



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOME EDUCATION

Questions	Responses
What is Home Education?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘Home education’ means a purposeful programme of education for a learner, alternative to school attendance, which:• (a) is provided under the direction and supervision of the learner’s parent primarily in the environment of the learner’s home;• (b) may include a tutorial or other educational support if necessary secured by the parent on specific areas of the curriculum followed by the learner; and• (c) meets the requirements for registration of a learner for home education contemplated in section 51 of the Act
How can I apply for Home Education?	<p>According to Section 51 of SASA as amended:</p> <p>(1) “If the <i>parent</i> of a <i>learner</i> who is subject to compulsory attendance as contemplated in section 3(1) chooses to educate the <i>learner</i> at home, such <i>parent</i> must apply to the <i>Head of Department</i> for the registration of the <i>learner</i> to receive <i>home education</i>.”</p> <p>Application forms are available on the DBE Website</p> <p>1. Visit the following departmental website:</p> <p>https://www.education.gov.za/Parents/HomeEducation/tabid/406/Default.aspx</p> <p>The link is supposed to take you to the Home Education page.</p> <p>OR</p>

	<p>2. Follow the steps below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to www.education .gov.za • In the home page • Go to INFORMATION • Then click PARENTS AND GUARDIAN • Then Click SERVICES • Then Click HOME EDUCATION • You will find the Application forms and the relevant information on Home Education. <p>Note: The list of required documents is provided on the first page of the application form. On the Home Education page of the website, you will find a document outlining the Application Process, along with the Application Forms, the Home Education Policy and Act 32 of 2024 with amended section 51 of SASA. Once you have completed the Application Form, please submit it to your relevant provincial Education Department as indicated in the Application Process document.</p>
<p>What are the conditions for the registration of a learner to receive education at home?</p>	<p>The conditions of registration are listed in Section 51(2)(a) and (b) as follows: The Head of Department must approve the application and register the learner:</p> <p>(a) if he or she is satisfied that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) education at home, is in the best interests of the learner; (ii) the parent understands what home education entails and accepts full responsibility for the implementation of home education for the learner; and (iii) the proposed home education programme is suitable for the learner’s age, grade level and ability and predominantly covers the acquisition of content and skills at least comparable to the relevant national curriculum determined by the Minister; and <p>(b) if the parent undertakes to—</p>

	<p>(i) make suitable educational resources available to support the learner’s learning;</p> <p>(ii) monitor the learner’s academic progress;</p> <p>(iii) arrange for the learner’s educational attainment to be assessed by a competent assessor—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(aa) at the end of each phase, up to the end of the year in which the learner reaches the age of 15 years or completes grade 9, whichever occurs first; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(bb) against a standard that is not inferior to the standard determined in the National Curriculum Statement; and</p> <p>(iv) submit to the Head of Department, at the end of each phase and as evidence of the learner’s educational attainment, the learner’s assessment report, signed by the competent assessor.</p> <p>Note: The above conditions must be complied with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parent must be fully responsible for the education of the learner, • Choose any education programme or curriculum suitable for the learner’s age, grade level or ability and it must be comparable to the national curriculum. Comparable does not mean same but of similar standard.
<p>Can I continue home educating without submitting a report at the end of each phase?</p>	<p>Parents who choose to offer home education are required to comply fully with the provisions of section 51 of SASA as amended. Submission of report card at the end of each phase is obligatory. A competent assessor report serves as evidence that the required educational outcomes have been achieved and enable the Head of Department to update the registration records and maintain accurate databases.</p>
<p>Why do provinces issue reminders to submit notifications of the intention to continue home education, along with requests for report cards signed</p>	<p>Provinces are justified in requiring the submission of both a notification of intention to continue home education at the end of each phase and a report from a competent assessor as provided for in Section 51(8) and Section 51(2)(b)(iv). A competent assessor report serves as evidence that the required educational outcomes of the phase/level have been achieved and enable the Head of Department to update the registration records and maintain accurate databases.</p>

