide more information on Homeschooling, and its advantages and challenges.

### Children / Youth with Disabilities and /or Diverse Abilities:

Children with Disabilities and 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 homeschooled child / youth, it is the parent /caregiver's responsibility to provide the homeschooled child /youth with an appropriate and supportive Educational Program. The Ministry of Education does not provide inclusive education funding to Registering Schools or to Home Educators. Homeschooled children / youth with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities are not eligible to receive inclusive education supports through the Registering School or assistance in developing their Educational Program.

Note: Online Learning schools may set their own policies with regard to enrolling Students with a Special Needs / Inclusive Education diagnosis, but these Students are funded at the same rate as Students in Standard Schools.

### When Does A Homeschooler Cease To Be A Homeschooler?

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. The only exception to this is when an eligible Registered Homeschooler enrolls in an Online Learning School for Grades 10-12.

A Registered Homeschooler may audit a course (not for credit) with the permission of a Board or Authority and remain registered as a homeschooler. Credits towards graduation cannot be earned for courses taken in this way.

## Homeschooling & Graduation: Earning Credit For Graduation Through Online Learning

A Registered Homeschooler **may not** obtain a B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) through Homeschooling alone. In most cases, when a Registered Homeschooler is ready to enter in the B.C. graduation program, they choose to enroll and will transition to 'enrolled status'. In so doing, they may obtain a B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma and / or take pre-requisite courses for a post-secondary program. Please see the Ministry of Education's [Graduation Program Handbook of Procedures](#) for information regarding the paths to graduation and corresponding requirements.

As previously noted, Registered Homeschoolers may not retain their status if they enroll in an Online Learning School, except for when a Registered Homeschooler enrolls in an Online Learning School for Grades 10-12. Credit earned in Grades 10 to 12 for Online Learning courses can be counted towards graduation requirements.

### Considerations: Taking "for credit" Online Learning courses (Grades 10-12) while remaining registered as a homeschooler:

- Homeschoolers contemplating enrolling in a high school course via Online Learning should discuss course readiness and any relevant prior learning with the staff at the Online Learning School.
- The Registering School is the school of record. As the school of record, the Registering School will be responsible for reporting final grades to the Ministry of Education and ensuring that the courses appear on the Registered Homeschooler's Ministry of Education transcript. If the Online Learning School is not the Registering School, Homeschooling families should ensure that the Online Learning School knows where the Student is registered at the time of course enrollment.

### Considerations: entering or re-entering the BC education system:

Most homeschoolers are in the elementary school age range. Almost all homeschoolers either return to or enter the B.C. education system at some point in time. To return or enter the B.C. education system, contact a Board of Education or Independent School. Staff can assist and place the child / youth in an appropriate Educational Program.

- Homeschoolers contemplating enrolling in a school to pursue a path to graduation should discuss course readiness and any relevant prior learning with the staff at the school.
- [The Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies policy](#) provides information on some of the non-traditional 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 regular, enrolled Student status.

### 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>.

## Homeschooling And Post-Secondary Education

Registered Homeschoolers who do not earn a B.C. Certificate of Graduation may still be eligible for admission to a post-secondary education program. 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 admission requirements, eligibility and procedures directly with the institutions.

The BC Transfer Guide may also be a helpful resource:  
<https://www.bctransferguide.ca>

## Homeschooling and Covid-19

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](#).



## SECTION II: LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS AND BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES

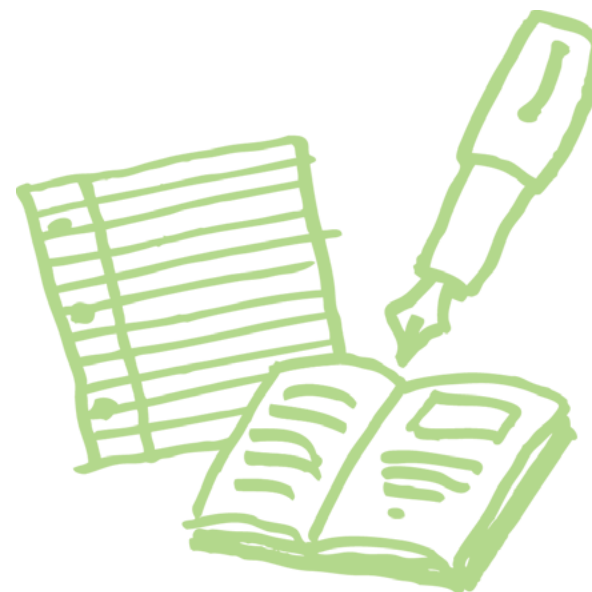
### 1. Registration Process

**DISCLAIMER:** The legislation and policy provisions noted below 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.

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

Notes:

- 1) The information presented under the legislative provisions sections below are legal requirements or entitlements. The information presented under better practice guidelines are optional and adherence to these Better Practice Guidelines is entirely at the discretion of the Home Educator. Please note that this document does not contain legal advice and is intended only to present some of the relevant considerations.
- 2) The Francophone Education Authority is included under the category "Boards of Education".



## 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
HOME EDUCATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per <a href="#">School Act</a>, section 3 (Entry to Educational Program), children residing in BC must be enrolled in a Board or Authority’s Educational Program, unless registered as a homeschooler (<a href="#">School Act, section 13</a>).</li> <li>• 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. Homeschool Registration is optional after the year in which the child turns 16 (School Act, section 3) and can continue up until the School Year in which they turn 19 (<a href="#">School Act</a>, section 1).</li> <li>• Home Educators are required to register homeschooled children by September 30 (annually) at the Home Educator’s school of choice (<a href="#">School Act, section 13</a>).</li> <li>• It is an offence not to register a homeschooled child <a href="#">School Act, section 13(4)</a></li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the roles and responsibilities of Home Educators.</li> <li>• Understand the difference between registered Homeschooling, learning with an Online Learning School and learning in a Public or Independent school.</li> <li>• Registering Schools are required to offer Educational Services (Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Be informed of any fees and / or deposits that the Registering School may require.</li> <li>• Be informed that each Board of Education and Independent School Authority has the Authority to make a determination of whether a person is <a href="#">ordinarily resident</a> in BC. This process requires demonstrating, on the basis of objective evidence, that a person has established a regular, habitual mode of life in BC.</li> <li>• Families that opt to homeschool after September 30 (i.e. transition from enrolled to registered), should register the homeschooled child with a Public or Independent School.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the Superintendent’s investigation.</li> </ul>

# 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children/youth can be homeschooled but must be registered with a B.C. school (<a href="#">School Act, section 13</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 - <a href="#">School Act, section 13(2)</a>.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>Registering Schools must report homeschool Registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept homeschool registrations at any time of year.</li> <li>To ensure consistency of practice, establish a Homeschooling policy that is consistent with the legislation and addresses: the Registration process (before and after September 30), Educational Services and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. The policy should also describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>the Registration process and purpose;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify and post online the school or district contact person who understands the intricacies of Homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways.</li> <li>Ensure school (or district) policies and procedures are up to date, accurate and publicly available.</li> <li>Establish a process for clarifying the differences between Homeschooling, learning in an Online Learning environment and learning in a Standard School. 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.</li> <li>Create accessible Registration forms and a welcoming Registration process, including access to information</li> </ul>

**1701 FORM: REQUIRED INFORMATION**

- 1) Personal Education Number (Schools must request PEN's for any new Students / Registered Homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry).
- 2) Legal names
- 3) Birth Date
- 4) Gender
- 5) BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child.

