

Most Frequently Asked Questions About Home Schooling in The Bahamas

1. What is home schooling?

Home Schooling refers to parents or legal guardians who ensure that their children are educated by voluntarily assuming the responsibility for tuition and instruction offered principally in the home environment.

2. Who is a home schooled student?

A home schooled student is a child of compulsory school age, who is ordinarily resident in The Bahamas and receives scholastic instruction principally in the home environment under the supervision of a parent practitioner.

3. What is the compulsory school age according to the Education Act?

Compulsory school age is between 5 and 16 years.

4. Is it legal for me to home school my child?

Yes. According to the Education Act Section 24 (1) *"It shall be the duty of the parent of every child of compulsory school age to cause him to receive fulltime education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, by regular attendance at school or otherwise"*. Home schooling can be included under the term "otherwise".

5. If my child is not of compulsory school age, can he or she still be registered as a home schooled student?

No. Registration of home schooled students is only conducted for children of compulsory school age.

6. **What is permitted in home schooling?** (See brochure on the Ministry of Education's webpage.)
7. **What is not permitted in home schooling?** (See brochure on the Ministry of Education's webpage.)
8. **Can home schooled students participate in the national examinations?**

Yes. In order for a home schooled student to access national exams, he or she must present proof of his or her home school registration to the Evaluation and Assessment Division.
9. **Does the Ministry of Education provide official transcripts for home schooled students?**

No. Parents wishing official transcripts should engage with a recognized institution that provides such a service.
10. **How can a home schooled student obtain the National High School Diploma?**

He or she will have to meet the pre-determined criteria. (See the Ministry of Education's webpage for criteria.)
11. **Can home schooled students participate in national competitions?**

Yes, there are some national competitions which allow home schooled students to compete. He or she will have to meet the pre-determined criteria for the specific competitions.

12. Where does home school registration take place?

Registration is conducted at the Home School Unit of the Ministry of Education which is currently located in the RND Plaza, John F. Kennedy Drive.

13. For how long is the registration valid?

It is valid for the duration of the school year in which the student was registered. This will be reflected on the Home Schooling Certificate and the Student Identification Card.

14. I live on a Family Island, how can I have my application forwarded to the Home School Unit's office?

You should submit your completed application and copies of supporting documents to the office of the District Superintendent. On islands where there is no office, applications can be submitted to the principal of the local public school.

15. Which services are provided by the Home Schooling Unit?

- Disseminating information to guide prospective home school practitioners
- Registering home school applicants
- Monitoring home school activities
- Facilitating seminars and workshops for home schooling practitioners as resources permit