

Policy Statement

The Eastern School Board shall consider and facilitate requests for home schooling within the framework of existing legislation, the guidelines established by the Department of Education, and expectations outlined in this policy and accompanying administrative regulations.

Rationale

The Eastern School Board recognizes that parents/guardians within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador have the primary right and responsibility for the education of their own children. While the *Schools Act, 1997* makes provision for parents/guardians to exercise that right in a setting other than the formal school system, it also mandates that school board Directors are responsible for receiving and considering applications from parents/guardians within their jurisdiction for home schooling.

This policy delineates a framework which will guide the application process for Home Schooling.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all schools under the jurisdiction of the Eastern School Board and applies to students of mandatory school age attendance, as per the *Schools Act, 1997*.

Procedures

1. The CEO/Director of Education will establish Administrative Regulations to guide the implementation of this policy.
2. The Administrative Regulations will be reviewed annually by the CEO/Director of Education in collaboration with District Administrative Staff.
3. A set of guidelines, outlined in the Administrative Regulations of this policy, will be adhered to when requesting, approving, and implementing home schooling.

4. Parents who wish to educate their child in a home school setting are required to make application to the CEO/Director of Education, requesting that the child be excused from attendance at school by reason of being "... under satisfactory instruction at home or elsewhere, for a period specified by the Director..." in accordance with the *Schools Act, 1997, Section 5(c)*.
5. In accordance with Section 7 of the *Schools Act, 1997*, the CEO/Director or his/her designate shall approve home school instruction for a period no longer than a school year and may renew approval upon application each school year.
6. The CEO/Director or his/her designate shall consider all requests for home schooling and determine whether the proposed educational plan constitutes satisfactory instruction and is in the best interest of the child.
7. The CEO/Director or his/her designate will approve for home schooling only those curricula that have been approved by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education.
8. The CEO/Director or his/her designate shall revoke the authorized approval for home schooling if it becomes evident that the best interest of the child is no longer being served by the home school.
9. The CEO/Director or his/her designate shall oversee a home school program for a student who is five years of age or older before January 1st in that school year and until a student is 16 years old as of August 31st of that school year.
10. The Eastern School District will assist home schooled students in receiving their Newfoundland and Labrador High School Diploma.