

SHBE Frequently Asked Questions

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Will I receive funding for my home-based education program?

Each School Division is autonomous and levels of funding are dependent upon Division policy. Check with your School Division.

What is an Educational Plan?

It is intended to demonstrate that there is a positive and constructive approach to the education of the student. Each year you are required to submit an Educational Plan along with the Notification to Register. The Educational Plan outlines: a. your reason for and philosophical approach of the program, b. the subject areas that will be studied, c. resources and activities to be used, (such as curriculum - if applicable, field trips, library, museums, etc.); and d. the means of assessing and recording the educational progress. The required areas of study are mathematics, social studies, science and language arts. You may also include other areas that are important to you such as religion, health, art, music, computers, or physical education. The goals can be very general in nature.

What about my special-needs child?

The home environment can be very conducive to success for special-needs children. Assessments can be conducted upon request and appropriate programming and resources can be accessed. Contact your local school division to see what services are available.

Where do I find curriculum?

Check out our links page for a list of curriculum resources. As you look at the various curriculum choices, it is important to keep in mind that there is neither one "right" curriculum nor one "right" way to teach your children. Curriculum is a tool and not a goal. It is how you teach the information that is important.

Saskatchewan's best curriculum faire happens during the SHBE Convention held every year. Exhibitor's from Saskatchewan and across Canada display their various products and are a great in-person resource.

Also, the convention has a used book sale that provides another low-cost alternative. It's also a great place to meet other home educators and talk about what works for them.

When first starting out, don't worry too much about curriculum. Take a bit of time to investigate different options before making a final decision.

Do I need to set up a classroom?

The short answer is "no"! You as a parent can choose what your "classroom" will look like. Some parents prefer a designated area for educational purposes, others make use of a variety of places, math at the kitchen table, reading in the family room, drama in the basement, science at the kitchen counter; the choice is yours. You will, however, find it useful to set aside space for books, projects, paper, resources, craft supplies, etc. that you will utilize in your studies.

What about socialization?

Critics challenge home education on an apparent "lack of socialization" or "isolation" from the world. There is the charge that home-educated students are not learning how to live in the "real world." However, a closer look at public school training shows that it is actually those children who are not living in the real world. Read more on this in *"Home Schooling: The Right Choice"* by Christopher J. Klicka.

Home Educators overcome the potential for "isolation" through involvement in home educational support group activities, community-based programs, church youth groups, 4H Clubs, music and art lessons, sports participation, Scouts and Girl Guides, playing in the neighbourhood, and the list is endless.

How do I answer my parents' and friends' questions?

When people first hear of home education, they shudder, or express curiosity and/or express doubt that a child could receive an adequate education. They want to know many answers, so it is no wonder our families and friends also have many questions. Don't be discouraged if your families and friends don't understand your choice right away.

Books that are helpful to you can answer some of their questions; suggest they start with some reading. Other veteran home educators can answer some of their questions. Research studies have statistics and facts to show the benefits and outcomes for home education. The Canadian Centre for Home Education (CCHÉ) did one such study in 2003. This research link is <www.hslda.ca/cche.asp> Realize it may take some time for them to understand the home education benefits.

Usually everyone has the same goal in mind, doing what is best for the child/children.

Will my child be able to attend University?

The short answer is yes! Many children in Saskatchewan have been educated totally at home and have enrolled and graduated from University and Colleges. Each University or College will have different requirements but some Universities such as Harvard, Yale and Boston actively seek home-

educated students. Recently the University of Saskatchewan and SHBE signed a Memorandum of Understanding to help facilitate the enrolment of home-educated learners, and the University of Regina has developed specific registration policies for home-educated students.

For more information on a form to present to a college which has not yet adopted a home school admissions policy, obtain a "College Packet" available from HSLDA at 519-913-0318 or www.hslda.ca

Are there support groups or Facebook groups for homeschoolers in Saskatchewan?

Yes, there are. The Links page on the SHBE website links to various support group contacts, including web pages and Facebook groups.

Is it all a "bed of roses"?

Often when you read books on educating at home, it all sounds so wonderful, and some days it is. But we all experience days when we question: What we are doing? Are our kids going to be okay? Is this the right decision for our family? Remember, your family is made up of real people who have good days and bad and not all at the same time. Remember to take time to rejuvenate, relax and regroup. The SHBE Convention is at the end of February for a reason. It seems to be a time when many of us question our desire/ability to home educate. The convention is a great time to reconnect with a larger community and reaffirm our motivation to do what is best for our child/children.