



Riverside School Board (RSB)

Homeschooling Modalities



1. Context

New regulations on homeschooling came into effect on July 1, 2018, resulting in many changes in the roles and responsibilities of school boards.

The guidelines in this document will allow children who receive instruction at home to benefit from the services provided by the regulations according to procedures established by the school board.

It goes without saying that relations between school boards and the parents of these children must be characterized by a high degree of cooperation, while respecting the rights and obligations of each and everyone.

2. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Education Act (Chapter I-13.3), Section 15(4), Sections 231 and 448.1;
- *Homeschooling Regulation*, I-13.3, r. 6.01, (O.C. 644-2018, 30 May 2018, Gazette Officielle du Québec, June 13, 2018, Vol. 150, No. 24) (hereinafter the *Homeschooling Regulation*).

3. DEFINITIONS

a) **Designated School:** School designated by the school board to provide services, textbooks, and or equipment;

b) **School textbook:** School textbooks on the approved list of the Ministry of Education as established under section 462 of the *Basic School Regulations*. **Reference books** (e.g. grammar, dictionary, etc.) are not textbooks.

c) **Available:** Facilities resources or services physically located in the designated school and not currently being used or planned for use by teachers in that school during the period covered by the application;

d) **Child :** For the purposes of this document, the term “child” refers specifically to a person who is receiving homeschooling within the meaning of the *Basics School Regulations* and the *Home Homeschooling Regulations* and who is of school age, pursuant to section 1 of the Education Act.

e) **Accompanying adult:** parent or person over 18 years of age, designated by the parent, who accompanies the child during his or her presence at the designated school. This person may not accompany more than four (4) children at any one time. All adults accompanying the child at the designated school, must have a valid **Declaration Concerning a Judicial Record (police check)** deposited with the homeschooling school board office.



4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. Ensure that the school board's legal obligations are respected;
- 4.2. Allow children to receive certain services from the school or school board, provided for in the *Homeschooling Regulations*;
- 4.3. Establish the procedure to be followed by parents of children when they wish to make a request for support from the school board, pursuant to Section V of the *Homeschooling Regulations*;
- 4.4. Establish the procedure to be followed by parents when they wish to have their child's progress assessed by an evaluation imposed by the school board and, if applicable, by an evaluation imposed by the Ministry but applied by the school board, as under paragraphs 1 and 4 of section 15 of the *Homeschooling Regulations*.

5. PRINCIPLES

- a) The child may benefit from certain services, as prescribed in the *Basic School Regulations*, from the school board, subject to availability and in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this document and in the designated school's Code of Conduct;
- (b) Services are provided to children, not to their parents or the accompanying adult. The parent who teaches at home, or the person accompanying the child, is not a teacher within the meaning of the *Basic School Regulations*, the *Homeschooling Regulations*, and the collective agreements;
- (c) A service, material or resource provided to a child shall not compromise its use or benefit to a group or to all students enrolled in a designated school;
- (d) Section 18.2 of the *Basic School Regulation* applies to parents and child in the same manner as if the child were attending an educational institution.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS

Director General

The Director General is responsible for the application of these modalities in collaboration with the Educational Services Department.



Educational Services Department

The Educational Services department is responsible for the application and dissemination of this document to any designated school, to all school board employees involved in servicing the homeschooling parents and students, as well as to the homeschooling parents and students themselves.

In the case of a child whose parent requests the services of the school board, the Educational Services department is responsible for verifying registration and declaration, and for following up on any requested board-wide or MEES evaluations.

The Principal of the designated school

Educational Services will inform the principal of a designated school of parent requests for services, resources or use of facilities in a designated school.

Parent

A parent wishing to homeschool his or her child must refer to the following website and official government guidelines and regulations:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/school-boards/support-and-assistance/homeschooling/>

The parent of a child, when using or benefiting from the services of the school board, is responsible for respecting and ensuring that his/her child also respects the provisions of this document, any school or school board policy, as well as the Code of Conduct as established by the designated school. The parent is responsible for requesting the Code of Conduct of the designated school within which his child will be accessing services, resources or facilities.

