



WETASKIWIN REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools

Home Education Parent Handbook



Wetaskiwin Regional
Public Schools

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BACKGROUND

Although the Provincial government, through the Minister of Education, is ultimately responsible and accountable to Albertans for the quality of schooling, Section 23 of the School Act recognizes and reaffirms a parent's right to provide a home education program for his/her child within the parameters of the Alberta Regulations 145/2006 for Home Education Programs.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: What is home education?

Answer: Alberta School Act Section 23(1) - a parent of a student may provide at home or elsewhere, a home education program for the student if the program:

- (a) meets the requirements of the regulations, and
- (b) is under the supervision of a board.

Question: How do I enrol my children in a home education program?

Answer: Parents shall notify the Board in the prescribed form of their intent to home educate. Contact the Coordinator of Home Education for information and direction.

Question: Can the Board of Trustees for the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools refuse to allow me to home educate my child(ren)?

Answer: The Board of Trustees for Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools does not have the right to refuse to allow a parent to home education a child if:

- (a) the notification requirements of the Alberta Regulations 145/2006 for Home Education Programs have been met, and
- (b) The Home Education Program as described by the Parent/Guardian indicates the intent to comply with the requirements of the Alberta Regulations 145/2006 for Home Education Programs.
- (c) The student is a resident of the Board.



Question: Can the Board of Trustees for the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools terminate a home education program that it supervises?

Answer: The Board of Trustees for the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools if after complying with of the Alberta Regulations 145/2006 for Home Education Programs, and after giving due consideration to the abilities of the student, may in writing terminate the program if it is found that:

- (a) the student fails to meet an acceptable level of achievement, or
- (b) the home education program does not continue to meet the requirements of the Alberta Regulations 145/2006 for Home Education Programs, or
- (c) The parent does not comply with the Alberta Regulations 145/2006 for Home Education. The Board of Trustees may then direct the student to a school operated by the Board.

Question: What programs are available for home education?

Answer: There is a wide range of programs available depending on the specific needs/wants.

The programs that education administrators are most familiar with are: Alberta Distance Learning Programs; and, Alberta Education Program of Studies courses. There are numerous other programs like A.C.E., Hewitt-Moore, A Beka that are being used. Contact the Coordinator of Home Education for specific details.

Question: Will the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools pay for materials used?

Answer: Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools will provide some financial support for home education according to policy.

- (a) Alberta Distance Learning Courses: The cost of the courses will be paid for by the Board. However, other expenses like postage, and instructional materials or supplies rental fees, may be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- (b) Program of Studies for Alberta Education Courses and Resources. The Board will provide the Program of Studies and textbooks but would charge a rental or purchase fee.
- (c) Other Programs and Resources: Financial assistance up to a specified amount that is established by the Board of Trustees will be provided.

Question: Who can I call for information or help?

Answer: You may call the Coordinator of Home Education at 352-6582 or leave a message at the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools central administration office 352-6018.

The Coordinator will return your call or forward it to appropriate resource personnel.

Question: If I home educate my children, are school facilities and/or services accessible to me?

Answer: It will depend on your request. The use of the library, resources, some equipment, etc. may be accessible to you.

Contact the Coordinator of Home Education or the school principal.

Question: What is supervision?

Answer: Supervision of the Home Education Program is carried out by the Coordinator who is responsible to the Superintendent of Schools. The Coordinator is a person who holds a teaching certificate. The Coordinator can assist and advise you as well as gather information for the Board of Trustees.

The Coordinator is responsible to ensure that the student is making satisfactory progress and to make suggestions or recommendations if reasonable progress is not made.

Question: How often will the Coordinator come to my home?

Answer: The Coordinator will prearrange a meeting with you at your home or at an alternate location such as the local school or the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Home Education office. A minimum of two visits per year should be expected, however, more may take place if requested or required.

Question: Do I require a minimum standard of education in order to home educate?

Answer: The purpose of board supervision is to monitor and assess student achievement and progress. It is the home educator's responsibility, however, to ensure that the student learning outcomes prescribed in the schedule are met through the home education program they offer.

