

Benefits of Registering with the Ministry of Education

- compliance with Ministry of Education policies;
- proof of home school with the issuing of a certificate and an identification card;
- access to national examinations and the National High School Diploma;
- access to information to support curriculum implementation activities;
- eligibility to participate in selected national competitions; and
- opportunities for home school parent practitioners to share information, experiences and good practices with each other.

Home School parent practitioners are required to register their child(ren). Beginning mid–August, registration forms can be collected at the office of the National Accreditation and Equivalency Council of The Bahamas (NAECOB), RND Plaza, during normal business hours, or online at www.bahamasministryofeducation.com

For further information, please contact the Home Schooling Unit at 328-8873.



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Ministry of Education

HOME SCHOOLING IN THE BAHAMAS



*Important Information for
Parent/ Guardian Practitioners*

**Content is subject to review.*

Introduction

Over the last decade, home schooling has been on the rise in The Bahamas. The Ministry of Education is aware of this and supports families who have the capacity and desire to practice home schooling. Indeed, Section 24 (1) of the Education Act, recognizes both the responsibility and the rights of parents: “It shall be the duty of the parents of every child of compulsory school age to cause him to receive full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, by regular attendance at school or otherwise”. Home Schooling, as a mode of education delivery, falls under the category of “otherwise”.

What is a Home School?

A Home School is a private home in which a parent/legal guardian assumes responsibility for the educational instruction of his/her child or ward.

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 their tuition and instruction offered principally in the home environment.

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.

Who is a Home School Parent Practitioner?

A Home School Parent Practitioner is a parent or legal guardian, at least 21 years old, who assumes direct responsibility for the tuition and supervision of the instruction of his/her child principally in the home environment.

What is Permitted in Home Schooling

- i. the use of tutors within the home environment to support the instruction provided by the parent practitioner;
- ii. implementation of flexible hours of instruction as long as a minimum of 25 hours of instruction is achieved during the week for a period of at least 36 weeks per year;
- iii. the inclusion of other activities away from the home site such as field trips, tutoring sessions, social interaction activities, etc. and
- iv. participation in selected national competitions (including events such as the National Spelling Bee).

What is Not Permitted in Home Schooling

According to the policy of the Ministry of Education, here are some examples of what is NOT permitted in Home Schooling:

- i. leaving children at home unsupervised (even if they are given academic assignments);
- ii. keeping a child away from school to engage primarily in employment or the care of another (e.g. the sick, the elderly, or the young);
- iii. sending a child to an individual (not related) who assumes the primary responsibility for his/her educational instruction;
- iv. sending a child to a school called Home School or Home Schooling or one that claims to offer a Home Schooling curriculum; or
- v. arranging for most of the instruction received by a child to be delivered by a team of tutors outside the home environment.



Recommendations for Home Schooling

In order to support parents in effectively home schooling their children, the Ministry of Education wishes to offer the following suggestions:

- i. The student should be engaged in regular physical activities.
- ii. The student should be involved in activities which allow him/her to socialise with peers.
- iii. The student should have a designated place to study.
- iv. In order to prepare the student adequately for life and work in society, he/she should be taught Science, Civics, Bahamian History and Computer Studies, in addition to the core subjects of Language Arts and Mathematics.
- v. Field trips should be well organised and thought should be given to the expected learning outcomes.
- vi. The student should be vaccinated based on the schedule outlined by the Department of Public Health.
- vii. If The Bahamas National High School Diploma is desired, every effort should be made to follow the guidelines as they relate to home-schooled students.
- viii. In order for the Ministry of Education to monitor the scholastic progress of the home-schooled students, it is advised that:
 - a. Parents should record dates and times of instruction.
 - b. A portfolio of the child’s work should be kept.
 - c. The child should participate in national assessments (or assessments by an approved authority).

Requirements for Home-School Registration

- i. completed application form
- ii. copy of child’s birth certificate
- iii. copy of child’s National Insurance Card
- iv. copy of child’s immunisation card
- v. 2 passport photos for child being registered
- vi. copies of national and international examination certificates
- vii. copy of passport of parent practitioner
- viii. proof of guardianship as necessary
- ix. work permit/residency certificate (if non-Bahamian)

***Original documents should be made available for verification purposes.**