**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.

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).

[Student Data Collections Ministry webpage](#) has more information about the 1701 data collections.

## 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with relevant privacy and information legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>on Educational Services, any fees and deposits that may be required, and any other opportunities whereby homeschoolers may engage with the school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/district policies and practices around the Registration of homeschoolers.</li> <li>Provide a “receipt” of homeschool Registration to the Home Educator.</li> <li>Request records for newly Registered Homeschoolers (i.e. new to the district or school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record.</li> <li>Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled Students (or their future Home Educators) opting into Homeschooling.</li> </ul>
<b>REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent Schools (and Authorities) have the authority to determine if they will register homeschoolers (in or out of catchment) <i>(<a href="#">Independent School Act, section 10</a>).</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure consistency of practice, have a Homeschooling policy that is consistent with the legislation and addresses: whether the Independent School registers homeschoolers and if yes, the Registration process (before and after September 30), Educational Services offered by the school and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. If the school registers homeschoolers, the policy should also describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>o the Registration process and purpose;</li> <li>o 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).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registering Schools must report homeschool Registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701).</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="218 428 1047 878" style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>1701 FORM: REQUIRED INFORMATION</b></p> <p>1) Personal Education Number (Schools must request PEN's for any new Students / Registered Homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry).</p> <p>2) Legal names</p> <p>3) Birth Date</p> <p>4) Gender</p> <p>5) BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child.</p> <p><b>Enter code (HS) in the grade code field</b> 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><a href="#">Student Data Collections Ministry webpage</a> has more information about the 1701 data collections.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with relevant privacy and information legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what information/data is collected (what information that is required and what information is optional).</li> <li>Identify and post online the school / Authority contact person who understands the intricacies of Homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways.</li> <li>Ensure school / Authority policies and procedures are up to date, accurate and publicly available.</li> <li>Establish a process for clarifying the differences between Homeschooling, learning in an Online Learning environment and learning in a Standard School. 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/district policies and practices around the Registration of homeschoolers.</li> <li>Provide a "receipt" of homeschool Registration to the Home Educator.</li> <li>Request records for newly Registered Homeschoolers (i.e. new to the district or school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record.</li> <li>Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled Students (or their future Home Educators) opting into Homeschooling.</li> </ul>



# 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>BOARDS OF EDUCATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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-<a href="#">School Act, section 13 (2)</a>.</li> <li>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 - <a href="#">School Act, section 82 (4-6)</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop district Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling.</li> <li>To ensure consistency of practice, district Homeschooling policies / procedures should address: The Registration process, Educational Services and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. The policy should describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>the Registration process and purpose;</li> <li>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).</li> <li>what information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> <li>District policies and procedures regarding reporting child protection concerns should also apply to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Ensure district policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> </ul>

# 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
BOARDS OF EDUCATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure school-based administrators are versed in Homeschooling policies and procedures and provide training to relevant staff in Homeschooling related processes.</li> <li>• Districts should have published payment / deposit / refund policies and schedules for Homeschooling related services or resources.</li> </ul>
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent School Authorities have the ability to determine if they will register homeschoolers -<a href="#"><i>Independent School Act, Section 10 (1)</i></a>.</li> <li>• Independent School Authorities may set a fee for homeschooler Registration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide clarification in school policies regarding the Registration of homeschoolers, including information regarding any decision made not to register homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Develop Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling.</li> <li>• To ensure consistency of practice, Authority Homeschooling policies / procedures should address: The Registration process, Educational Services and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. The policy should describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>o the Registration process and purpose;</li> <li>o 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).</li> <li>o what information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> <li>• Authority policies and procedures regarding reporting child protection concerns should also be applicable to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure Authority policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure school-based administrators are versed in Homeschooling policies and procedures and provide training to relevant staff in Homeschooling related processes.</li> <li>• Authorities should have published payment / deposit / refund policies and schedules for Homeschooling related services or resources.</li> </ul>
SUPERINTENDENT/ DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with section 1 of <a href="#">The Investigation by Superintendent Order</a>, after receiving a report that a child who is required to be registered under <a href="#">section 13 of the School Act</a> is not so registered, the Superintendent must investigate the report and shall discuss the report with the parent/guardian of the child.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the legislated duty of Superintendents 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).</li> <li>• Boards of Education may wish to explore the possibility and implications of delegating these duties.</li> </ul>

# 1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT/ DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Superintendent determines that the child is not registered, they shall advise the parent of the child of the obligation to register.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the Superintendent's investigation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FIELD STAFF</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per <a href="#">section 14 of the School Act</a>, 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMUNITY PARTNERS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per <a href="#">section 14 of the School Act</a>, 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.</li> </ul>

## 2. Educational Program

**DISCLAIMER:** The legislation and policy provisions noted below 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.

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.

Notes:

- 1) The information presented under the legislative provisions sections below are legal requirements or entitlements. The information presented under better practice guidelines are optional and adherence to these Better Practice Guidelines is entirely at the discretion of the Home Educator. Please note that this document does not contain legal advice and is intended only to present some of the relevant considerations.
- 2) The Francophone Education Authority is included under the category “Boards of Education”.

