



Home Schooling #200.16

Adopted:	April 21, 2001
Last Reviewed/Revised:	May 27, 2025
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Education
Next Scheduled Review:	2028-2029

Policy Statement

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCD SB) recognizes the importance of providing a distinctive Catholic education for all students within its jurisdiction. At the same time, the Board respects the rights of parents and guardians who choose to homeschool their children and expect satisfactory instruction at home. The Board will excuse children from school attendance when provided with annual written notification of home schooling, in accordance with subsection 21(2), clause (a) of the Education Act. The Board aims to maintain a positive relationship with home-schooling families, providing necessary information and educational considerations to support informed decisions regarding home schooling. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students are encouraged to maintain a connection with their school principal and can opt to be kept informed of school events through the regular electronic notification system. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students are also encouraged to maintain a connection with the school parish to continue in their faith formation, especially regarding preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

It is the responsibility of the Board to excuse children from attendance at school in accordance with subsection 21(2), clause (a) of the Education Act.

Application and Scope

To provide guidelines for schools and parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding the home schooling of children. At the parent(s)/guardian(s) request, a child can legally be excused from attendance at school for an academic year, with a renewal request submitted each year by September 1.

See Appendix A for an Introduction to Home Schooling for parent(s)/guardian(s) and Appendix B for Frequently Asked Questions about Home Schooling.

Responsibilities

School Board:

- Monitors the home schooling of students excused from daily attendance in accordance with the Education Act, Provincial Regulation
- Provides timely and relevant educational information upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Accepts the written notification of the parent(s)/guardian(s) each year as evidence of satisfactory instruction at home, as per PPM 131.

Principal:

- Facilitates the application process ensuring adherence to subsection 21(2), clause (a), of the Education Act.
- May invite the family to a discernment meeting and, if proceeding with home schooling, forwards the request to the Superintendent for approval.
- Invites the family to meet in June to review the family's intentions for the following school year.
- Maintains a list of home-schooled students and ensures Ontario Student Records are up to date.



Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

- Completes the application process, plans, and implements the home-schooling program, and assesses and evaluates student achievement.
- Provides written notification each year prior to September 1st to the appropriate Superintendent of Education, as evidence of satisfactory instruction at home.
- Initiates ongoing conversation with school board staff to ensure understanding of yearly educational opportunities.
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Information:

The Home-Schooling program should focus on the following:

- A satisfactory plan for educating the child.
- Plan to ensure literacy and numeracy at developmentally appropriate levels.
- Plan for assessing the child's achievement.
- Transition plan (where applicable) for students who will enter Secondary school following home schooling during Elementary school years.
- Transition plan (where applicable) for students who will enter post-secondary education following home schooling during Secondary school years.
- The home-schooling parent has access to the student's OSR through the principal.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to retain an open working relationship with the school, in the best interest of the student(s).

Compulsory Education Age & Home-Schooling Compliance

- As per Bill 98 (2023), school boards may request mid-year progress updates from home-schooling families if there are reasonable concerns regarding satisfactory instruction.
- The Board will continue to accept annual written notification as evidence of home-schooling but may conduct additional follow-ups if concerns arise under Section 21(2) of the Education Act.

Ministry of Education Curriculum Material:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) who are providing home schooling may obtain curriculum policy documents and curriculum support materials through the Ministry of Education (www.edu.gov.on.ca). Requests for Religion and Family Life resources are processed through the Catholic Education Centre.
- Parents/guardians may request access to digital learning materials from the Ministry of Education.

Part-Time Enrolment & Extracurricular Access

Home-schooled students may now enroll part-time in:

- Specialized subjects (e.g., Science labs, French, Arts, Tech Ed)
- Extracurriculars (e.g., sports teams, clubs, school activities)
- Requests for part-time enrolment should be submitted to the school principal, and participation will be arranged based on available resources and capacity.



Online Learning & Course Access

Home-schooled students may now enroll in Ministry-supported online courses through platforms such as:

- TVO ILC (Grades 9-12)
- Ontario Virtual School
- Board-Approved eLearning Providers

Courses Offered through the Independent Learning Centre and other Sources Supported by the Ministry of Education:

If a parent/guardian has notified the school of the intent to provide home schooling, the parent/guardian may enroll their child in secondary courses offered through the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) and other providers. To enroll a child being home schooled with external providers, the parent/guardian must submit:

- The enrolment form to the provider.
- The written excusal from attendance provided by the school to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that acknowledges the parent(s)/guardian(s)' intent to home school the child.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) may obtain information pertaining to course fees directly from each specific provider.
- Students taking courses through providers external to school Boards are normally required to pay an administration fee for each course taken.

