



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE EASTERN SHORES EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

Home Schooling

ES-121

L'UTILISATION DU MASCULIN DANS CE DOCUMENT NE VISE QU'À ALLÉGER LE TEXTE.

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Résolution / Resolution
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PREAMBLE

All Quebec residents aged 6 to 16 must attend either a public or private school, or receive home schooling and benefit from and educational experience that a school board deems equivalent to what is provided at school. Home schooling should ensure that students are always prepared to enter or reenter the public or private school system.

REFERENCES:

- Education act:
- Youth protection act:
- Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport Home Schooling Policy Framework

MANDATORY CRITERIA

In order to be home schooled, a child must:

1. **Be of school age (6-16)**
2. Reside within the School Board territory
3. **Request to be exempt from compulsory attendance** at a school in their attendance zone.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARENTS

- Parents must provide the Educational Services Department with the following information by June 1st:
 1. Application for home schooling (Appendix 1)
 2. **Official documents to allow the school board to confirm the identity and age of each child.**
- Parent will attend an interview, with a panel of board professionals which may include, but will not be restricted to (The Director of Educational Services, The Coordinator of Complementary Services, Consultants, School Principal, Teacher, Special Education Teacher, etc.) where they shall be required to provide the following information:
 1. Home Schooling Educational Plan (See components in Appendix 2 - a copy of which must be submitted)
 2. **Texts and teaching materials**
 3. Daily schedule for the student(s) in their charge
 4. Name of person(s) to do the teaching
 5. Evaluation Process
 6. Any other pertinent topics
- To attend a meeting where final approval or refusal will be given by the Director of Educational Services of the School Board prior to June 30th of each school year.

GUIDELINES FOR HOME SCHOOLING

- Requirements for Home Schooling include:
 1. The parent (s) wishing to provide home schooling for their child(ren) shall submit, for approval, an educational plan detailing the competencies to be taught for each subject during the term of the home schooling contract. The educational plan is to certify students are following the courses of study in all areas mandated by the MELS.
 2. The School Board, through its administrative staff and in-school administrators, will monitor the academic progress of students who are home schooled with the following evaluation process:

Elementary-age Students

- Are set by the school where these students should be registered and at the appropriate grade level they should be registered in;
- Evaluations must be completed twice a year – i.e.: December and June;
- A calendar of the exam schedule will be sent to the parents two weeks prior to the first exam;
- It is the responsibility of the parents to see that their child is transported to the school for the writing of said exams.

Secondary-age Students

Ministerial evaluations shall be mandatory in order to obtain the Secondary School Diploma in credit area courses such as:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- French
- Science and Technology
- History
- Geography, etc.

Informal Evaluations

May be carried out in non-academic course areas. The decision as to what will be formally evaluated will be made by the Director of Educational Services and the School Principal.

- Parents will be responsible for acquiring all the necessary information concerning the curriculum for each subject and information concerning the applicable pedagogical approaches.
- In the event that a given student is eligible to return to school an ESSB school, placement of the student shall be made by the Principal, after consultation with the guidance counselor, parent, Director of Educational Services and the teacher(s) at the level to which the student is returning.
- In general, there shall be no part-time home schooling. Exceptions must be approved by the School Board Administration, and will be made only in extreme circumstances which warrant the approach.
- If the School Board deems that:
 1. The parents are not able, or refuse to provide an education plan; or
 2. The education plan provided does not meet proper criteria; or
 3. Or a student does not pass the end-of-year assessment;

Then it is imperative that the child be enrolled in a recognized educational institution. In the event of the above criteria occurring, the School Board shall notify Youth Protection, as is its legal obligation.

- Upon approval by the School Board, a Home Schooling Contract (Appendix 3) shall be signed by the parents on behalf of the children and the Director of Educational Services or his/her designate on behalf of the School Board.
- Parents must apply annually for the right to home school.



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Application Request for Home Schooling (Appendix 1)

Year: 20____ - 20____

Student Identification

Family Name: _____	Given Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Permanent Code: _____	Grade Level for current year : _____

Please include a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Parent's Identification

Father's Name:	Mother's Name:
Home Address:	Home Address:
Home Telephone:	Home Telephone:
Business Telephone:	Business Telephone:

Required Information

Reason (s) for requesting Home Schooling			

Last School Attended:	City	School Year	Grade Level
Signature of Father: _____ Date: _____			
Signature of Mother: _____ Date: _____			

The application request for Home Schooling, the required Education Plan and other required documents are to be submitted to the Director of Educational Services of the Eastern Shores School Board by June 1st of the year in question. A decision will be rendered by June 30th.



