

# HOME-BASED EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK

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# 1. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Good Spirit School Division shall coordinate a registered home-based education program for its students.

## **Rationale**

Parents/caregivers are the primary educators of their children; therefore, parents/caregivers may choose to direct the education of their children through a registered home-based education program.

## **Authority**

The Education Act, Section 85(m)

Saskatchewan Learning Home-based Education Regulations

Good Spirit School Division Parent Home-Based Education Program Handbook

[www.education.gov.sk.ca/Home-Schooling](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/Home-Schooling)

## **Guidelines**

1. Good Spirit School Division will administer home-based education as per the Provincial Home-Based Education Regulations.

## **Procedures**

1. Program supports provided by Good Spirit School Division will be reviewed and approved on an annual basis by Senior Administration and Board of Education.
2. Each home-based educator will receive a copy of the approved Parent Home-Based Education Handbook when registering with Good Spirit School Division.

## **Available Forms**

- Notification of Intent and Registration of a Home-Based Education Program
- Educational Plan for Home-Based Education
- Annual Progress Report

## 2. SASKATCHEWAN'S GOALS OF EDUCATION

Goals of education in Saskatchewan should direct efforts to develop the potential of all students in the province. Education should affirm the worth of each individual and lay the foundation for learning throughout life.

Students benefit from exposure to learning in a variety of situations. Attainment of the goals is a venture the school shares with the student, the home, the church, and the community. Although the degree of school responsibility will vary from community to community, the school has some responsibility for each goal.

A body of knowledge and a range of skills and attitudes are necessary to function in a changing world. It is intended, then, that education will enable Saskatchewan students to do the following to the best of their abilities.

### Basic Skills

1. Read, write and compute.
2. Acquire information and meaning through observing, listening, reading, and experiencing.
3. Process information through intellectual and technological means.
4. Solve problems by applying basic principles and processes of the sciences, arts, and humanities.
5. Communicate ideas through written and spoken language, mathematical symbols, and aesthetic expression.

### Lifelong Learning

1. Seek and value learning experiences.
2. Act as self-reliant learners.
3. Base actions on the knowledge that it is necessary to learn throughout life.

### Understanding and Relating to Others

1. Act on the belief that each individual is worthwhile.
2. Base actions on the recognition that people differ in their values, behaviours, and lifestyles.
3. Interact and feel comfortable with others who are different in race, religion, status, or personal attributes.
4. Develop a sense of responsibility toward others.

### Self-Concept Development

1. Perceive themselves in a positive way.
2. Appreciate their own abilities and limitations.
3. Set and work toward personal goals.
4. Assess praise and criticism realistically.
5. Present themselves with confidence.

### Positive Life-Style

1. Practice appropriate personal hygiene, engage in sufficient physical activity, and maintain a nutritionally balanced diet.
2. Avoid harmful use of alcohol and other drugs.
3. Cultivate interests that may be the basis for personal development and leisure pursuits.
4. Recognize the importance of productive activity.
5. Display initiative and pursue tasks diligently.
6. Maintain a safe and healthful community.
7. Respect and seek to enhance the environment.
8. Appreciate beauty in its many natural and constructed forms.
9. Express themselves creatively.

### Spiritual Development

1. Seek an understanding of the purpose and worth of humane existence.
2. Develop a knowledge of God.
3. Respect family, religion, and culture in a pluralistic society.

### Career and Consumer Decisions

1. Develop an awareness of career opportunities.
2. Develop interests and abilities in relation to vocational expectations.
3. Adapt to shifts in employment patterns and technology.
4. Make informed consumer decisions.

### Membership in Society

1. Assume responsibility for their own actions.
2. Work with others to achieve individual and group goals.
3. Participate in the democratic processes of government and perform the duties of citizenship.
4. Respect the rights and property of others.
5. Act with honesty, integrity, compassion, and fairness.
6. Develop a sense of national pride and acknowledge the need for international understanding.
7. Work toward greater social justice.
8. Assume responsibility for dependent persons in a manner consistent with their needs.
9. Respect law and authority.
10. Exercise the right of dissent responsibly.