by a competent assessor at the end of each phase?	Submitting a notification to proceed to the next phase without evidence of achievement will be considered non-compliant.
Do we still need to have a competent assessor even if we are using independent curriculum providers?	Curriculum providers supply learning material, teaching plans, and sometimes internal tests or reports. However, these providers do not replace the requirement for an independent competent assessor
How do parents ensure access to a competent assessor if they are using a different curriculum approach?	Parents who follow independent or alternative curriculum approaches in Home Education can still obtain a competent assessor, however the assessor must be able to evaluate the learner's progress against the required outcomes of the phase, even if the curriculum used is different.
Can retired teachers and principals be competent assessors?	<p>A retired teacher or principal may act as a competent assessor if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have relevant teaching qualifications and experience in the phase or subjects they are assessing. • Have a sound understanding of the national curriculum standards, such as those in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). • Are able to evaluate the learner's portfolio of evidence and level of attainment objectively. • SACE registered • Sign a valid report card and comment on the progress of the learner.
Must parents apply for Home Education every year?	<p>According to the SASA Section 51 as amended and the Policy on Home Education, once a learner is registered for Home Education, the registration certificate is valid until the end of the education phase, provided that the parent continues to comply with the requirements. At the end of each phase the parent must submit a notification of the intention to continue home educating the learner at home.</p> <p>Education Phases</p> <p>Foundation Phase: Grade R – Grade 3 Intermediate Phase: Grade 4 – Grade 6</p>

	<p>Senior Phase: Grade 7 – Grade 9</p> <p>What parents must still do</p> <p>Even though they do not apply every year, parents must still:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the learner follows a suitable curriculum comparable to CAPS. • Keep records and a portfolio of evidence of the learner’s work. • Have the learner assessed by a competent assessor, especially at the end of the phase. • Monitor the learner’s academic progress
<p>Which Curriculum or education programme can parents use when teaching their children at home?</p>	<p>PHE: Subsection 18.1 Curriculum Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents may choose to offer any curriculum that will be of a standard not inferior to the standard of education provided at public schools. This means that parents can follow any curriculum of their choice, but the education must not be lower than what is taught in public school. It can be of high standards. <p>SASA Section 51(2) (a)(iii) as amended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed home education programme is suitable for the learner’s age, grade level, and ability and predominantly covers the acquisition of content and skills at least comparable to the relevant national curriculum determined by the Minister. <p>The above sections means that parents may choose any curriculum or education programme that is comparable to CAPs. Comparable should not be interpreted as “same” but should rather be interpreted to mean “of similar standard.”</p>
<p>Where can parents find the content and skills of the NCS to compare with the education programme offered in home education?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3 of the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements of the NCS for each subject has the content and skills arranged per grade/phase per term. • The CAPS documents are freely available on the departmental website • Parents can access the documents and easily compare them with their education programmes.
<p>The National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 aims to produce learners that can:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and solve problems and make decisions using critical and creative thinking; • work effectively as individuals and with others as members of a team; • organise and manage themselves and their activities responsibly and effectively;

- collect, analyse, organise, and critically evaluate information;
- communicate effectively using visual, symbolic and/or language skills in various modes;
- use science and technology effectively and critically, showing responsibility towards the environment and the health of others; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the world as a set of related systems by recognising that problem-solving contexts do not exist in isolation.

Reading the NCS documents will assist parents in comparing if their chosen education programme predominantly covers the content and skills at least comparable to the NCS without necessarily following CAPS.

Which subject can be registered if the learner is following CAPS?

Foundation Phase	Intermediate Phase	Senior Phase
Home Language First Additional Language Mathematics Life Skills Coding and robotics (if done)	Home Language First Additional Language Mathematics Life Skills Natural Sciences and Technology Social Sciences Coding and robotics (if done)	Home Language First Additional Language Mathematics Natural Science Economic Management Sciences Social Sciences Technology(Creative Arts Life Orientation Coding and robotics (if done)

Parents who follow alternative curricula or design their own programs may compare what they offer, but they are not required to adopt CAPS.

