

## **POLICY – PO510**

### **Home Schooling**

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Area: Teaching and Learning  
Source: Superintendent of Education – Teaching and Learning

Approved: Nov. 24, 2003  
Revised: May 11, 2020

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#### **1. Introduction**

Section 21 (2)(a) of the Education Act outlines the legal basis for home schooling (i.e., a student excused from attendance at school if the student is receiving satisfactory instruction at home or elsewhere). The Durham Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that the educational needs of all school-age children are met through a positive, open relationship with families who elect to home school their child(ren).

#### **2. Definitions**

**Home Instruction** – the provision of a limited amount of instruction by the school board to a pupil who is temporarily unable to attend school due to illness or injury (as governed by Policy PO801 Home Instruction).

**Home Schooling** – the provision of satisfactory instruction by a parent/guardian outside of the regular school system.

#### **3. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy and its related administrative procedures is to provide direction and support for principals, parents/guardians and supervisory officers when families choose to home school their children in compliance with PPM 131 Home Schooling.

## **4. Application / Scope**

This policy applies to all situations where a parent(s)/guardian(s) requests to home school their child(ren).

## **5. Principles**

### **5.1 The Board believes that:**

- 5.1.1 all children have the right to good and appropriate education in a safe and supportive environment;
- 5.1.2 parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children;
- 5.1.3 cooperation with parents/guardians is essential to provide excellence in education;
- 5.1.4 parents/guardians have the right to choose to home school their children;
- 5.1.5 parents/guardians have the responsibility to provide satisfactory instruction if they choose to home school their child(ren);
- 5.1.6 if the Board has reasonable grounds to believe that a child is not receiving satisfactory instruction at home, the Board shall take steps to determine if the instruction is satisfactory and may request the Provincial School Attendance Counsellor inquire into the case under subsection 24(2) of the Education Act.

## **6. Requirements**

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and amend them thereafter as the need arises.
- 6.2 The Director of Education or designate will ensure that the procedures to be followed by staff when parents/guardians choose to home school their children, will be consistent with the Ministry Policy/Program Memorandum No. 131.
- 6.3 When a parent(s)/guardian(s) indicates their intention to withdraw their child(ren) from school to provide home schooling, the principal must offer the parent/guardian the opportunity to discuss their choice. The purpose of this meeting is to ascertain whether the child had been experiencing problems of which the principal was unaware, whether the parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the education provided to date, or whether there are alternate reasons the parent/guardian is choosing to withdraw their child from school.

- 6.4 Parents/guardians must put their request in writing to the Principal, who will forward it to the Family of Schools Superintendent.
- 6.5 A letter acknowledging the request will be generated from the Family of Schools Superintendent. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Principal to be added to the student's OSR. A second copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Board's Chief Attendance Officer for tracking purposes.
- 6.6 The Ontario Student Record for the student will be retired in accordance with the Ontario Student Record Guideline.
- 6.7 When parents/guardians decide to provide home schooling in subsequent years, they must give notification each year in writing prior to September 1 to the Board in whose jurisdiction their child last attended school. The notification should be provided to the Family of Schools Superintendent of their home location.
- 6.8 Where the Board has reasonable grounds to be concerned that the instruction provided in the home may not be satisfactory, the Board must investigate the matter. Some of the reasons that may give the Board cause to investigate a particular instance of home schooling include:
- a) refusal of a parent(s)/guardian(s) to notify the board in writing of the intent to provide home schooling
  - b) a credible report of concern by a third party with respect to the instruction being provided in the home
  - c) evidence that the child was removed from attendance at school because of ongoing conflicts with the school, not for the purpose of home schooling
  - d) a history of absenteeism by the child prior to the parent(s)/guardian(s) notifying the board of the intent to provide home schooling
- 6.9 The Board is not responsible for providing parents/guardians with any learning materials when they choose to home school their child(ren).
- 6.10 Parents/guardians providing home schooling may wish their child(ren) to participate in assessments for students in Grades 3, 6, and 9, and/or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (normally given to students in Grade 10), all of which are administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). These parents/guardians must contact the Board by September 30 of the year in which the assessments/tests are being conducted for information about the dates, times, and locations. Parents/guardians who wish their children to participate in any of these assessments/tests will not be charged a fee either by the board or by the EQAO.

## **7. Sources**

- 7.1 Policy/Program Memorandum No. 131 – Home Schooling
- 7.2 Ontario Student Record Guideline, 2000

## **8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures**

### **8.1 Home School Administrative Procedure (AP510-1)**