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Home Schooling Education Plan (Appendix 2)

Home Schooling Education Plan for: _____
(Student's Name)

Level Date of Birth School Year

Responsibilities of Parent (s)/Guardian(s):

- To submit an education plan for School Board consideration;
- To provide an educational experience equivalent to that provided by the School Board;
- To maintain a portfolio clearly demonstrating the teaching, learning and assessment experiences during the term of the Home Schooling Contract;
- To attend, with the child, the evaluation session(s) arranged by the school or the School Board.

Responsibilities of the School Board:

- To evaluate the education plan to determine if the educational experience will be the equivalent to what is provided at Eastern Shores School Board's schools.
- To evaluate the child's learning during and at the end of the contract period.

The Components of the Education Plan:

The education plan is a precise description of the academic objectives for each subject to be taught during the term of the home schooling contract. The education plan must reflect the Québec Education Program and specify:

- The cycle level;
- The teaching materials and other support materials used;
- How the competencies of the QEP will be addressed; (Complementary and interactive manner, etc...)
- The nature and extent of the on-going evaluations that will serve the teaching and learning process.

(See Basic School Regulation – Régime Pédagogique - for list of compulsory courses to be taught each year along with suggested number of hours.)



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Home Schooling Contract (Appendix 3)

Article 15, paragraph 4 of the Education Act states that, “ a student who receives home schooling and benefits from an educational experience which, according to an evaluation made by or for the school board, are equivalent to what is provided at school”, is exempt from compulsory attendance.”

Taking this section into consideration, Eastern Shores School Board agrees to enter into a contract with _____ and _____ parent(s) of _____ to ensure that the education of _____ is discharged adequately in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act.

This contract shall be for a term commencing on July 1, 20.... and ending on June 30, 20....
_____ and _____ agree to take personal and direct responsibility for the education of _____, for a maximum of one school year and shall undertake to provide at home an educational experience which is in accordance with the MELS directives as outlined in the Basic School Regulation (Régime Pédagogique).

The parent (s)/legal guardian(s) is/are responsible for contacting Educational Services prior to the end of the Home Schooling Contract to ascertain the level of knowledge and progress attained. This may include an interview and presentation of portfolio and any required tests and examinations for each of the subjects taught. An unsatisfactory evaluation according to the Eastern Shores School Board’s standards will normally prevent the Home Schooling Contract from being renewed.

If for any reason _____ is/are unable to provide for the appropriate instruction during the school year, _____ is to be returned to school for placement in the most appropriate program in accordance with Eastern Shores School Board’s procedures. (if eligible for English instruction)

Director General (ESSB)

Date

Mother

Date

Father

Date

APPENDIX I

Excerpts from the *Youth Protection Act*

Section 2

2.1 This Act applies to any child whose security or development is or may be considered to be in danger.

Section 2.2

2.2 The primary responsibility for the care, maintenance and education of a child and for ensuring his supervision rests with his parents.

Section 3

3. Decisions made under this Act must be in the interest of the child and respect his rights. In addition to the moral, intellectual, emotional and material needs of the child, his age, health, personality and family environment and the other aspects of his situation must be taken into account.

Section 38

38. For the purposes of this Act, the security or development of a child is considered to be in danger if the child is abandoned, neglected, subjected to psychological ill-treatment or sexual or physical abuse, or if the child has serious behavioral disturbances.

In this Act,

- (a) “abandonment” refers to a situation in which a child’s parents are deceased or fail to provide for the child’s care, maintenance or education and those responsibilities are not assumed by another person in accordance with the child’s needs;
- (b) “neglect” refers to
 - (1) a situation in which the child’s parents or the person having custody of the child do not meet the child’s basic needs,
 - (i) failing to meet the child’s basic physical needs with respect to food, clothing, hygiene or lodging, taking into account their resources;
 - (ii) failing to give the child the care required for the child’s physical or mental health, or not allowing the child to receive such care; or
 - (iii) failing to provide the child with the appropriate supervision or support, or failing to take the necessary steps to provide the child with schooling; or
 - (2) a situation in which there is a serious risk that a child’s parents or the person having custody of the child are not providing for the child’s basic needs in the manner referred to in subparagraph 1;

- (c) “psychological ill-treatment” refers to a situation in which a child is seriously or repeatedly subjected to behaviour on the part of the child’s parents or another person that could cause harm to the child, and the child’s parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. Such behaviour includes in particular indifference, denigration, emotional rejection, isolation, threats, exploitation, particularly if the child is forced to do work disproportionate to the child’s capacity, and exposure to conjugal or domestic violence;
- (d) “sexual abuse” refers to
 - (1) a situation in which the child is subjected to gestures of a sexual nature by the child’s parents or another person, with or without physical contact, and the child’s parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation; or
 - (2) a situation in which the child runs a serious risk of being subjected to gestures of a sexual nature by the child’s parents or another person, with or without physical contact, and the child’s parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation;
- (e) “physical abuse” refers to
 - (1) a situation in which the child is the victim of bodily injury or is subjected to unreasonable methods of upbringing by his parents or another person, and the child’s parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation; or
 - (2) a situation in which the child runs a serious risk of becoming the victim of bodily injury or being subjected to unreasonable methods of upbringing by his parents or another person, and the child’s parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation;
- (f) “serious behavioural disturbance” refers to a situation in which a child behaves in such a way as to repeatedly or seriously undermine the child’s or others’ physical or psychological integrity, and the child’s parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation or, if the child is 14 or over, the child objects to such steps.