### Growing With Change

1. Work toward immediate and long-term goals.
2. Base actions on an understanding that change is a natural process in society.
3. Select workable alternatives in response to changing conditions.
4. Develop confidence in making decisions that involve risk.

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

**PARENTS:** accept full responsibility for the education of the student

#### **Registering**

- complete and submit “Notification of a Home-Based Education Program” form (prescribed by the Ministry), **by September 25<sup>th</sup>**
- complete and submit an “Educational Plan” **by September 25<sup>th</sup>** – must include philosophical approach, a minimum of 3 broad educational goals for math, language arts, social studies, science and means of assessing and reporting educational progress for each goal.

**(GSSD is responsible to submit all student registrations into the Provincial Data System prior to September 29<sup>th</sup>.)**

#### **Reimbursement for Educational Materials & Services**

- In order to be eligible to receive the programming allowance of \$300 per child, the Notice of Intent and Registration form and the completed Educational Plan must be received at GSSD by the deadlines indicated above.

#### **Reporting School Progress**

- provide **Annual Progress Report** – detailed summative report for each broad goals in the required area of study, **by June 14<sup>th</sup>**.  
Supporting documentation may include:
  - i. work samples/portfolio
  - ii. test results from a normed standardized achievement test
  - iii. educational assessment
  - iv. periodic log
- report filed with board designate by end of school year (conference or mail)
- borrowed resources are returned
- board designate is notified of intent to **continue or discontinue** Home-Based Education

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION:** provide registration and monitoring of programs

- designate registering authority for board
- provide consultative service and address requests
- communicate necessary information
- provide written notification that the home-based program has been registered
- make referrals to Educational Psychologist
- ensure students are registered with the Ministry

## 4. WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Good Spirit School Division - [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) (Administrative Procedure 230)

- select the Division Information tab
  - select Administrative Procedures
    - select 200 Instructional Programs and Materials
      - AP230 Home-Based Education

Saskatchewan Curriculum – [www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca) (curriculum guides)

Saskatchewan Home-Based Learners – [www.shbe.info](http://www.shbe.info)

Saskatchewan Distance Education Courses – [www.skdistancelearning.ca](http://www.skdistancelearning.ca)

Saskatchewan Home Based Education Policy Manual -  
[www.education.gov.sk.ca/strat-policy/policy-manual](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/strat-policy/policy-manual)

Cyber School – [www.scs.sk.ca/cyber](http://www.scs.sk.ca/cyber)

McGraw Hill – [www.mcgrawhill.ca/school](http://www.mcgrawhill.ca/school) 1-800-565-5758

Pearson Education – [www.pearsoncanada.ca](http://www.pearsoncanada.ca) 1-800-361-6128

Nelson – [www.nelson.com](http://www.nelson.com) 1-800-268-2222

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## 5. RESOURCES

### Key Resources to Consider:

**English Language Arts** – Cornerstones, Crossroads, Sightlines, Nelson Spelling, Language and Writing

**Math** – Math Makes Sense

**Science** – Saskatchewan Science, Science Power

**Social Studies** – various themes and grade levels including: Canada’s past and exploration, multiculturalism, Atlantic Canada, parliament, Saskatchewan, Canada’s land and people, Asia, other countries.

### High School (Grade 10-12)

- Students wishing to receive a matriculated grade 12 standing with the Ministry of Education have access to Saskatchewan credit courses. All courses must be approved by board designate prior to registration.
  - Students are able to register for online courses each year through GSSD’s Distributed Learning. GSSD will cover one online course purchased outside the school division, any home based educator who purchases an external course is not eligible to receive the \$300 reimbursement for educational materials and supplies.
  - If the student registers for more than 2 courses, the additional cost is the responsibility of the parent.
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