

Home Education in Canada

British Columbia

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 18

Notification Requirements: Must register with any of the following: any independent school anywhere in the province; the public school in the school district where the parents reside; or with the distance education school for the school district.

Reporting Requirements: None.

Practical Application: The key thing to remember is that many families educating at home are not registered as described here, but enrolled. When a student is enrolled they do not have the freedoms of a home-educated student. While there is more money available, there are also restrictions on curriculum and substantial reporting requirements.

Alberta

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 16

Notification Requirements: Parents must "notify, in the prescribed form" their intent to homeschool to either their resident board, a willing non-resident board, or an accredited private school (supervising board).

Reporting Requirements: The regulations require extensive monitoring by the supervising board and include 2 evaluations by the supervising board each year.

Practical Application: Parents are able to choose their supervising board. This makes up for a multitude of problems since the good boards employ persons who are home education friendly.

Saskatchewan

Compulsory School Age: 5 - 16

Notification Requirements: Parents must notify with specific information that includes a written education plan for each student.

Reporting Requirements: Parents are to submit an annual progress report.

Practical Application: Nothing significant.

Manitoba

Compulsory School Age: 7 - 16

Notification Requirements: Parents must notify each year and include an outline of the education program.

Reporting Requirements: Parents must provide progress reports in January and June each year.

Practical Application: The home education liaison in Manitoba is relatively well informed about homeschooling and fairly reasonable to deal with.

Yukon

Compulsory School Age: 6 years, 8 months - 16 years

Notification Requirements: Must register every year with very comprehensive plan.

Reporting Requirements: None through year.

Practical Application: Nothing significant.

N.W.T.

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 16

Notification Requirements: Must register with considerable information, including a curriculum plan.

Reporting Requirements: Parents must provide 2 assessments as well as consult on curriculum and progress. Contact is with the local principal.

Practical Application: Substantial communication between parents and the principal of the school is clearly expected.

Nunavut

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 16

Notification Requirements: Same as N.W.T.

Reporting Requirements: Same as N.W.T.

Practical Application: Same as N.W.T.

Prince Edward Island

Compulsory School Age: 7 - 16

Notification Requirements: Parent must notify each year with a copy of the proposed home education program.

Reporting Requirements: None.

Practical Application: Nothing significant.

Newfoundland

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 16

Notification Requirements: Students must be enrolled as home education students. The law does not provide any details on how this is to take place.

Reporting Requirements: None required by law.

Practical Application: Experiences will vary depending on the school board. Some are very hands off and others have quite unreasonable requirements. This can also vary from year to year.

Nova Scotia

Compulsory School Age: 5 - 16

Notification Requirements: Parents must notify in the prescribed form.

Reporting Requirements: Parents must provide a report.

Practical Application: Nothing significant.

Ontario

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 18

Notification Requirements: A home education policy requires notification each fall. This is not legally required but it is often wise to do so.

Reporting Requirements: None.

Practical Application: Ontario has a very broad, permissive home education law. This is beneficial in many ways but does allow for many varying interpretations. Besides actual law, it is important to understand the home education policy as well.

Québec

Compulsory School Age: 6 - 16

Notification Requirements: Technically none but the law implies contact with the school board for evaluation.

Reporting Requirements: While time, place, and method are not mentioned, the law does state that students are only permitted to home educate where an evaluation has shown that they are receiving an equivalent education.

Practical Application: Quebec is the most antagonistic province for home educators. While the law is not necessarily any worse than other provinces, school boards very often make demands with which no reasonable home educator wants to comply.

New Brunswick

Compulsory School Age: 5 - 18

Notification Requirements: Not legally provided for but recently the English school boards have begun using a reasonable form.

Reporting Requirements: None.

Practical Application: Unfortunately, the French school district in the province has been quite unreasonable in dealing with home educators.