

# APPENDIX 1 *to the Homeschooling* PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES Manual

Legislative Provisions and Better Practise Guidelines  
*(Summary by Key Topic).*

UPDATED JANUARY 2024



Ministry of  
Education and  
Child Care





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# Legislative provisions and better practice guidelines

## SUMMARY BY KEY TOPIC

### Introduction

This appendix presents the same content – organized in a different fashion – as the information presented in Section 2 of the *Ministry of Education Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual*. The Manual can be viewed and/or downloaded from the “resources” section of the [Ministry Homeschooling policy](#). The purpose of this document is to present the information found in Section 2 of the Manual arranged by key topics:

1. Registration process
2. Educational program
3. Educational services
4. Health and well-being

Section two of the Manual arranges the information by user groups: home educators, registered homeschoolers, registering public schools, registering independent schools, boards of education, independent school authorities, superintendents, child welfare workers and community partners. The intention with this appendix is that it is useful to show a whole-system overview. In this way, a child welfare worker can readily see what role a school plays during registration, or a home educator can understand the role that a board of education would play.

### Topic 1: Registration process

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

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

## TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Home Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to s. 3 of the <i>School Act</i>, from age 5 or 6 until the age of 16, children who are resident in British Columbia are required by the <i>School Act</i> to take part in an educational program or course of studies: options for doing so include enrolling with a school or registering as a homeschooler.</li> <li>• Registration as homeschooler or enrollment as a student by September 30 of the school year a child turns 5 is optional, but it is mandatory by September 30 of the school year a child turns 6.</li> <li>• After that, registration or enrollment continue to be mandatory until the child reaches the age of 16.</li> <li>• Section 13 of the <i>School Act</i> allows for the registration of homeschoolers.</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 - <i>School Act</i>, section 13(4).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the differences between registering as a homeschooler and taking online learning courses as an enrolled student.</li> <li>• Understand that 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 may determine whether a person is <b>ordinarily resident</b> in B.C. based on objective evidence as to whether 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 part-way through a school year), should register the homeschooler with a public or independent school at the time of the transition. This includes families that move to B.C. after September 30 and choose to homeschool for the remainder of the school year.</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. This is set out in an order made by the Minister of Education entitled "Investigation by Superintendent Order."</li> <li>• Know that parents/guardians have the right to engage an advocate to be present during the superintendent's investigation.</li> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
Registered Homeschoolers	<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>
Registering Public Schools	<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> </ul> <div data-bbox="451 902 1220 1507" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>1701 Form: Required Information</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Personal Education Number (Schools must request PENS for any new Students / homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry).</li> <li>2. Legal names</li> <li>3. Birth Date</li> <li>4. Gender</li> <li>5. BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child</li> </ol> <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>• Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the start of the school year in which a child turns 5 (although it can be deferred until the start of the school year in which a child turns 6) until the child reaches the age of 16.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1287 951 1990 1224" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For homeschoolers, registration is <b>REQUIRED</b> by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</li> <li>- For homeschoolers, registration is <b>OPTIONAL</b>: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</li> </ul> </div> <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:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The registration process (before and after Sept. 30)</li> <li>- Educational services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Educational services</i></li> <li><i>Procedures around follow-up on reports of</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Homeschoolers not being registered</i></li> <li><i>Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program</i></li> </ol> </li> <li><i>What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology</i></li> <li><i>The registration process and purpose</i></li> <li><i>The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (including a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program)</i></li> <li><i>What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional)</i></li> <li>Identify a school or board of education contact person who understands the intricacies of homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways and post their name and contact information online.