EQAO & Standardized Testing Access

Parent(s)/guardian(s) who have given a school written notification of their intent to provide home schooling may request access to the following:

- Home-schooled students may participate in EQAO assessments (Grades 3, 6, 9) and OSSLT (Grade 10).
- Parents/guardians must notify the school by September 30 to register their child for assessments.
- It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide transportation to and from the assessment site. The school will provide space for these students at the time and on the dates that assessments/tests are being administered to the Board's regular day school students.
- The school will request sufficient assessment/test materials from the EQAO so that the students who are receiving home schooling can participate.
- Schools will send assessment/test results to their homes.
- Note: The results of students who are receiving home schooling will not be included in school and Board reports generated by the EQAO.

Mental Health & Wellness Supports (PPM 168 Update)

Home-schooled students are eligible for board mental health supports upon request, including:

- Access to school-based mental health teams where available.
- Referrals to community mental health services.
- Parents/guardians may contact the Board's Mental Health Lead for guidance.



Faith Formation:

- Requests for Religion and Family Life resources are processed through the Catholic Education Centre. There are also several resources available through the Institute for Catholic Education. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students are also encouraged to maintain a connection with the school parish to continue in their faith formation, especially regarding preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

References

- Education Act (R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2) – Sections 21, 24, 25, 26, 30
- Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 131– Home Schooling
- Bill 98 – Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act
- Ontario eLearning Strategy (2023-2024)
- PPM 168 (Mental Health Supports in Schools)
- PPM 170 (Education in Ontario)
- Ministry of Education www.edu.gov.on.ca

Forms

- Form A – Home School Notification
- Form B – Board Response to Home School Notification
- Form C – Home School Investigation (if applicable)

Appendices

- Appendix A
- Appendix B

Definitions

Part-Time Enrolment: It is preferred for students to be enrolled full time. If a parent/guardian requests part-time enrolment, arrangements must be made with the Principal of the student's community school. Part-time student expectations in regard to attendance, course work, and assessment and evaluation, are the same for all students. The student will be enrolled on the part-time register.

Full-time Enrolment/Return to School: Should a Home-Schooled student wish to return to school on a full-time basis, parent(s)/guardian(s) need to meet with the Principal of the school. The Principal will determine whether an assessment will be required for educational placement.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. Where such learning has occurred outside Ontario classrooms, students enrolled in Ontario Secondary schools and inspected private schools may have their skills and knowledge evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents to earn credits towards the secondary school diploma. This formal evaluation and accreditation process is known as PLAR. PLAR procedures are carried out under the direction of the school principal, who is responsible for granting credits.



Administration Procedures

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who choose to home-school their children must:

- a) Provides written notification to the Superintendent of Education using Form A – Home School Notification.
- b) Provide a satisfactory plan for literacy, numeracy, and subject learning.
- c) Ensure compliance with any mid-year progress updates if requested by the Board.
- d) Maintain an Ontario Student Record (OSR) at the designated home school.
- e) Keep the school principal informed of any change in address or telephone number.
- f) Provides written notification each year prior to September 1st to the Superintendent of Education, as evidence of provision of satisfactory instruction at home.

Superintendent of Education:

- a) The Superintendent of Education will accept annual written notification as evidence of satisfactory instruction.
- b) The Superintendent of Education will issue an official excusal letter acknowledging home-schooling status.
- c) The Superintendent of Education will investigate concerns only if credible reports suggest unsatisfactory instruction.

Principal:

- a) The principal will maintain a record of home-schooled students in the school's part-time register.
- b) The principal will facilitate part-time enrolment and extracurricular participation where possible.



NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO PROVIDE HOME SCHOOLING

To the Superintendent of Education, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board:

I/We herewith provide the names, gender, and date of birth for each *child* of compulsory school age for whom I/we intend to provide home schooling.

First and Last Names	Gender	Date of Birth	Designated Home School

Name of Parent/Guardian:	
Home Address including Postal Code:	
Email:	
Telephone:	

Ongoing Communication with School: **Email** **Phone**

I/We wish to notify the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board that I/we will provide home schooling for our child(ren) starting dd/mm/yyyy . I/we understand my/our responsibility under the Education Act to provide satisfactory instruction for my/our school-age child(ren) and do hereby declare my/our intent to do so.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Copy: Principal of home school and Superintendent of Education
OSR (each student listed above)

The Superintendent and principal to retain copies on file.