Section 38.1

38.1. The security or development of a child may be considered to be in danger where:

- (a) he leaves his own home, a foster family, a facility maintained by an institution operating a rehabilitation centre or a hospital centre without authorization while his situation is not under the responsibility of the director of youth protection;
- (b) he is of school age and does not attend school, or is frequently absent without reason;
- (c) his parents do not carry out their obligations to provide him with care, maintenance and education or do not exercise stable supervision over him, while he has been entrusted to the care of an institution or foster family for one year.

Section 39

39. Every professional who, by the very nature of his profession, provides care or any other form of assistance to children and who, in the practice of his profession, has reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be considered to be in danger within the meaning of section 38 or 38.1, must bring the situation to the attention of the director without delay. The same obligation is incumbent upon any

employee of an institution, any teacher, any person working in a childcare establishment or any policeman who, in the performance of his duties, has reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be considered to be in danger within the meaning of the said provisions.

Any person, other than a person referred to in the first paragraph, who has reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child is considered to be in danger within the meaning of subparagraphs d and e of the second paragraph of section 38 must bring the situation to the attention of the director without delay.

The first and second paragraphs apply even to those persons who are bound by professional secrecy, except to an advocate who, in the practice of his profession, receives information concerning a situation described in section 38 or 38.1

APPENDIX II

Excerpts from the Education Act

Section 1

1. Every person is entitled to the preschool education services and elementary and secondary school instructional services provided for by this Act and by the basic school regulation made by the Government under section 447, from the first day of the school calendar in the school year in which he attains the age of admission to the last day of the school calendar in the school year in which he attains 18 years of age, or 21 years of age in the case of a handicapped person within the meaning of the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (chapter E-20.1).

Every person is also entitled to other educational services, student services and special educational services provided for by this Act and the basic school regulation referred to in the first paragraph and to the educational services prescribed by the basic vocational training regulation established by the Government under section 448, within the scope of the programs offered by the school board.

The age of admission to preschool education is 5 years on or before the date prescribed by the basic school regulation; the age of admission to elementary school education is 6 years on or before the same date.

Section 3

3. The educational services provided for by this Act and prescribed by the basic school regulation established by the Government under section 447 shall be provided free to every resident of Québec entitled there to under section 1. . . .

Section 14

14. Every child resident in Québec shall attend school from the first day of the school calendar in the school year following that in which he attains 6 years of age until the last day of the school calendar in the school year in which he attains 16 years of age or at the end of which he obtains a diploma awarded by the Minister, whichever occurs first.

Section 15

15. The following students are exempt from compulsory school attendance:
- (1) a student excused by the school board by reason of illness or for the purpose of receiving medical treatment or care required by his state of health;
 - (2) a student excused by the school board, at the request of his parents and after consultation with the advisory committee on services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities established under section 185, by reason of a physical or mental handicap which prevents him from attending school;
 - (3) a student expelled from school by the school board pursuant to section 242;
 - (4) a student who receives home schooling and benefits from an educational experience which, according to an evaluation made by or for the school board, are equivalent to what is provided at school.

A child is excused from attending public school if he attends a private educational institution governed by the Act respecting private education (chapter E-9.1) or an institution whose instructional program is the subject of an international agreement within the meaning of the Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales (chapter M-25.1.1) which provides all or part of the educational services provided for by this Act.

A child is also excused from attending public school if the child attends a vocational training centre or receives instruction in an enterprise that meets the conditions determined by the Minister in a regulation under paragraph 7 of section 111 of the Act respecting private education.

In addition, the school board may exempt one of its students, at the request of his parents, from compulsory school attendance for one or more periods totaling not more than six weeks in any school year, to allow him to carry out urgent work.

Section 17

17. Parents must take the necessary measures to ensure that their child attends school as required.

Section 18

18. The principal shall ascertain, in the manner determined by the school board that students attend school regularly.

Where a student is repeatedly absent without a valid excuse, the principal or the person designated by him shall intervene with the student and his parents to come to an agreement with them and with the persons providing the school social services with respect to the most appropriate measures to remedy the situation.

When the intervention does not allow the situation to be remedied, the principal, after notifying the parents of the student in writing, shall report it to the director of youth protection.