</li> <li>Ensure school (or board of education) policies and procedures are up to date, accurate and publicly available.</li> <li>Establish a process for clarifying the differences between homeschooling and enrolling in online learning. For example, during the registration process, offer to provide an opportunity where a staff member who is well-versed in educational pathways could explain different educational options.</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/ board of education policies and practices around the registration of homeschoolers.</li> <li>Provide a "receipt" of homeschool registration to the home educator.</li> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registering schools should request records for newly registered homeschoolers (i.e. new to the school district or school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record, as required.</li> <li>• Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled students (or their future home educators) opting into homeschooling.</li> <li>• Send parents/guardians of registered homeschoolers an end of year communication, congratulating families on their achievements and reminding them to register by September 30 the following school year, if continuing to homeschool.</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 may not be registered.</li> </ul>
<p>Registering Independent Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent schools have the authority to determine if they will register homeschoolers (<a href="#">Independent School Act, section 10</a>)</li> <li>• Registering Schools must report homeschool registrations to the Ministry of Education on the Student Data Collection Form (1701)</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="451 950 1218 1526" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>1701 Form: Required Information</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Personal Education Number (Schools must request PENS for any new Students / homeschoolers prior to submitting the file to the Ministry).</li> <li>2. Legal names</li> <li>3. Birth Date</li> <li>4. Gender</li> <li>5. BC residential postal code of the homeschooled child</li> </ol> <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>• Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the start of the school year in which a child turns 5 (although it can be deferred until the start of the school year in which a child turns 6) until the child reaches the age of 16.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1291 966 1984 1242" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For homeschoolers, registration is <b>REQUIRED</b> by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</li> <li>- For homeschoolers, registration is <b>OPTIONAL</b>: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</li> </ul> </div> <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> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information must be collected and maintained in compliance with the <i>Protection of Information and Privacy Act</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure consistency of practice, independent school authority homeschooling policies/procedures should address:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The registration process (before and after Sept 30),</i></li> <li><i>Educational services</i></li> <li><i>Procedures around follow-up on reports of</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Homeschoolers not being registered</i></li> <li><i>Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>The policy should describe:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology</i></li> <li><i>The registration process and purpose</i></li> <li><i>The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program)</i></li> <li><i>What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> <li>Identify a school or independent school authority contact person who understands the intricacies of homeschooling and the broad spectrum of educational pathways and post their name and contact information online.</li> <li>Establish a process for clarifying the differences between registered homeschooling and enrolling in a school (in person learning and online learning options). For example, during the registration process, offer to provide an opportunity where a staff member who is well-versed in educational pathways could explain different educational options.</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> </ul>



TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure school-based staff are well versed in school/ board of education policies and practices around the registration of homeschoolers.</li> <li>• Provide a “receipt” of homeschool registration to the home educator.</li> <li>• Registering schools should request records for newly registered homeschoolers (i.e. new to the school) to ensure the school becomes the school of record, as required.</li> <li>• Offer to facilitate exit interviews for enrolled students (or their future home educators) opting into homeschooling.</li> <li>• Send parents/guardians of registered homeschoolers an end of year communication, congratulating families on their achievements and reminding them to register by September 30 the following school year, if continuing to homeschool.</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 may not be registered. This includes registered homeschoolers who may be registered with an independent school.</li> </ul>
Boards of Education	<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>. 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, board of education homeschooling policies / procedures should address:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The registration process (before and after Sept 30)</li> <li>- Educational services</li> <li>- Procedures around follow-up on reports of                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Homeschoolers not being registered</li> <li>2. Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• The policy should describe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology</i></li> <li>- <i>The registration process and purpose</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program)</i></li> <li>- <i>what information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional)</i></li> <li>• Ensure policies and procedures align with principles of procedural fairness, transparency and privacy legislation.</li> <li>• Board of education 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 board of education 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>• Boards of education should have published payment / deposit/refund policies and schedules for homeschooling related services or resources.</li> </ul>
<p>Independent School Authorities</p>	<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> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure consistency of practice, independent school authority homeschooling policies / procedures should address:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The registration process (before and after Sept 30)</i></li> <li>- <i>Educational services</i></li> <li>- <i>Procedures around follow-up on reports of</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Homeschoolers not being registered</i></li> <li>2. <i>Homeschoolers who may not be receiving an educational program</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• The policy should describe:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What homeschooling is and use the correct terminology</i></li> <li>- <i>The registration process and purpose</i></li> <li>- <i>The home educator's autonomy and authority with regard to the educational program (a clear statement that the school does not have the authority to supervise the educational program).</i></li> <li>- <i>What information/data is collected (what information is required and what information is optional).</i></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 regarding concerns that a homeschooler may not be registered or may not be receiving an educational program. Ensure staff are aware that a superintendent's duties in this regard extend to registered homeschoolers who may be / are registered with an independent school.</li> <li>• Ensure independent school 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> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure school-based administrators are versed in homeschooling policies and procedures and provide training to relevant staff in homeschooling related processes.</li> <li>• Independent school authorities should have published payment / deposit / refund policies and schedules for homeschooling related services or resources.</li> </ul>
<p>Superintendent/Directeur Général of the Francophone Education Authority</p>	<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> <li>• If the superintendent determines that the child is not registered, they shall advise the parent of the child of the obligation to register. If the parent refuses to comply with the law, the superintendent shall inform the police having jurisdiction over the area in which the child resides.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the start of the school year in which a child turns 5 (although it can be deferred until the start of the school year in which a child turns 6) until the child reaches the age of 16.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>For homeschoolers, registration is <b>REQUIRED</b> by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</i></li> <li>- <i>For homeschoolers, registration is <b>OPTIONAL</b>: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Be aware of the duty of superintendents, imposed by Ministerial Order, to investigate specific concerns about homeschoolers (not being registered and possible lack of an educational program) that reside within their jurisdiction (including homeschoolers who are registered with an independent school).</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>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Child Welfare Workers	<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>Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the start of the school year in which a child turns 5 (although it can be deferred until the start of the school year in which a child turns 6) until the child reaches the age of 16.               <div data-bbox="1287 597 1990 873" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For homeschoolers, registration is <b>REQUIRED</b> by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</i></li> <li><i>For homeschoolers, registration is <b>OPTIONAL</b>: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</i></li> </ul> </div> </li> <li>Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.</li> </ul>
Community Partners	<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>Be aware that registration is required (if not enrolled) from the start of the school year in which a child turns 5 (although it can be deferred until the start of the school year in which a child turns 6) until the child reaches the age of 16.</li> </ul>