Information Collection Authorization

Notice of Collection: The personal information you have provided on this form and any other correspondence relating to your involvement in our programs is collected by the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board under the authority of the Education Act (R.S.O. 1990 c.E.2) ss. 58.5, 265 and 266 as amended and in accordance with Section 29(2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, (R.S.O. 1990 c.M.56) The information will be used to register and place the student in a school, or for a consistent purpose such as the allocation of staff and resources and to give information to employees to carry out their job duties. In addition, the information may be used to deal with matters of health and safety or discipline and is required to be disclosed in compelling circumstances or for law enforcement matters or in accordance with any other Act. The information will be used in accordance with the Education Act, the regulations, and guidelines issued by the Minister of Education governing the establishment, maintenance, use, retention, transfer, and disposal of pupil records. If you have any questions, please contact the school principal and/or the Freedom of Information Officer, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, 322 Fairview Drive, Brantford, ON, N3T 5M8 (Telephone 519-756-6505, Ext. 234)



LETTER IN RESPONSE TO A PARENT'S NOTIFICATION

Dear

Thank you for notifying the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board of your intent to provide home schooling for your children:

Your child(ren) is/are excused from attendance at school for the year _____ under subsection 21(2) clause (a) of the Education Act, because your child(ren) is/are receiving satisfactory schooling at home.

If you would like your child(ren) to participate in the assessments for students in Grades 3, 6, and 9, and/or in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (normally given to student in Grade 10), that are administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), contact the school board by September 30 *[or another date specified by the school board]* for information about the dates, times and locations.

Enclosed please find a copy of Policy/Program Memorandum No. 131, "Home Schooling", issued by the Ministry of Education.

Sincerely,

Signature of School Board Official

Name of School Board Official (Print)

Title of School Board Official

Date

Attachment

Copy: Principal of Home School
OSR (each student listed above)



INVESTIGATION INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Please complete this form and return it to the school board, along with the additional material requested below. If you need more space, attach additional sheets.

Name of Parent/Guardian:	
Home Address:	
	Postal Code:
Home Telephone:	()
Child's Name:	

Program Planning: This section is intended to give the Board information on your short and long range plans for your child's education. Please describe your plan for your child's learning by answering the following questions:	
Do you make instructional plans?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you spend regularly planned instructional time with your child?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a daily work schedule for your child's home schooling?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please describe the schedule: 1. What subjects are you teaching?	
2. What do you expect to accomplish with your child(ren) in English, mathematics, and other subject areas this year?	



Instructional Program: This section is intended to give the Board information on the curriculum you follow.	
Is your instructional program based on any of the elementary or secondary curriculum policy documents published by the Ontario Ministry of Education?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you registered with a course(s) through the Independent Learning Centre or other Ministry Approved Online learning?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If you are using the Independent Learning Centre or other Ministry Approved Online learning, list the specific courses:	
If yes, please check the appropriate boxes below:	
Elementary Curriculum Policy Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language <input type="checkbox"/> - Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> - Science and Technology <input type="checkbox"/> - Social Studies/History and Geography <input type="checkbox"/> - The Arts <input type="checkbox"/> - Health and Physical Education <input type="checkbox"/> - French as a Second Language <input type="checkbox"/> - Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> 	
<p><u>Note:</u> Ministry of Education curriculum policy documents and curriculum support material may be downloaded free of charge from the Ministry's website at http://www.edu.gov.on.ca. This material may also be obtained through Publications Ontario by using its toll-free telephone number, 1-800-668-9938, or visit its website at http://www.publications.gov.on.ca for more information.</p>	
Other Materials Please list any other curriculum documents that you use to help design your instructional program.	
Instructional Activities: This section is intended to give the Board information on the types of planned activities that you provide for your child to help him or her meet the learning expectations you have established.	



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

**Administrative Procedure
Home Schooling
Form C**

Please describe the typical activities you use to help your child learn. For example, what types of activities does your child do while learning English, mathematics and other subjects? Please include samples of your child's work in each subject area.



Instructional Materials:

This section is intended to give the Board information on the types of materials you use to help your child meet the learning expectations you have established.

Please indicate the resources you use to support your instruction.

Encyclopedia/reference books (please list):

Textbooks:

- English
- Mathematics
- Other subjects

Please list:

Names of textbooks used:



Supplementary Materials Used:

	Very Often	Often	Seldom	Never
Magazines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science Kits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Films	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tape Recordings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Models/Mock-ups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Television Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Posters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other supplementary materials (please specify):

Assessment of Student Learning:

This section is intended to give the Board information on how you evaluate your child's progress in learning.

What techniques do you use to assess student learning? Please describe them.



Resources:

This section is intended to give the Board information on the resources you use to support your instructional program.

Please indicate the community and other resources you use:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Public library | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| YMCA/YWCA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community centre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local gym facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public swimming pool | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Museums | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Art galleries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recreational/educational/social groups (e.g. Scouts, Guides) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nature interpretive centres | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Camping areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Youth groups (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Networking with other families that provide home schooling can offer valuable support. Please indicate if you are a member of any of the following provincial associations.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Ontario Federation of Teaching Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ontario Christian Home Educators' Connection | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Catholic Home Schoolers' Association-Ontario | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other organizations or groups (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other Information:

Please provide below any other information that would help the Board determine whether the instruction being provided to your child is satisfactory.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Date