## 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
HOME EDUCATORS	Parents / guardians (Home Educators) must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide their homeschooled child / youth with an Educational Program (<a href="#">School Act, section 12</a>).</li> <li>• Ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning Statement of (<a href="#">Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore various methodologies for home education to assist with creating your Educational Program.</li> <li>• Consider ways to keep your homeschooled child engaged in their learning; high levels of engagement are linked to better outcomes.</li> <li>• Consider ways to include <a href="#">First Peoples’ Principles of Learning</a> into the Educational Program and consider accessing resources that are listed on the <a href="#">Ministry of Education Indigenous education resources webpage</a>.</li> <li>• Connect with other Home Educators and Home Educator networks for support and guidance.</li> <li>• Seek out appropriate professional or supplemental services if the homeschooler has disabilities, Diverse Abilities and / or other needs.</li> <li>• Research options for post-secondary transitions, including the option to take Grade 10-12 courses via online learning.</li> </ul>

## 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLERS</b></p>	<p>Registered Homeschoolers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are entitled to be provided with an Educational Program (<a href="#">School Act, section 12</a>).</li> <li>• Are entitled to a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (<a href="#">Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</li> <li>• May retain their Registered Homeschooler status when enrolling in an Online Learning School (Grades 10-12 courses).</li> </ul> <p>-<a href="#">School Regulation, Section 3(3)</a>;  <a href="#">Independent School Regulation, Section 6(3)</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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-<a href="#">School Regulation, Section 3(2)</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the right of all enrolled Students and Registered Homeschoolers to an Educational Program.</li> <li>• Be aware of the different educational options for school-aged children/youth: (Standard Schooling in a Standard School, alternate school settings, Online Learning, and Homeschooling).</li> <li>• Be aware that a child/youth who is eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 can remain registered as a homeschooler and enroll in all or part of an Educational Program offered through an Online Learning School. Credits towards graduation (B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma) can be earned this way.</li> <li>• Be aware that homeschooled youth are not eligible to graduate in the B.C. education system unless all graduation requirements are met through a B.C Online Learning School.</li> <li>• Communicate your learning goals and preferences.</li> <li>• Engage in learning activities.</li> <li>• Reflect on learning.</li> <li>• Research how to access post-secondary programs as a homeschooler and proactively make enquiries with post-secondary or other educational institutions regarding entrance requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>REGISTERING SCHOOLS (PUBLIC &amp; INDEPENDENT)</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Staff at both Public and Independent Schools should be aware of the Superintendent’s duty to investigate the reported belief that a Registered Homeschooler may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>

## 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
BOARDS OF EDUCATION	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Registering Schools understand that they do not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the Homeschooling Educational Program.</li> </ul>
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Board / Authority Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling. Policies and procedures should:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Include clear statements regarding the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide the Educational Program.</li> <li>o Outline the Registrzation process (before and after September 30).</li> <li>o Describe Educational Services offered by the Registering School.</li> <li>o Include procedures describing follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> <li>o Align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures around reporting child protection concerns are applicable to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Ensure Board/Authority policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>

## 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT/ DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with section 2 of <a href="#">the Investigation by Superintendent Order</a>, when 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>o report their belief to a director designated under the <a href="#">Child, Family and Community Service Act</a>.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Only a director designated under the <a href="#">Child Family and Community Service Act</a> has the Authority to make the determination of whether the child is in need of protection.</p> </div> <li>o provide a director designated under the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Act</i> with advice on educational matters pertaining to the child under investigation (by the Superintendent).</li> </li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The duty relates to children/youth that reside within their jurisdiction (including homeschoolers who are registered with an Independent School).</li> <li>• Be aware that learning at home will likely look different to learning in the school setting.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of policies and protocols around follow-up on reports, including procedures when engaging with other ministries.</li> <li>• Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the Superintendent's investigation.</li> </ul>



## 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
FIELD STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with <a href="#">section 14 of the School Act</a>, 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.</li> <li>• No action may be taken against the person making the report, unless the report is made maliciously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of / research the different educational options for school aged children/youth, including learning in a Standard School, alternate school environments, Online Learning environments and a parent’s right to homeschool and corresponding parental responsibilities:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to register their homeschooled child (annually by September 30); and</li> <li>2) to provide Registered Homeschoolers with an Educational Program.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Be aware of the ability to report your belief that a child is not receiving an Educational Program to the Superintendent of the School District within which the child resides.</li> <li>• Be curious about a child’s current educational status if the child is no longer attending a physical school. 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. Look instead for an approach that supports a child’s overall development.</li> <li>• Be aware of the definition of an Educational Program (<i>School Act</i>). Be aware that the Registering School does not have the authority to supervise the Educational Program.</li> <li>• Be aware that field staff do not have the authority to determine whether an Educational Program is in place.</li> <li>• Be aware of required follow-up by the local Superintendent when receiving reports of (i) a homeschooler who is not registered and (ii) a homeschooler who may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>

### 3. Educational Services

**DISCLAIMER:** The legislation and policy provisions noted below 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.

Notes:

- 1) The information presented under the legislative provisions sections below are legal requirements or entitlements. The information presented under better practice guidelines are optional and adherence to these Better Practice Guidelines is entirely at the discretion of the Home Educator. Please note that this document does not contain legal advice and is intended only to present some of the relevant considerations
- 2) Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a registering school.
- 3) The Francophone Education Authority is included under the category “Boards of Education”.
- 4) Public and Independent Schools have different requirements in relation to Educational Services. The specific requirements are outlined in the tables below.

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
HOME EDUCATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/guardians may accept or reject the offer of Educational Services by the registering school.</li> <li>• Registered Homeschoolers and their parents/guardians are entitled to access Educational Services from the registering school: <a href="#">section 13(3) of the School Act</a>; <a href="#">section 3 of the School Regulation</a>; and <a href="#">section 6 of the Independent School Regulation</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know that Registering Schools must offer Educational Services (Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services).</li> <li>• Be aware of the different requirements for Registering Public and Independent Schools.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Select Educational Services that best support the homeschooled child’s Educational Program and learning goals (through the Registering School or other).</li> <li>• Consider joining a network of Home Educators and Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Be aware of additional resources available to you (community-based, online, etc.).</li> </ul>

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Homeschoolers and their parents/guardians are entitled to access Educational Services from the registering school: <a href="#">section 13(3) of the School Act</a>; <a href="#">section 3 of the School Regulation</a>; and <a href="#">section 6 of the Independent School Regulation</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know that Registering Schools must offer Educational Services (Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services).</li> </ul>
REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p>School policies and practices must align with legislative requirements regarding Educational Services. <a href="#">School Regulation, section 3</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Schools are required to offer the loan of Educational Resource Materials that are deemed 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.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: Registering Public Schools may require a deposit for the loan of Educational Resource Materials – <a href="#">School Act, section 82(4)</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>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- <a href="#">School Regulation, section 3</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 reflect the details set out in the School Regulation.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>Nominate a staff member at the school with responsibility for Homeschooling-related procedures and make this information freely available (e.g. website, handbook).</li> <li>Consider the needs of potential homeschooler Registrations when ordering class sets of resources and materials, digital subscriptions, etc.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1129 1321 1892 1484" style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS</b> NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats;</li> <li>Access to library and online subscriptions; and</li> <li>Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner).</li> </ul> </div>