The parent is also responsible, unless he/she has delegated this responsibility to an accompanying adult, for the supervision and safety of his child when he/she is on the grounds or in an establishment of the school board.

The parent is responsible for informing himself or herself of any school or school board closures.

Child

The child must at all times respect the rules of the school board as well as those of the designated school, in particular the Code of Conduct, when he/she is on the grounds or in an establishment of the school board.



Parent and Child

- Under no circumstances may a parent, accompanying adult or child use language or behavior that is vulgar, threatening, defamatory or discriminatory in any way.
- No photos or videos may be taken or published without the consent of the people appearing in them.
- Under no circumstance may a parent, accompanying adult or child possess or distribute content that is violent, hateful, indecent, sexual, defamatory or discriminatory in any way.
- Under no circumstance may a parent, accompanying adult or child participate in prohibited or illegal activities of any nature.

The school board or designated school may take action in accordance with the Code of Conduct or its policies, including the withdrawal of access to services, resources or facilities.



7. IMPLEMENTATION

7.1. General provisions of application

To benefit from the support or services of the school board, the parents of the children must first complete the following procedures:

- a) Have followed government guidelines and procedures regarding application for homeschooling:
<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/school-boards/support-and-assistance/homeschooling/>
- b) Have proceeded with giving notice to the school board, in accordance with the registration policy in effect;
- c) Have provided the school board with the following documents:
 - A copy of the Notice sent to the Minister of Education and proof of receipt;
 - A copy of the learning project;
 - A copy of any changes to the learning project.

(c) Have formulated in writing through the forms provided any request for services, resource or access to facilities or evaluation. The forms are presented in the appendices of this document;

When at a designated school, the parent or accompanying adult must carry a valid photo ID at all times.

When at a designated school, the child, parent or accompanying adult must adhere to any security procedures of the school.

7.2. Evaluations

Only two types of assessments described below are offered by the school board to homeschooled children: evaluations imposed by the school board (board compulsory), and evaluations imposed by the Ministry and administered by the school board (Ministry evaluations).

- a) Children may benefit from an assessment of learning by means of an evaluation in subjects and grades as presented in **Appendix 1**;
- (b) The child shall report to the designated school or to the school board on the scheduled date and at the mandated time. Only the child will be admitted to the room where the evaluation is to be conducted;
- c) At the parent's prior request, if possible and with the resources available, the child may benefit from the necessary adaptive measures in accordance with the Ministry's rules. The child must use the technological tools related to the adaptive measures available to the school board, it being understood



that they will be on loan only for the duration of the preparation and the evaluation;

(d) The child's parent will receive the result of the evaluation by email or by regular mail after it has been marked, unless the child is in Secondary 4 and 5. In the latter case, he or she will receive a statement (achievement record) directly from the Ministry of Education. The evaluations, which are the property of the school board or the Ministry must remain confidential; parents and students will not receive any copy of the **marking** or evaluation.

7.3. Learning resources

7.3.1. School textbooks

(a) The child may access, free of charge, textbooks that are approved by the Ministry of Education and identified in the approved learning project; textbooks will be tracked by Educational Services;

(b) In the interest of equity, no child may individually have more than two textbooks per subject at the same time. Under no circumstances may the child have two identical textbooks at the same time;

(c) The Elementary textbooks borrowed shall be returned to the school board by the last weekday before June 15 of each school year. The Secondary textbooks borrowed shall be returned by the last weekday before June 22. It is the parent's responsibility to return the textbooks on time and in the same condition as when they were borrowed;

d) In the event that textbooks are not returned or are returned in worse condition than when they were borrowed, then parents will be charged for a replacement book.