Question: Will my child's progress and achievement be assessed?

Answer: It is a responsibility of a supervising Board to provide for and maintain records of the assessment of the student's achievement.

Question: Is testing the only means of assessment that should be used?

Answer: Assessment must be ongoing through a variety of means such as:

- criterion referenced tests
- unit end tests (e.g. benchmarks established by publisher)
- student work portfolios.
- recorded observations and check lists.
- standardized achievement tests.
- diagnostic tests if required.
- ability tests if required.

Question: Do I have to do any assessment?

Answer: Since assessment is ongoing it will be necessary for a home educator to establish an effective evaluation and reporting system. The Coordinator will arrange to have the student take standardized achievement and/or ability tests where necessary to confirm student progress and achievement.

Question: How can I find out what level of achievement my child is at?

Answer: Parents can request that their child be given a Diagnostic Test. The Coordinator of Home Education would make appropriate arrangements for this testing. Parents may also have their children write the Provincial Achievement Tests in Grades 3, 6, and 9 in late May and late June. This test will indicate how well a child is doing in terms of acceptable provincial standards.

Question: Would my child be able to enter university after completing Home Education?

Answer: "A student in a home education program following a course of Studies prescribed or approved by the Minister under Section 25(1)(a) (b) or (d) of the School Act is eligible to receive high school credits if the student achieves the standards required by the Minister."

A student following a course of studies that is not prescribed or approved by the Minister under the above sections of the School Act may write the final diploma exams but will only receive an exam mark. Credits or High School diploma would not be issued unless the challenge process that may be initiated by a student in a senior high school is successful.

HOME EDUCATION

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Parent: Prior to commencing a home education program a parent shall notify in writing, either:
- (a) the resident board, or
 - (b) a willing non-resident board
- The Board: The board will make information relating to home education available to the parents through the Coordinator of Home Education. Assistance will be provided upon request.
- Parent: Notification shall include specific information as stated in the Home Education Program Regulations 145/2006.
- The Board: The specific information required is available from the Coordinator of Home Education. A form that must be used for notification of the intent to home education is also available to parents.
- Parent: The proposed home education program must be described in detail as stated in the regulations so that clear intent to comply with the requirements is evident.
- The Board: The board must determine if the proposed home education program complies with the requirements of Section 3 of the Home Education Program Regulations 145/2006 prior to giving approval.
- The Parent: The parent must implement the home education program in a way that assures satisfactory student achievement and progress.
- The Board: The board shall:
- (a) supervise the student;
 - (b) provide for and maintain records of the assessment of the student's achievement;
 - (c) notify the parent if there are any deficiencies in the program including the eligibility to write Grade 12 Diploma Examinations for the granting of credits

Parent: Ongoing assessment of student achievement and progress must be carried out by the parent, e.g. criterion referenced tests, unit end tests, student work portfolio, recorded observations and check lists.

The Board: The Board shall:

- (a) Assess or provide for assessment of the student's achievement and progress as required and communicate these results forthwith to the parents. Examples:
 - Standardized achievement tests
 - Alberta Achievement tests
 - Diagnostic tests
 - Ability tests.
- (b) Inform the parents if, in the opinion of the board, reasonable achievement for that student is not being shown, and
- (c) Make recommendations to the parent to assist the student in increasing his/her level of achievement.

Parent: It is the parents' responsibility to acquire appropriate resources and materials in order to implement an effective home education program.

The Board: The Board will pay for Alberta Distance Learning courses according to policy.

The board will make Alberta Education Program of Studies resources available at a nominal cost according to policy.

The Board shall give some monetary assistance as set from time to time for other programs and resources according to policy.

The Board may provide, on a loan basis, special equipment required by the program.

Parent and Board: It is the joint responsibility of the parent and board to provide the best educational program for the child.

APPEAL PROCESS

In compliance with Sections 103 and 104 of The School Act, an appeal process is available to the parent or, in the case of a student who is 16 years of age, the student.



For more information regarding Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Home Education Program contact:

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