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</p> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy);</li> <li>o general education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas);</li> <li>o end of term/year exam sessions,</li> <li>o portfolio assessments; and</li> <li>o optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled Students (e.g. SAT's) on a fee basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER SERVICES THAT SOME REGISTERING SCHOOLS MAY OFFER TO PROVIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group),</li> <li>o The option to access transition planning (to post-secondary),</li> <li>o The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable,</li> <li>o The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</li> </ul>
<p><b>REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b></p>	<p>School policies and procedures must align with legislative requirements regarding Educational Services.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Independent School Regulation, section 6:</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Nominate a staff member at the school with responsibility for</li> </ul>

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Registering Independent Schools may require a deposit for the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Learning Materials.</li> </ul>	<p>Homeschooling-related procedures and make this information freely available (e.g. website, handbook).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the needs of potential homeschooler Registrations when ordering class sets of resources and materials, digital subscriptions, etc.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1220 464 1917 1485" style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</p> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats;</li> <li>o Access to library and online subscriptions; and</li> <li>o Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner).</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL LEARNING MATERIALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Paper</li> <li>o writing tools</li> <li>o calculators other than graphical calculators</li> <li>o Student planners</li> <li>o exercise books.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES THAT ARE NORMALLY OFFERED TO STUDENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy);</li> <li>o general education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas);</li> <li>o end of term/year exam sessions,</li> <li>o Portfolio assessments, and</li> <li>o optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled Students (e.g. SAT’s) on a fee basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER SERVICES THAT SOME REGISTERING SCHOOLS MAY OFFER TO PROVIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group),</li> <li>o The option to access transition planning (to post-secondary),</li> <li>o The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable, and</li> </ul> <p>The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</p> </div>

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>BOARDS OF EDUCATION</b></p>	<p>Board of Education Homeschooling policies must align with the School Regulation’s specific requirements in relation to Educational Services - <a href="#">School Regulation, section 3</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boards of Education may set their own terms and conditions regarding Registered Homeschoolers auditing Educational Programs offered by the Board. Fees are permitted under the legislation.</li> <li>Boards of Education are required to have published schedule of fees for Homeschooling educational resources, in accordance with applicable legislation - <a href="#">School Act, section 82(4)</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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"> <li>the Educational Services offered by the schools within the District / Authority</li> <li>how to access the services;</li> <li>information regarding auditing courses;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Boards of Education / Independent School Authorities should make information about Educational Services freely available (e.g. website).</li> <li>Ensure school policies are aligned with Board / Authority policies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES</b></p>	<p>Independent School policies must align with the <a href="#">Independent School Regulation, section 6</a>, and specific requirements regarding Educational Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registering Schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for Registering Public and Independent schools are different.</li> <li>Boards of Education / Independent School Authorities should identify a staff member / key contact within the Board of Education /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</li> <li>Consider monitoring the use of the grant provided by the Ministry of Education for each Registered Homeschooler.</li> </ul>

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
SUPERINTENDENT/ DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the Board of Education’s responsibilities in relation to homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Be aware of your Homeschooling population.</li> <li>• Be aware of Ministry funding and its purpose.</li> <li>• Ensure district allocations are aligned with homeschooler requirements.</li> </ul>
FIELD STAFF	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the Registering Schools’ responsibility to offer Educational Services to registered Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• Be aware of the Homeschooling families’ ability to choose their own Educational Services to support the Educational Program for the homeschooled child.</li> <li>• Be aware of Homeschooling and potential resources and be prepared to disseminate this information.</li> </ul>
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the Registering Schools’ responsibility to offer Educational Services to registered Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• If invited by the Home Educator, consider how to be a resource for a Homeschooling family.</li> </ul>

## 4. Health and Well-Being

**DISCLAIMER:** The legislation and policy provisions noted below 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.

Notes:

- 1) The information presented under the legislative provisions sections below are legal requirements or entitlements. The information presented under better practice guidelines are optional and adherence to these Better Practice Guidelines is entirely at the discretion of the Home Educator. Please note that this document does not contain legal advice and is intended only to present some of the relevant considerations.
- 2) The Francophone Education Authority is included under the category “Boards of Education”.

### 4. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
HOME EDUCATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/Guardians have a responsibility to ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (<a href="#">Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood immunizations are provided in the Standard 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.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1052 873 1671 1040" style="border: 1px solid #00a651; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Be aware that immunization is an important part of protecting the health of children and youth, individually and collectively.</p> <p><a href="#">Immunize BC</a></p> <p><a href="#">About the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation</a></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that Registering Schools are required to disclose Student lists (including Registered Homeschoolers) to health authorities upon request.</li> <li>• Be aware of the <a href="#">Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation</a> (Ministry of Health), that supports the collection of immunization records of school-aged children so that all records are stored in one place.</li> <li>• Be aware of community supports and emergency services.</li> </ul>



## 4. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLERS</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of your individual rights (see United Nations Rights of Children), including a right to an education.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #008000; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>UNITED NATIONS RIGHTS OF CHILDREN</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">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.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><a href="https://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/2016-11/crc_poster_en.pdf">https://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/2016-11/crc_poster_en.pdf</a></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the Home Educator's responsibility to ensure that homeschoolers are provided with a healthy and supportive environment for learning.</li> <li>• Be aware of community supports.</li> <li>• Be aware of emergency services (e.g. crisis helpline).</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>
<b>REGISTERING PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Make Home Educators aware of health and wellness resources (e.g. parent / child resources on the <a href="#">Ministry of Education's erase website</a>).</li> </ul>

## 4. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GROUP	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
REGISTERING PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	<p>The <a href="#">Student Records Disclosure Order, section 3 (School Act)</a>; and the <a href="#">Student Records Order, section 6 (Independent School Act)</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure personal information is stored in accordance with applicable information and privacy laws.</li> </ul>	
BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Registered Homeschoolers are included in pandemic response planning.</li> <li>• Establish procedures for disseminating health and wellness related updates to Registered Homeschoolers and Home Educators.</li> </ul>
FIELD STAFF	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of Homeschooling and potential health and well-being resources and be prepared to disseminate this information to Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• Be aware of the Duty to Report concerns that a child may be in need of protection.</li> </ul>
FIELD STAFF	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If invited by the Home Educator, consider how to be a health and well-being resource for a Homeschooling family (if invited by the Home Educator).</li> <li>• Be aware of the Duty to Report concerns that a child may be in need of protection.</li> </ul>

## 5. DUTY TO REPORT CONCERNS THAT A CHILD MAY BE IN NEED OF PROTECTION

### DUTY TO REPORT ABUSE OR SUSPECTED ABUSE:

See [Section 13 of the Child Family Community Services Act \(CFCSA\)](#) for when protection is needed. **Note that a lack of an Educational Program is not grounds for protection under the CFCSA.**

[The Child, Family and Community Service Act \(CFCSA\), section 14](#), requires that anyone who has reason to believe that a child or youth has been or is likely to be abused or neglected, and that the parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child or youth, 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 Community Services Act](#).