TOPIC: 1 REGISTRATION PROCESS CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For homeschoolers, registration is <b>REQUIRED</b> by Sept. 30 from the year in which the child turns 6 before Dec 31, until the year in which they reach the age of 16.</li> <li>- For homeschoolers, registration is <b>OPTIONAL</b>: A) by Sept. 30 the year in which the child turns 5 before Dec 31 and B) after the year in which the youth reaches the age of 16 until the end of the school year in which the youth turns 19 – before July 1.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand reporting procedures to address concerns if a homeschooler is not registered with a school, as is required by law.</li> </ul>

Topic 2: Educational Program

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

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

TOPIC: 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Home Educators	<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>). Ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning (<a href="#">Statement of 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> as well as <a href="#">FNEESC’s Learning First Peoples Classroom 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 while retaining registered homeschooler status.</li> <li>• Be aware that a registered homeschooler may be able to audit courses offered by the registering school (not for credit), with special permission of the board of education. Note that this may involve the payment of a fee.</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 may not be receiving an educational program. This responsibility extends to registered homeschoolers who are registered at an independent school.</li> </ul>

TOPIC: 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Registered Homeschoolers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered homeschoolers are entitled to be provided, by their home educator, 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="#">Statement of Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a>).</li> <li>While in grades 10-12, may retain their registered homeschooler status when enrolling in online learning courses.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">School Regulation, Section 3(3)</a>; <a href="#">Independent School Regulation, Section 6(3)</a>.</li> </ul> </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>. Note that this may involve the payment of a fee.</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, including: in person, online, specialized / alternate programs and homeschooling.</li> <li>Be aware that homeschooled youth are not eligible to graduate in the B.C. education system through homeschooling alone.</li> <li>Be aware that a youth who is eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 can retain registered homeschooler status and enroll in all or part of an educational program offered through online learning only. Credits towards graduation (B.C. Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma) can be earned this way.</li> <li>Communicate your learning goals and preferences to your parent/guardian.</li> <li>Participate in choosing learning activities and resources.</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>
Registering Public Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to s. 3(3) of the School Regulation, registered homeschoolers in grades 10-12 may enroll in online learning courses offered by public or independent schools and retain their registered homeschooler status.</li> <li>Section 3(2) of the School Regulation provides that a registered homeschooler may audit public school courses with the permission of the board of education and subject to the terms and conditions imposed by the board of education.</li> </ul>	<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 or oversee homeschoolers' educational programs.</li> <li>Be aware that the School Regulation allows registered homeschoolers eligible to enrol in Grades 10-12 to retain their registered homeschooler status while enrolling in online learning courses (Grades 10-12 only).</li> </ul>



TOPIC: 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that registered homeschoolers may, in certain circumstances, be able to audit a course (not for credit), while retaining their registered homeschooler status.</li> <li>• Staff should be aware of the superintendent's duty to investigate the reported belief that a registered homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program.</li> </ul>
Registering Independent Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to s. 6(3) of the Independent School Regulation, registered homeschoolers in grades 10-12 may enroll in online learning courses offered by public or independent schools and retain their registered homeschooler status.</li> </ul>	<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>• Be aware of the legislative provision whereby a registered homeschooler who is eligible to enroll in Grades 10-12 courses can retain their registered homeschooler status while enrolling in online learning courses (Grades 10-12 only).</li> <li>• Staff should be aware of the superintendent's duty to investigate the reported belief that a registered homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program. This includes registered homeschoolers that are registered with an independent school.</li> </ul>
Boards of Education	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that registering schools understand that parents /guardians are entirely responsible for providing and overseeing the educational program and that the schools does not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the homeschooling educational program.</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> </ul>

TOPIC: 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that staff are trained and understand procedures when receiving a report that a homeschooler may not be receiving an educational program. Ensure that staff understand that the superintendent's duties extend to registered homeschoolers who may be / are registered with an independent school.</li> </ul>
Independent School Authorities	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that registering schools understand that parents /guardians are entirely responsible for providing and overseeing the educational program and that the schools does not have the authority to review, approve and oversee the homeschooling educational program.</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>
Superintendent/Général of the Francophone Education Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with section 2 of <a href="#">The Investigation by Superintendent Order</a>, where a superintendent receives a report that a child who is being educated in accordance with Section 12 of the <i>School Act</i> is not receiving an educational program, the superintendent shall investigate the report and shall discuss the report with a parent/guardian of the child.</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>- <i>Report their belief to a director designated under the <a href="#">Child, Family and Community Service Act</a>.</i></li> <li>- <i>Provide a director designated under the Child, Family and Community Service Act with advice on educational matters pertaining to the child under investigation (by the superintendent).</i></li> </ul> </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>

Only a director designated under the [Child Family and Community Service Act](#) has the authority to make the determination of whether the child is in need of protection.

