



Home Education fact sheet

What is home education?

Home education is a legal learning option available to Queensland parents when making decisions about the best form of education for their children.

Registration for home education is a full-time option available for parents to educate their child. Other educational options include enrolment in either:

- [a mainstream school](#) (either state or non-state); or
- [a school of distance education](#).

When choosing to home educate, parents accept responsibility for planning, implementing, and monitoring their child's educational progress. Parents who choose to home educate provide a suitable learning environment and resources necessary to support their child's educational program. A parent choosing this educational option is required to provide a high-quality education for their child and report annually on their child's educational progress.

The home education of a child must be provided by one or both of the child's parents or a Queensland registered teacher and must take place primarily at a child's usual place of residence.

Please note: There may be some group situations such as a weekly swimming lesson or a community art lesson that may be included in your child's program without you having to be the teacher. It is possible that a registered teacher setting up group learning for home educated children could be regarded as a 'school' and require accreditation. To seek accreditation for a non-state school, an application must be made to the [Non-State Schools Accreditation Board](#).

Education requirements

Compulsory school age in Queensland means the child is at least 6 years and 6 months and less than 16 years of age, or has completed Year 10, whichever happens first. All children in Queensland must be either enrolled in a state or non-state school, or be registered for home education during their compulsory school years.

The compulsory participation phase starts when a young person stops being of compulsory school age and ends when the person gains a certificate of achievement, senior statement, Certificate III or Certificate IV; or has participated in an eligible option for 2 years after compulsory school age; or turns 17 years. Queensland children who are in the compulsory participation phase must be enrolled at and attend a school **or** be engaged full-time in an eligible option, **or** be registered for home education **or** working full time.

Individual considerations

Parents with school-based concerns are advised to contact the school's principal initially to discuss the many specialists who can provide educational support and guidance. A solution may be found without withdrawing your child from school. If serious and ongoing circumstances exist, you should contact your [Regional Education Office](#).

For more personal concerns that may be affecting your child or your family, help may be obtained by visiting your GP, other specialists, government agencies or counselling services.

Please note: A child enrolled at either a state or non-state school of distance education cannot be simultaneously registered for home education. However, on occasion, an agreement may be formed between the school, parent, and child allowing the child to access some activities or facilities at school. Such an agreement is at the discretion of the school's principal. The school may require that you pay a fee for any access. If you consider your child needs to attend a school for more than a few hours per week then you should consider an enrolment or flexible enrolment with the school and hence surrender your home education registration.



Home education vs. Distance education

With **home education**, parents develop or adapt their own program for the child. The parent or a registered teacher engaged by the parent provides the education to the child. The parent or registered teacher plans, implements and monitors the child's educational progress from one year to the next.

With **distance education**, a parent enrolls their child in a school of distance education and a school program is provided by that school for the child. Teachers monitor the child's learning and a teacher from the school reports on the child (as in mainstream schools). The parent is the **supervisor or home tutor** to the child within their home.

Costs associated with home education

There is no fee to register your child for home education. However, applicants should consider the hidden costs associated with this form of education, including:

- any possible impact on employment when becoming a home educator
- your ability to fund access to a variety of educational resources
- the cost of accessing specialist services or funding which may have been available within mainstream schooling systems, but are no longer available to you as a home educator.

Application process

For information regarding applying for registration for home education please see the Department of Education's [Registration page](#).

Educational program and resourcing

You may wish to investigate purchasing a curriculum program. Before deciding to purchase privately produced or commercial curriculum materials for your child, it is recommended that you carefully consider your child's specific learning goals and their preferred learning style.

It is recommended that you invest considerable time evaluating the worth of any resource that you are considering purchasing. Given the wide range of low cost or free educational materials, you may find the purchase of a 'ready-made' curriculum an unnecessary or limiting approach to home education. If you base your child's home education around a 'ready-made' curriculum, you may be asked for further information such as how the program caters for your child's learning needs and your role in supporting and implementing the purchased materials.

Textbooks may be a resource that can be utilised in your child's home education program. However, in order to provide a variety of well-chosen learning opportunities, it is recommended that home education programs are not entirely based around textbooks. Instead, these programs should reflect the use of a variety of resources which together satisfy your child's learning needs. The regular inclusion of practical, hands-on tasks may enhance learning and maintain your child's interest in their education.