### What to Do:

- If a child is in immediate danger, call police (call 9-1-1 or your local police) to intervene and a child protection social 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 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 numbers: **1-800-663-9122** or **604-660-4927** (Lower Mainland & outside B.C.).

- Visit the [Reporting Child Abuse in BC - Ministry of Children and Family Development Webpage](#)
- The **Duty to Report Pamphlet** and **Poster** provide information on reporting concerns about children and youth.
- Learn more in the **Child Abuse Prevention Handbook**, which has been revised to clarify reporting requirements regarding children and youth living in situations where domestic violence exists.

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

## SECTION III: GLOSSARY

**Better Practice Guidelines:** Better Practice Guidelines are recommended better practices. Guidelines are not legislative requirements.

**Boards of Education:** The education system in British Columbia is co-governed by the Ministry of Education and 60 Boards of Education in School Districts. Each Board is led by elected trustees who provide district-level policy leadership, hire and manage the senior district staff, and ensure the prudent use and control of the district's resources. School trustees also engage their local communities and meet to set policy and provide oversight of the district's goals for Student achievement and well-being. Boards 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 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.

**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 and 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 and 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 homeschooled child or youth with Disabilities and /or Diverse Abilities may also require different resources and additional supports and services.

**Extended Assessments:** Assessments that are used to better understand a Student's strengths and needs in order to plan more effectively for that Students (e.g., psycho-educational, behavioural, speech and language, orientation and mobility).

**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).

**Educational Services:** In the context of registered Homeschooling, these are the services that Registering Schools are required to offer the Home Educator as per s. 13(3) of the 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 (3) 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, and
- (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 (distributed) 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).

**Extended Assessments** – Assessments that are used to better understand a Student's strengths and needs in order to plan more effectively for that Students. Extended Assessments include, but

are not limited to, psycho-educational, behavioural, speech and language or occupational therapy assessments.

**Field Staff** (e.g. staff employed by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Aboriginal Delegated Agencies, and Health Authorities).

**Francophone Education Authority** (public) - In B.C., the francophone education Authority is School District 93 (Conseil Scolaire francophone) and spans the entire province. 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.

**Homeschooling:** An alternative method of teaching and learning outside of the B.C. education 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. Educational Program. The relevant sections of the [School Act](#) are sections 12, 13, and 14.

**Independent School:** A school, including an Online Learning Independent School, that is, or is to be, maintained and operated in British Columbia by an 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 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 Authority.

**Learning Materials:** Learning Materials includes paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, Student planners, exercise books, computers used for online (distributed) 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 indirect communication between Students and Teachers, including internet or other electronic-based delivery, teleconferencing, or correspondence. 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.

**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 standard, 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”.

**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 to the Home Educator.

**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](#). School Districts are co-governed by the Ministry of Education and Boards of Education. See Boards of Education for additional information.

**School Year:** means the period beginning on July 1 and ending on the following June 30.

**Standard School** (also referred to as a physical school and /or a brick and mortar school). A B.C. school that is not an Online Learning School.

**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, 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.

**Teacher:** A Teacher means a person holding a valid B.C. certificate of qualification who is employed by a Board or Authority to provide an Educational Program to Students in a Public or Independent School.



## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

### Emergencies:

If you are in immediate risk, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

### 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.

**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 to hurt themselves, call 9-1-1 immediately.

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**

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

## APPENDIX ONE: SUMMARY BY KEY USER GROUP

**DISCLAIMER:** The legislation and policy provisions noted below 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.

### Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual: Summary by Key User Group

Notes:

- 1) The information presented under the legislative provisions sections below are legal requirements or entitlements. The information presented under better practice guidelines are optional and adherence to these Better Practice Guidelines is entirely at the discretion of the Home Educator. Please note that this document does not contain legal advice and is intended only to present some of the relevant considerations.
- 2) The Francophone Education Authority is included under the category “Boards of Education”.

### HOME EDUCATOR

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per <a href="#">School Act</a>, section 3 (Entry to Educational Program), children residing in BC must be enrolled in a Board or Authority’s Educational Program, unless registered as a homeschooler (<a href="#">School Act, section 13</a>).</li> <li>• 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. Homeschool Registration is optional after the year in which the child turns 16 (School Act, section 3) and can continue up until the School Year in which they turn 19 (School Act, section 1).</li> <li>• Home Educators are required to register homeschooled children by September 30 (annually) at the Home Educator’s school of choice (<a href="#">School Act, section 13</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the roles and responsibilities of Home Educators.</li> <li>• Understand the difference between registered Homeschooling, learning with an Online Learning School and learning in a Public or Independent school.</li> <li>• Registering Schools are required to offer Educational Services (Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Be informed of any fees and / or deposits that the Registering School may require.</li> <li>• Be informed that each Board of Education and Independent School Authority has the Authority to make a determination of whether a person is <a href="#">ordinarily resident</a> in BC. This process requires demonstrating, on the basis of objective evidence, that a person has established a regular, habitual mode of life in BC.</li> </ul>

The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a Student and the registering school’s process for registering a Student as a homeschooler, including reporting Registrations to the Ministry of Education.



## HOME EDUCATOR

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an offence not to register a homeschooled child (<a href="#">School Act, section 13(4)</a>)</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families that opt to homeschool after September 30 (i.e. transition from enrolled to registered), should register the homeschooled child with a Public or Independent School.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the Superintendent's investigation.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>	<p>Parents / guardians (Home Educators) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide their homeschooled child / youth with an Educational Program (<a href="#">School Act, section 12</a>).</li> <li>Ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (<a href="#">Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore various methodologies for home education to assist with creating your Educational Program.</li> <li>Consider ways to keep your homeschooled child engaged in their learning; high levels of engagement are linked to better outcomes.</li> <li>Consider ways to include <a href="#">First Peoples' Principles of Learning</a> into the Educational Program and consider accessing resources that are listed on the <a href="#">Ministry of Education Indigenous education resources webpage</a>.</li> <li>Connect with other Home Educators and Home Educator networks for support and guidance.</li> <li>Seek out appropriate professional or supplemental services if the homeschooler has disabilities, Diverse Abilities and / or other needs.</li> <li>Research options for post-secondary transitions, including the option to take Grade 10-12 courses via online learning.</li> </ul>

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.