TOPIC: 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>Child Welfare Workers</p>	<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 an in-person school, alternate school environments, online learning options and a parent's right to homeschool and corresponding parental responsibilities:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• 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.</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 child welfare workers do not have the authority to determine whether an educational program is in place and that it is the parent's responsibility to confirm their registration/enrolment status with the registering school.</li> <li>• Encourage parents/guardians to get homeschooling support where needed (e.g., the registering school, homeschool advocacy groups, Ministry of Education website.)</li> <li>• Be aware of the ability of a person to report a belief that a child is not receiving an educational program to the superintendent of the school district within which the child resides.</li> <li>• Be aware of required follow-up by the local superintendent when receiving reports of:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A homeschooler who may not be registered</li> <li>2. A homeschooler who may not be receiving an educational program.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

TOPIC: 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Community Partners	<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 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)</li> <li>2. To provide registered homeschoolers with an educational program.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

Topic 3: Educational Services

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

**NOTE\*:**

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

## TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Home Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registering schools are required to offer homeschoolers educational services (educational resource materials and evaluation and assessment services) : <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, as needed (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>
Registered Homeschoolers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered homeschoolers 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School policies and practices must align with legislative requirements regarding educational services. <a href="#">School Regulation, section 3:</a></li> <li>Public schools are required to offer the loan of educational resource materials that are, in the opinion of the board of education, sufficient to enable the child to pursue their educational program and on a similar basis to the offer of such educational resources to enrolled students.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: Registering public schools may require a deposit for the loan of educational resource materials                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">School Act, section 82(4)</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </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 public schools to registered homeschoolers must align with 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> </ul>

TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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(1)</a>.</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 public schools to registered homeschoolers must align with 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 the name and contact information of this person 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="1249 938 1990 1518" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Examples of educational resource materials</b> NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Access to information and materials used in teaching stored in a variety of formats</i></li> <li><i>Access to library and online subscriptions</i></li> <li><i>Science equipment (e.g. microscopes, Bunsen burner)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Examples of evaluation and assessment services</b> NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provincial assessments (FSA, Numeracy, Literacy)</i></li> <li><i>General education assessment (i.e. grade level subject proficiency in core subject areas)</i></li> <li><i>End of term/year exam sessions</i></li> <li><i>Portfolio assessments</i></li> <li><i>Optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled students assessments (e.g. SAT's) on a fee basis</i></li> </ul> </div>

TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other services that some registering schools may offer to provide:</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Optional for Registering Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group).</i></li> <li><i>The option to access transition planning (to post-secondary).</i></li> <li><i>The option to audit courses (not for credit). Fees are allowable.</i></li> <li><i>The option to access supplemental learning opportunities and resources (e.g. field trips, assemblies, community events, sports teams and music groups).</i></li> </ul> </div>
<p>Registering Independent Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School policies and procedures must align with legislative requirements regarding educational services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Independent School Regulation, section 6:</b></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> <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>	<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 person's name and contact information freely available (e.g. website, handbook).</li> </ul>

TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
		<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> <p>NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST</p> <p><b>Examples of educational resource materials</b></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</li> <li>- 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>- Paper</li> <li>- Writing tools</li> <li>- Calculators other than graphical calculators</li> <li>- Student planners</li> <li>- 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>- 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</li> <li>- Optional assessment opportunities provided to enrolled students assessments (e.g. SAT's) on a fee basis</li> </ul> <p>OPTIONAL FOR REGISTERING SCHOOLS</p> <p><b>Other services that some registering schools may offer to provide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Option to consult an educational consultant on educational programming (virtually, in person, individually or in a group)</li> <li>- 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>



TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Boards of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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></li> <li>• Boards of education may set their own terms and conditions regarding registered homeschoolers auditing educational programs offered by the board of education. Fees are permitted under the legislation.</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>- <i>The educational services offered by the schools within the school district</i></li> <li>- <i>How to access the services</i></li> <li>- <i>Information regarding auditing courses</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Boards of education should make information about educational services freely available (e.g. website).</li> <li>• Ensure school policies are aligned with board of education policies.</li> <li>• Registering schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for registering public and independent schools are different.</li> <li>• Boards of education should identify a staff member/key contact within the board of education with responsibility for coordinating homeschooling related procedures and services. Consider making this the same person with responsibility for alternate education and diverse educational pathways</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>

TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
<p>Independent School Authorities</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>• 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> <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>	<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>- <i>The educational services offered by the schools within the independent school authority</i></li> <li>- <i>How to access the services</i></li> <li>- <i>Information regarding auditing courses</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Independent school authorities should make information about educational services freely available (e.g. website).</li> <li>• Ensure school policies are aligned with independent school authority policies (if different).</li> <li>• Registering schools should be aware that that the legislative requirements for registering public and independent schools are different.</li> <li>• Independent school authorities should identify a staff member / key contact within the independent school authority with responsibility for coordinating homeschooling related procedures and services. Consider making this the same person with responsibility for alternate education and diverse educational pathways</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>

TOPIC: 3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONT'D...

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
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 school district allocations are aligned with homeschooler requirements.</li> </ul>
Child Welfare Workers	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>

## Topic 4: Health and Wellbeing

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

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

### TOPIC: 4 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Home Educators	Parents/guardians have a responsibility to ensure that children are provided with a healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning ( <a href="#">Statement of Education Policy Order, OIC 1280/89</a> ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of community supports and emergency services.</li> <li>• Childhood immunizations are provided in an in-person school setting. Home educators are responsible for ensuring their child/youth is immunized in accordance with the standard vaccination schedule should they choose to adhere to the recommended immunization guidelines. Be aware that immunization is an important part of protecting the health of children and youth, individually and collectively.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1220 1203 1959 1284" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;">  <b>Immunization Resources: <a href="#">Immunize BC</a> <a href="#">About the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation</a></b> </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 (Ministry of Health)</a>, that supports the collection of immunization records of school-aged children so that all records are stored in one place.</li> </ul>

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Registered Homeschoolers	<p>N/A</p> <div data-bbox="562 410 1245 672" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b><i>The Rights of Indigenous Peoples (including Indigenous children):</i></b>  <i>As an Indigenous learner, you have the right to all levels and forms of education without discrimination. UNDRIP also states that effective measures should be taken in order that Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and language. See the <a href="#">United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</a> for more information on your rights as an Indigenous person.</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="562 691 1245 1474" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Emergencies:</b>                      If you are in immediate risk, please call 911 immediately.</p> <p><b>Non-emergency health concerns:</b>                      Kids Help 1 800 668 6868 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text: 686868</li> </ul> <p><b>Mental Health:</b>                      If you are concerned that you or someone you know is in immediate risk to hurt themselves, call 9-1-1 immediately}</p> <p>Suicide Crisis Helpline: Call or Text 988 (988.ca)                      Suicide Crisis: 1 800 SUICIDE (1 800 784 2433)                      Mental Health issue: 310 6789                      Youth in BC chatline (online chat is available from noon to 1:00am in BC and Yukon): <a href="https://youthinbc.com">https://youthinbc.com</a></p> <p><b>24-hour crisis lines:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Vancouver: 604 872 3311</li> <li>• Howe Sound and Sunshine Coast: 1 866 661 3311</li> <li>• TY (teletypewriter for deaf and hard of hearing) 1 866 972 0113</li> </ul> <p><b>Indigenous Crisis Lines:</b>                      Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society operates a 24-hour provincial Indigenous crisis line for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults/Elders: 250 723 4050</li> <li>• Child/Youth: 250 723 2040</li> <li>• Toll-free line:: 1 800 588 8717</li> </ul> </div>	<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 data-bbox="1297 410 1980 672" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b><i>United Nations Rights of Children:</i></b>  <i>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.</i></p> <p><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>• If you are an Indigenous registered homeschooler, be aware of your rights as an Indigenous person (see the <a href="#">United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</a>).</li> <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>

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GROUP	LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS: REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENTS*	BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINES*
Registering Public Schools	<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>	<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 Independent Schools	<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>	<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	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>

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Independent School Authorities	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>
Superintendent/ Directeur Général of the Francophone Education Authority	N/A	N/A
Child Welfare Workers	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>
Community Partners	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>