7.3.2. Teaching material

(a) The child may benefit, free of charge, from the teaching material related to his or her learning project if at the time of application it is available from the school or the school board, subject to the following exclusions:

- Any document that would jeopardize the confidentiality or validity of the evaluation process in effect in the schools of the school board;
- Any material that cannot be shared due to copyright, including material produced by teachers, the school board or an external organization;
- Any online material from a resource external to the school board for which access or a paid license is required;

(b) The child must attend the designated school by appointment in order to use the teaching material as per **Appendix 3**, and must comply with the instructions given;

(c) The educational material made available to the child is limited to the educational material made available to the school board's students, free of charge, pursuant to the Education Act and the policy on fees charged to parents;

(d) Under no circumstances may the child modify or alter the teaching material made available to him/her.

7.4. Additional services

(a) The services of the following professionals shall be made accessible, subject to their availability, the school board taking into account the needs of the child and the connection to the learning project:

- Guidance counsellor;
- Special education consultant;
- Psychologist;
- Psychoeducator;
- Speech and language therapist.

(b) The school board determines the child's needs based on the information provided in the form presented in **Appendix 4**. For Psychology, Speech-Language Pathology services, Psychoeducation and particular guidance counseling services, a recent report written by an external professional in connection with the requested complementary service is required and must be attached to the form presented in **Appendix 4**. It is important that the professional's report be detailed regarding the difficulties encountered.

- If the child has attended a school in the past and a school board professional has produced a relevant report, it could be accepted as an external professional's report;



- Only professionals in the disciplines listed in **Appendix 4** are admitted as external professionals;
- c) The school board is then responsible for informing the child's parents of the services available and providing these through a designated school.

7.5. Resources - Premises

In order to be able to access the school board's premises at a designated school, the parent must submit, at least **15 working days before** the requested date, the form presented in **Appendix 3** as well as the proof of the accompanying adult's Declaration Concerning Judicial Record (police check).

The school board cannot guarantee the exclusive use of a room. In the event that requests to use a facility exceed its capacity, requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The school board may refuse access to resources using the form in **Appendix 3** if it considers that the health or safety of persons may be compromised.

The school board reserves the right to interrupt an activity experienced by a child on its premises if the child, or the accompanying adult, does not comply with policies, code of conduct and the safety instructions given by the responsible person designated by the school and/or school board. In these situations, the school board also reserves the right to require the departure of the child and the accompanying adult from the premises.

Under no circumstances may the child be left alone on the premises and or in the room. Therefore, the accompanying adult must remain with the child at all times.

Access to the premises is limited to the child and a maximum of two (2) accompanying adult. For safety reasons, pre-school children are not allowed on the premises, except in exceptional situations for children under one year of age when they are accompanied by their parent. Only the child who receives homeschooling can be present, participate and use the equipment and premises provided.

The following premises will be available in the designated school and according to the schedule set out in **Appendix 3**:

- **Library**

The child can consult bibliographic and documentary resources on site.

A school board employee is present during the periods of availability in order to offer the child support in the use of the school library's documentary resources.



- **Science laboratory**

The accompanying person and the child must sign and agree to comply with the safety rules inherent in the use of the science laboratory presented in **Appendix 5**.

The child may only use the laboratory equipment and materials necessary for the scientific activity, deemed safe by the school board, in connection with his or her learning project, described on the form in **Appendix 3** and made available to him or her by a laboratory technician, designated by the school or school board, present in the lab.

A person designated by the school or school board is responsible for the premises and is present at all times.

- **Use of technology**

The accompanying person and the child must sign and agree to comply with the safety rules inherent in the use of the any technology equipment and materials presented in **Appendix 6**.

The child may only use the technology equipment and materials necessary for the activity in connection with his or her learning project described on the form in **Appendix 3** and made available to him or her by the school or school board employee.

- **Arts facilities**

The child may only use the material and equipment necessary for the artistic activity in connection with his or her learning project described on the form in **Appendix 3** and made available to him or her by the school or school board employee.

- **Physical Education Facilities**

The accompanying person and the child must sign and undertake to respect the safety rules inherent in the use of the sports and recreational facilities presented in **Appendix 7**.

The child may only use the material and equipment necessary for the sporting or recreational activity in connection with his or her learning project described on the form presented in **Appendix 3** and made available to him or her by the school or school board employee.