## HOME EDUCATOR

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Homeschoolers and their parents/guardians are entitled to access Educational Services from the registering school: <a href="#">section 13(3) of the School Act</a>; <a href="#">section 3 of the School Regulation</a>; and <a href="#">section 6 of the Independent School Regulation</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know that Registering Schools must offer Educational Services (Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services).</li> <li>Be aware of the different requirements for Registering Public and Independent Schools.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>Select Educational Services that best support the homeschooled child’s Educational Program and learning goals (through the Registering School or other).</li> <li>Consider joining a network of Home Educators and Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>Be aware of additional resources available to you (community-based, online, etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	<p>Parents/Guardians have a responsibility to ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (<a href="#">Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childhood immunizations are provided in the Standard 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.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Be aware that immunization is an important part of protecting the health of children and youth, individually and collectively.  <a href="#">Immunize BC</a> <a href="#">About the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation</a></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware that Registering Schools are required to disclose Student lists (including Registered Homeschoolers) to health authorities upon request.</li> <li>Be aware of the <a href="#">Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation</a> (Ministry of Health), that supports the collection of immunization records of school-aged children so that all records are stored in one place.</li> <li>Be aware of community supports and emergency services.</li> </ul>

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

## REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLER

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #008000; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; background-color: white;"> <p>The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a Student and the registering school's process for registering a Student as a homeschooler, including reporting Registrations to the Ministry of Education.</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children/youth can be homeschooled but must be registered with a B.C. school (<a href="#">School Act, section 13</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #008000; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; background-color: white;"> <p>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.</p> </div>	<p>Registered Homeschoolers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are entitled to be provided with an Educational Program (<a href="#">School Act, section 12</a>).</li> <li>Are entitled to a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (<a href="#">Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</li> <li>May retain their Registered Homeschooler status when enrolling in an Online Learning School (Grades 10-12 courses). -<a href="#">School Regulation, Section 3(3); Independent School Regulation, Section 6(3)</a>.</li> <li>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- <a href="#">School Regulation, Section 3(2)</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the right of all enrolled Students and Registered Homeschoolers to an Educational Program.</li> <li>Be aware of the different educational options for school-aged children/youth: (Standard Schooling in a Standard School, alternate school settings, Online Learning, and Homeschooling).</li> <li>Be aware that a child/youth who is eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 can remain registered as a homeschooler and enroll in all or part of an Educational Program offered through an Online Learning School. Credits towards graduation (B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma) can be earned this way.</li> <li>Be aware that homeschooled youth are not eligible to graduate in the B.C. education system unless all graduation requirements are met through a B.C Online Learning School.</li> <li>Communicate your learning goals and preferences.</li> <li>Engage in learning activities.</li> <li>Reflect on learning.</li> <li>Research how to access post-secondary programs as a homeschooler and proactively make enquiries with post-secondary or other educational institutions regarding entrance requirements.</li> </ul>

## REGISTERED HOMESCHOOLER

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Homeschoolers and their parents/guardians are entitled to access Educational Services from the registering school: <a href="#">section 13(3) of the School Act</a>; <a href="#">section 3 of the School Regulation</a>; and <a href="#">section 6 of the Independent School Regulation</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know that Registering Schools must offer Educational Services (Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services).</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of your individual rights (see United Nations Rights of Children), including a right to an education.</li> </ul>

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

**Emergencies:**  
If you are in immediate risk, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

**Non-emergency health concerns:**  
Kids Help **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 to hurt themselves, call 9-1-1 immediately.  
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**

**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](https://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/2016-11/crc_poster_en.pdf)

- 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).
- 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

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 - <a href="#">School Act, section 13(2)</a>.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Registering Schools must report homeschool Registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept homeschool registrations at any time of year.</li> <li>• To ensure consistency of practice, establish a Homeschooling policy that is consistent with the legislation and addresses: the Registration process (before and after September 30), Educational Services and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. The policy should also describe:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>o the Registration process and purpose;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify and post online the school or district contact person who understands the intricacies of Homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways.</li> <li>• Ensure school (or district) policies and procedures are up to date, accurate and publicly available.</li> <li>• Establish a process for clarifying the differences between Homeschooling, learning in an Online Learning environment and learning in a Standard School. 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/ district policies and practices around the Registration of homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Provide a “receipt” of homeschool Registration to the Home Educator.</li> </ul>

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

**1701 FORM: REQUIRED INFORMATION**

- 1) Personal Education Number (Schools must request PEN's for any new Students / Registered Homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry).
- 2) Legal names
- 3) Birth Date
- 4) Gender
- 5) BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child.

**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.

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).

[Student Data Collections Ministry webpage](#) has more information about the 1701 data collections.

- Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with relevant privacy and information legislation.

## REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request records for newly Registered Homeschoolers (i.e. new to the district or school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record.</li> <li>• Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled Students (or their future Home Educators) opting into Homeschooling.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Staff at both Public and Independent Schools should be aware of the Superintendent’s duty to investigate the reported belief that a Registered Homeschooler may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<p>School policies and practices must align with legislative requirements regarding Educational Services.</p> <p><a href="#">School Regulation, section 3:</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Schools are required to offer the loan of Educational Resource Materials that are deemed 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.</li> </ul> <p>o Note: Registering Public Schools may require a deposit for the loan of Educational Resource Materials – <a href="#">School Act, section 82(4)</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 reflect the details set out in the School Regulation.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Nominate a staff member at the school with responsibility for Homeschooling-related procedures and make this information freely available (e.g. website, handbook).</li> </ul>

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.

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

## REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
	<p>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- <a href="#">School Regulation, section 3</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the needs of potential homeschooler Registrations when ordering class sets of resources and materials, digital subscriptions, etc.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #f4a460; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS</b> <small>NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats;</li> <li>Access to library and online subscriptions; and</li> <li>Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner).</li> </ul> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #f4a460; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</small></p> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy);</li> <li>general education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas);</li> <li>end of term/year exam sessions,</li> <li>portfolio assessments; and</li> <li>optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled Students (e.g. SAT's) on a fee basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER SERVICES THAT SOME REGISTERING SCHOOLS MAY OFFER TO PROVIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group),</li> <li>The option to access transition planning (to post-secondary),</li> <li>The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable,</li> <li>The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</li> </ul> </div>
<p><b>HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Make Home Educators aware of health and wellness resources (e.g. parent / child resources on the <a href="#">Ministry of Education's erase website</a>).</li> </ul>

## REGISTERING PUBLIC SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
	<p>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 <a href="#">Student Records Disclosure Order, section 3 (School Act)</a>; and the <a href="#">Student Records Order, section 6 (Independent School Act)</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure personal information is stored in accordance with applicable information and privacy laws.</li> </ul>	

## REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Schools (and Authorities) have the authority to determine if they will register homeschoolers (in or out of catchment) (<a href="#">Independent School Act, section 10</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure consistency of practice, have a Homeschooling policy that is consistent with the legislation and addresses: whether the Independent School registers homeschoolers and if yes, the Registration process (before and after September 30), Educational Services offered by the school and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. If the school registers homeschoolers, the policy should also describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>o the Registration process and purpose;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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



## REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registering Schools must report homeschool Registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 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).</li> <li>o what information/data is collected (what information that is required and what information is optional).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with relevant privacy and information legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and post online the school / Authority contact person who understands the intricacies of Homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways.</li> <li>• Ensure school / Authority policies and procedures are up to date, accurate and publicly available.</li> <li>• Establish a process for clarifying the differences between Homeschooling, learning in an Online Learning environment and learning in a Standard School. 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/ district policies and practices around the Registration of homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Provide a “receipt” of homeschool Registration to the Home Educator.</li> <li>• Request records for newly Registered Homeschoolers (i.e. new to the district or school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record.</li> <li>• Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled Students (or their future Home Educators) opting into Homeschooling.</li> </ul>

**1701 FORM: REQUIRED INFORMATION**

- 1) Personal Education Number (Schools must request PEN’s for any new Students / Registered Homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry).
- 2) Legal names
- 3) Birth Date
- 4) Gender
- 5) BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child.

**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.

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).

[Student Data Collections Ministry webpage](#) has more information about the 1701 data collections.

## REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Staff at both Public and Independent Schools should be aware of the Superintendent’s duty to investigate the reported belief that a Registered Homeschooler may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<p>School policies and procedures must align with legislative requirements regarding Educational Services.</p> <p><a href="#">Independent School Regulation, section 6:</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Nominate a staff member at the school with responsibility for Homeschooling-related procedures and make this information freely available (e.g. website, handbook).</li> <li>• Consider the needs of potential homeschooler Registrations when ordering class sets of resources and materials, digital subscriptions, etc.</li> </ul>

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.

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

## REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Registering Independent Schools may require a deposit for the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Learning Materials.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid #f4a460; border-radius: 15px; padding: 15px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; background-color: white;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small; margin: 0;">NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</p> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats;</li> <li>o Access to library and online subscriptions; and</li> <li>o Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner).</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL LEARNING MATERIALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Paper</li> <li>o writing tools</li> <li>o calculators other than graphical calculators</li> <li>o Student planners</li> <li>o exercise books.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAMPLES OF EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES THAT ARE NORMALLY OFFERED TO STUDENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy);</li> <li>o general education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas);</li> <li>o end of term/year exam sessions,</li> <li>o Portfolio assessments, and</li> <li>o optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled Students (e.g. SAT’s) on a fee basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER SERVICES THAT SOME REGISTERING SCHOOLS MAY OFFER TO PROVIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group),</li> <li>o The option to access transition planning (to post-secondary),</li> <li>o The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable, and</li> </ul> <p>The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</p> </div>

## REGISTERING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 <a href="#">Student Records Disclosure Order, section 3 (School Act)</a>; and <a href="#">the Student Records Order, section 6 (Independent School Act)</a>.</li> <li>Ensure personal information is stored in accordance with applicable information and privacy laws.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Student Records Disclosure Order</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Make Home Educators aware of health and wellness resources (e.g. parent / child resources on the <a href="#">Ministry of Education's erase website</a>).</li> </ul>

## BOARDS OF EDUCATION

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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-<a href="#">School Act, section 13 (2)</a>.</li> <li>• 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 - <a href="#">School Act, section 82 (4-6)</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop district Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling.</li> <li>• To ensure consistency of practice, district Homeschooling policies / procedures should address: The Registration process, Educational Services and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. The policy should describe:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>o the Registration process and purpose;</li> <li>o 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).</li> <li>o what information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> <li>• District policies and procedures regarding reporting child protection concerns should also apply to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure district policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> </ul>

The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a Student and the registering school’s process for registering a Student as a homeschooler, including reporting Registrations to the Ministry of Education.

## BOARDS OF EDUCATION

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure school-based administrators are versed in Homeschooling policies and procedures and provide training to relevant staff in Homeschooling related processes.</li> <li>• Districts should have published payment / deposit / refund policies and schedules for Homeschooling related services or resources.</li> </ul>
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Registering Schools understand that they do not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the Homeschooling Educational Program.</li> <li>• Develop Board / Authority Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling. Policies and procedures should:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Include clear statements regarding the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide the Educational Program.</li> <li>o Outline the Registrzation process (before and after September 30).</li> <li>o Describe Educational Services offered by the Registering School.</li> <li>o Include procedures describing follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> <li>o Align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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.

## BOARDS OF EDUCATION

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures around reporting child protection concerns are applicable to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Ensure Board/Authority policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b></p>	<p>Board of Education Homeschooling policies must align with the School Regulation's specific requirements in relation to Educational Services - <a href="#">School Regulation, section 3</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boards of Education may set their own terms and conditions regarding Registered Homeschoolers auditing Educational Programs offered by the Board. Fees are permitted under the legislation.</li> <li>• Boards of Education are required to have published schedule of fees for Homeschooling educational resources, in accordance with applicable legislation - <a href="#">School Act, section 82(4)</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>o the Educational Services offered by the schools within the District / Authority</li> <li>o how to access the services;</li> <li>o information regarding auditing courses;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Boards of Education / Independent School Authorities should make information about Educational Services freely available (e.g. website).</li> <li>• Ensure school policies are aligned with Board / Authority policies.</li> </ul>

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

## BOARDS OF EDUCATION

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registering Schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for Registering Public and Independent schools are different.</li> <li>• Boards of Education / Independent School Authorities should identify a staff member / key contact within the Board of Education /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</li> <li>• Consider monitoring the use of the grant provided by the Ministry of Education for each Registered Homeschooler.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Registered Homeschoolers are included in pandemic response planning.</li> <li>• Establish procedures for disseminating health and wellness related updates to Registered Homeschoolers and Home Educators.</li> </ul>



