

Home-Based Education: How Can Students Earn Secondary Level Credits?

What are the responsibilities of parents in home schooling?

According to [The Home-Based Education Program Regulations, 2015](#), when parents exercise their right to home school they assume the responsibility to select and direct the program. Parents must ensure that the program is not inconsistent with the Goals of Education for Saskatchewan and not inappropriate for the age and ability of the student.

Will a school division evaluate and approve our family's education program?

Since home-based educators use a variety of instructional material to educate their children, it is impractical and inappropriate for school divisions to evaluate and approve individual home-based education programs. Rather than approve programs, school divisions register home-based educators in accordance with [The Home-Based Education Program Regulations, 2015](#).

What do students need for a complete grade 12 in the regular school system?

To graduate from high school (grades 10 through 12); a student must register in and complete 24 credits from programs recognized by the Ministry of Education. There are specific required courses and elective courses. See [The Registrar's Handbook](#), section 1.1 for the specific secondary credit requirements.

Is there any other way to complete grade 12, as an adult, for example?

Adults can complete a high school standing under the Adult 12 policy which allows adult students (18 years of age and out of school for at least one year) to complete with seven credits (five must be at the 30 level; the math and science requirement may be at the 20 or 30 level). An Adult Grade 12 is considered equivalent to a regular grade 12 standing and is recognized by colleges and universities for admission. See [The Registrar's Handbook](#), section 1.13 for specific requirements for an Adult 12 program.

Can a student challenge a grade 12 departmental exam?

Adult students (18 years of age and out of school for one year) are allowed to earn credits by challenging grade 12 departmental exams for 100 percent of the final mark. (See [Adult Secondary Completion \[Adult 12\] Policy](#).) Home-based students challenge departmental examinations under this policy.

In exceptional circumstances, permission may be granted to home-based students to challenge departmental exams at an earlier age (minimum 15 years of age).

- An official from the school division in which the home-based student is registered must send a letter of request and accompanying documentation to Independent Schools and Home-based Education, Ministry of Education. Education plans for home-based learners are required to accompany all future letters of requests for exceptional circumstances. The letter of request acknowledges that the student has covered the course material and evidence is provided to the ministry that the student is able to challenge the departmental exam.

- Ministry staff will evaluate the request and communicate the decision to the student challenging the departmental exam.
- If permission is not granted, the applicant can appeal the departmental challenge decision to the Office of the Registrar.

Credit will be granted pursuant to the *Adult Secondary Completion (Adult 12) Policy*.

Where can students take high school courses for credit?

Students can take their courses at high schools in the separate and public system, approved independent schools, First Nations schools, an approved private school or through distance education courses. An online database listing course options and registration links is available at <http://www.skdistancelearning.ca>.

Adults wishing to complete under the Adult 12 policy can also go to a number of post-secondary locations which include four Saskatchewan Polytechnic campuses, nine regional colleges, the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT).

Can I use the GED (General Educational Development) Grade 12 Equivalency Diploma?

Although the individual GED tests are not recognized towards Saskatchewan secondary level credits, Saskatchewan does provide a Grade 12 High School Equivalency Diploma for adults who have successfully completed the GED tests (reading, writing, social studies, mathematics and science). To write the required tests, a person must be 18 years of age and a resident of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Polytechnique campuses, regional colleges and some community based organizations (CBO's) offer courses to help students prepare for the GED tests. Individuals can also prepare at home by using a self study guide available in most book stores and public libraries.

The GED diploma is accepted by most employers and some post-secondary institutions (e.g. Saskatchewan Polytechnique recognizes GED for many courses). Saskatchewan universities do not recognize the GED as meeting the required prerequisites for direct admission however it is considered as part of the criteria for the mature admissions policy.

Can work completed through schools outside Saskatchewan or as part of a home-based program be recognized for credit?

For courses completed through a school that is approved and recognized by its provincial or state ministry of education, the Ministry of Education will evaluate the program based on the official transcript and the student may receive credit (standing granted).

Students, who have completed courses through schools that are not recognized by their provincial or state ministry of education, or course work as part of their home-based program, can register in the course in a Saskatchewan high school, have their knowledge and skills evaluated based on the learning outcomes of Saskatchewan's curriculum and assigned a mark by the school. This can be arranged through the Office of the Registrar, Ministry of Education (787-6086) and in consultation with the school principal.