Access to Scootle is a web-based resource bank which provides digital teaching and learning content linked to the Australian Curriculum is available for home educated children. The resource bank is published by Education Services Australia.

Surrendering your registration

If you wish to engage with another full-time eligible learning option, e.g. enrolment in a school, the registration needs to be surrendered by a parent. Registration is surrendered by notifying the HEU in writing. When doing so, please advise the name of the school the child is to attend (if applicable).



Reporting

Home education legislation is about respecting your right as a parent to home educate your child, while recognising the right of each child to have a high-quality education.

In the report you provide a review of the previous year of learning as well as reporting on the educational progress of your child.

Your report may include:

- the learning experiences your child had over the year;
- the progress towards the achievement of learning goals;
- evidence of your child's learning progress collected over time; and
- the range of learning areas covered in the summary of the educational program.

As the time frame by which the report is due is specified in the legislation, extensions for the due date are unable to be provided.

If the report on your child's educational progress is not received by the HEU within the required time period, the registration may be cancelled. You would be notified via a show cause notice if this was to happen.

Learning accounts

The HEU will open a learning account for your child when they enter their Year 10 equivalent year.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is a qualification awarded to young people at the completion of the compulsory participation phase, usually at the end of Year 12 (or later if not complete by then). The home education program created by the parent **does not** attract points towards the QCE.

Parents should consult the QCAA website for more information about attaining credit points and achieving a QCE.

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

If you want your child to receive an ATAR, contact a school of distance education, state school or non-state school and enrol your child for Years 11 and 12. Registration for home education during Year 11 and 12 equivalent years does not mean your child cannot seek entry to tertiary institutions via alternative pathways.

For further information regarding ATAR and senior pathways, contact the QCAA.

Financial assistance

Parents of children registered for home education who are age equivalent to Years 7 to 12 are eligible for the annual Textbook and Resource Allowance if it was not previously paid to a school due to a child's earlier enrolment in the year.

In addition, you may like to contact Services Australia, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the National Disability Insurance Scheme and/or the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (Qld) to check if there is any financial or other support your family may be eligible for.



NAPLAN

Participation in the NAPLAN tests is generally available through your local school.

NAPLAN testing is only done at a school and within the school's testing timetable. Schools do try to accommodate the home educated child; however, a school may have a particular difficulty that prevents supervision. If a school cannot provide supervision, then your child is not able to sit the tests.

Prior to the tests in May each year, all parents with eligible children are contacted by the HEU with written information about the tests. A letter of introduction is supplied (by request) to assist you in your discussions with a school near you.

For further information about NAPLAN: [National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy \(NAPLAN\)](#)

Dental services

Yes. Your child can access publicly funded oral health care if they meet the eligibility criteria. Further information is available on the [Queensland Health Dental services for children and teenagers page](#).

District and regional sports?

The HEU holds an affiliation with Queensland School Sport. A parent of a child who wishes to participate in the various sports available at this representative level should contact the HEU for specific details.

ID cards

You can request a photographic identification (ID) card for your child if they are fully registered for home education. The Home Education Unit (HEU) processes your application and sends you the ID card in the post. This card will be valid for your child's registration year, or until their registration ceases.

[Department of Transport and Main Roads](#) (DTMR) decides whether your child is eligible for concessions on public transport. Children aged 5 to 14 years fall under the [child concession category](#). Students aged 15 years or older are eligible for a [secondary student concession](#) fare and will need to show their HEU ID card when they are buying tickets.

The HEU works hard to make sure they send out ID cards as quickly as possible. But they process cards in batches, not one by one, so there may be delays.

To request an ID card, please send an email to the HEU at homeeducation@qed.qld.gov.au

Your email must include:

- A current passport-style photograph of your child in electronic format (JPG, JPEG, PNG, GIF or BMP):
 - head and shoulders facing forwards (the child is allowed to smile)
 - photo taken against a blank background – plain light grey, cream or white
- A statement saying:
 - *This is a current picture of my child (full name).*
 - *Their date of birth is (day/month/year).*
 - *Their current postal address is (address).*