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a Student and the registering school's process for registering a Student as a homeschooler, including reporting Registrations to the Ministry of Education.</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent School Authorities have the ability to determine if they will register homeschoolers -<a href="#">Independent School Act, Section 10 (1)</a>.</li> <li>• Independent School Authorities may set a fee for homeschooler Registration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide clarification in school policies regarding the Registration of homeschoolers, including information regarding any decision made not to register homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Develop Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling.</li> <li>• To ensure consistency of practice, Authority Homeschooling policies / procedures should address: The Registration process, Educational Services and procedures around follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program. The policy should describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what Homeschooling is and use the correct terminology;</li> <li>o the Registration process and purpose;</li> <li>o 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).</li> <li>o what information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> <li>• Authority policies and procedures regarding reporting child protection concerns should also be applicable to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure Authority policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> </ul>

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure school-based administrators are versed in Homeschooling policies and procedures and provide training to relevant staff in Homeschooling related processes.</li> <li>• Authorities should have published payment / deposit / refund policies and schedules for Homeschooling related services or resources.</li> </ul>
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Registering Schools understand that they do not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the Homeschooling Educational Program.</li> <li>• Develop Board / Authority Homeschooling policies that align with legislative provisions around Homeschooling. Policies and procedures should:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Include clear statements regarding the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide the Educational Program.</li> <li>o Outline the Registration process (before and after September 30).</li> <li>o Describe Educational Services offered by the Registering School.</li> <li>o Include procedures describing follow-up on reports of (i) homeschoolers not being registered and (ii) homeschoolers who may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> <li>o Align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures around reporting child protection concerns are applicable to Registered Homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Ensure Board/Authority policies and procedures are up-to-date, accurate and available to school-based staff and Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b></p>	<p>Independent School policies must align with the <a href="#">Independent School Regulation, section 6</a>, and specific requirements regarding Educational Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>o the Educational Services offered by the schools within the District / Authority</li> <li>o how to access the services;</li> <li>o information regarding auditing courses;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Boards of Education / Independent School Authorities should make information about Educational Services freely available (e.g. website).</li> <li>• Ensure school policies are aligned with Board / Authority policies.</li> </ul>

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registering Schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for Registering Public and Independent schools are different.</li> <li>• Boards of Education / Independent School Authorities should identify a staff member / key contact within the Board of Education /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</li> <li>• Consider monitoring the use of the grant provided by the Ministry of Education for each Registered Homeschooler.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Registered Homeschoolers are included in pandemic response planning.</li> <li>• Establish procedures for disseminating health and wellness related updates to Registered Homeschoolers and Home Educators.</li> </ul>

# SUPERINTENDENTS / DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b>	<p>In accordance with section 1 of <a href="#">the Investigation by Superintendent Order</a>, after receiving a report that a child who is required to be registered under <a href="#">section 13 of the School Act</a> is not so registered, the Superintendent must investigate the report and shall discuss the report with the parent/guardian of the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Superintendent determines that the child is not registered, they shall advise the parent of the child of the obligation to register.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the legislated duty of Superintendents 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).</li> <li>• Boards of Education may wish to explore the possibility and implications of delegating these duties.</li> <li>• Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the Superintendent's investigation.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with section 2 of <a href="#">the Investigation by Superintendent Order</a>, when 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The duty relates to children/youth that reside within their jurisdiction (including homeschoolers who are registered with an Independent School).</li> <li>• Be aware that learning at home will likely look different to learning in the school setting.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of policies and protocols around follow-up on reports, including procedures when engaging with other ministries.</li> <li>• Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the Superintendent's investigation.</li> </ul>

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

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.

# SUPERINTENDENTS / DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL OF THE FRANCOPHONE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>o report their belief to a director designated under the <a href="#">Child, Family and Community Service Act</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Only a director designated under the <a href="#">Child Family and Community Service Act</a> has the Authority to make the determination of whether the child is in need of protection.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o provide a director designated under the <a href="#">Child, Family and Community Service Act</a> with advice on educational matters pertaining to the child under investigation (by the Superintendent).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the Board of Education’s responsibilities in relation to homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Be aware of your Homeschooling population.</li> <li>• Be aware of Ministry funding and its purpose.</li> <li>• Ensure district allocations are aligned with homeschooler requirements.</li> </ul>

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.

## FIELD STAFF

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per <a href="#">section 14 of the School Act</a>, 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>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.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with <a href="#">section 14 of the School Act</a>, 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.</li> <li>No action may be taken against the person making the report, unless the report is made maliciously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of / research the different educational options for school aged children/youth, including learning in a Standard School, alternate school environments, Online Learning environments and a parent’s right to homeschool and corresponding parental responsibilities:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to register their homeschooled child (annually by September 30); and</li> <li>2) to provide Registered Homeschoolers with an Educational Program.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Be aware of the ability to report your belief that a child is not receiving an Educational Program to the Superintendent of the School District within which the child resides.</li> <li>Be curious about a child’s current educational status if the child is no longer attending a physical school. 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. Look instead for an approach that supports a child’s overall development.</li> </ul>

The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a Student and the registering school’s process for registering a Student as a homeschooler, including reporting Registrations to the Ministry of Education.

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.

## FIELD STAFF

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the definition of an Educational Program (<i>School Act</i>). Be aware that the Registering School does not have the authority to supervise the Educational Program.</li> <li>• Be aware that field staff do not have the authority to determine whether an Educational Program is in place.</li> <li>• Be aware of required follow-up by the local Superintendent when receiving reports of (i) a homeschooler who is not registered and (ii) a homeschooler who may not be receiving an Educational Program.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the Registering Schools' responsibility to offer Educational Services to registered Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• Be aware of the Homeschooling families' ability to choose their own Educational Services to support the Educational Program for the homeschooled child.</li> <li>• Be aware of Homeschooling and potential resources and be prepared to disseminate this information.</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of Homeschooling and potential health and well-being resources and be prepared to disseminate this information to Homeschooling families.</li> <li>• Be aware of the Duty to Report concerns that a child may be in need of protection.</li> </ul>

Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.

Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

TOPIC	Legislative Provisions: Requirements & Entitlements	Better Practice Guidelines
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The Registration process includes both the act of a parent/guardian notifying a school of their intention to homeschool a Student and the registering school's process for registering a Student as a homeschooler, including reporting Registrations to the Ministry of Education.</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per <a href="#">section 14 of the School Act</a>, 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Registering Schools have a requirement to offer educational services to parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers. These include the loan of Educational Resource Materials and Evaluation and Assessment Services.</p> <p>Note: Parents / guardians of Registered Homeschoolers have the authority to select their own Educational Services. This means they can accept or reject the offer of Educational Services from a Registering School.</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the Registering Schools' responsibility to offer Educational Services to registered Homeschooling families.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>If invited by the Home Educator, consider how to be a resource for a Homeschooling family.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If invited by the Home Educator, consider how to be a health and well-being resource for a Homeschooling family.</li> <li>Be aware of the Duty to Report concerns that a child may be in need of protection.</li> </ul>