

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL		P.3.03
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POLICY STATEMENT

P.3.03 HOME SCHOOLING

THE BOARD WILL EXCUSE A STUDENT FROM COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IF THE STUDENT IS RECEIVING SATISFACTORY INSTRUCTION AT HOME OR ELSEWHERE.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

OP.3.03 HOME SCHOOLING

Procedures for Parent(s)/Guardian

1. Parent(s)/Guardians who decide to provide home schooling must inform the Board in writing of their intent to home school. The written notification shall include the name of each child, gender, date of birth, home address and phone number, and be forwarded to the Principal of the school their child last attended or the school within their area.
2. If parent(s)/guardians decide to continue to provide home schooling in subsequent years they must provide written notification prior to September 1st. All information stated in number one must be repeated in this notification.

Procedures for Principals

1. Bring Policy/Program Memorandum No. 131 to the attention of parent(s)/guardians who are home schooling or have expressed an interest in home schooling.
2. Respond to the written notification by sending the parent(s)/guardian a letter of acknowledgement regarding their decision to home school. A copy of this acknowledgement shall be forwarded to the Superintendent responsible, and a copy is retained for placement in the student's Ontario Student Record, and the student shall be removed from the register.
3. If written notification of the intent to home school is not received, the student shall remain on the register and be marked absent.

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4. Accept written notification of the parent(s)/guardian each year as evidence that the parent(s)/guardian is providing satisfactory instruction in the home.

Procedures for Investigations of Home Schooling

1. Where a Principal has reasonable grounds to be concerned that home instruction is not satisfactory, the Principal in consultation with their Supervisory Officer shall investigate the matter. The following reasons may give cause to consider an investigation:
 - refusal of parent to notify the Principal in writing of the intent to provide home schooling
 - a credible report of concern by a third party with respect to the instruction being provided
 - evidence that the child was removed from attendance at school because of ongoing conflicts with the school, not for the purpose of home schooling
 - a history of absenteeism by the child prior to the parent's notification of intent to provide home schooling.
2. If the Supervisory Officer is unable to determine from the investigation whether the child is receiving satisfactory instruction at home the Board may take further action by referring the student to the Provincial School Attendance Counsellor.

Access to Resources

1. The Board is not obligated to provide any learning materials/resources for the purposes of home schooling.
2. Parent(s)/guardians of home schooled students may request to have their children participate in grades 3, 6, 9 EQAO assessments and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Parents must notify the Board by September 30th in the year the test is to be administered.
3. Parent(s)/guardians providing home schooling may access curriculum documents and support material from the Ministry of Education.

Reference: Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 131 dated June 17, 2002.