<p>How can a parent check compliance with curriculum requirements</p>	<p>Curriculum requirements clarified in Circular S24 of 2025</p> <p>1.1 Parents may select any curriculum, including Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), international curricula, faith-based programmes, eclectic approaches, or self-curated learning, provided it is at least predominantly comparable to the national curriculum determined by the Minister.</p>
<p>How do teaching and learning take place in home education?</p>	<p>PHE 18.3 Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent should organise teaching, learning and assessment such that a learner can achieve the minimum outcomes and standards prescribed in the NCS. • If a learner is following other curriculum or education programmes, a parent should organise teaching and learning and assessment in line with the programme followed to enable the learner to achieve the educational attainment of the grade level the learner is doing. <p>PHE 18.2 Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent should keep evidence of planned activities and tasks to be completed by a learner in accordance with the curriculum followed by the learner. <p>If a parent is following other educational programmes, they should keep a portfolio of evidence of learning according to the Curriculum or education programme followed by the learner.</p> <p>PHE 18.4 (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parent may, if necessary, enlist the specific services of a tutor for specific areas of the curriculum. • (2) The tutor in providing her or his services in respect of specific areas of the curriculum: • (a) may not replace the primary responsibility of the parent in respect of providing home education to the child; and • (b) may not attempt to play the role of a school under the pretext of providing a tutoring service education site.
<p>How is assessment done in home education?</p>	<p>PHE 18.5 Assessment</p>

- A parent should ensure that the results of assessment tasks such as tests and examinations are valid and reliable through implementing measures such as invigilation of the learner during the process of completion of such tasks.
- A parent should use the services of a competent assessor to assess the progress of her or his child against the minimum outcomes and standards at the end of Grades 3, 6 and 9.

Note: In the Foundation Phase, learners are not assessed through tests or examinations. Instead, progress is measured through continuous assessment.

Assessment will be conducted according to the curriculum followed by the learner.

Section 51(2)(b)(ii)-(iv) of SASA as amended

the parent must

- (ii) monitor the learner’s academic progress.
- (iii) arrange for the learner’s educational attainment to be assessed by a competent assessor—
 - (aa) at the end of each phase, up to the end of the year in which the learner reaches the age of 15 years or completes grade 9, whichever occurs first; and
 - (bb) against **a standard that is not inferior** to the standard determined in the National Curriculum Statement; and
- (iv) submit to the Head of Department, at the end of each phase and **as evidence** of the **learner’s educational attainment, the learner’s assessment report, signed by the competent assessor.**

Clarity on Assessment Requirements provided in Circular S24 of 2025

- 1.2 Assessments must demonstrate progress appropriate to the learner’s age, grade level and ability, confirming that the learner is acquiring a standard of knowledge and skills **not inferior** to those expected in the national curriculum.
- 1.3 A standard “**not inferior**” to the national curriculum should be interpreted as assessment that:
 - Meaningfully measures learning.
 - Demonstrates progression across fields.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects development of core competencies (e.g., scientific reasoning, social understanding, artistic expression, physical development, personal and social responsibility). • Aligns broadly with phase-end expectations typically observed at Grades R-3, 6 and 9. <p>1.4 Assessments are not required to resemble school-based CAPS assessments where a different curriculum or alternative assessment method is used.</p>
<p>What records should be kept by home educating parents?</p>	<p>PHE 18.6 Recording and Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3) A parent should maintain a portfolio of evidence that must contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) samples of writing, worksheets, workbooks, and creative materials used or produced by the learner; and • (b) a summative record or assessment schedule recording the achievement of the learner. <p>PHE 18.6 Recording and Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) A parent shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • submit the reports from the competent assessor at the end of Grades 3, 6, and 9 to the HOD. <p>SASA 51(2)(b)(vi)</p> <p>(iv) submit to the Head of Department, at the end of each phase and as evidence of the <u>learner’s educational attainment</u>, the <u>learner’s assessment report, signed by the competent assessor.</u></p>
<p>What should parents do when they want to withdraw from home education and take the child back to school?</p>	<p>PHE Section 24. Withdrawal</p> <p>1) If a parent wishes to withdraw a learner of compulsory school-going age from a home education and such learner is admitted or readmitted to a school, then the parent:</p> <p>(a) must inform the HOD in writing accompanied by documentary proof of admission of the learner to a school; and</p> <p>(b) request the HOD to cancel the learner’s registration for education at home.</p> <p>Note: A template of the withdrawal letter is available.</p>

What documents are required for concessions and accommodation?

- Birth certificate (of your child)
- Road to Health card
- SNA (support needs assessment) 1 and 2 forms completed by you (as the current school)
- Last academic report
- Sample of work from her workbooks
- Parent ID's
- Proof of Residence
- Parent Contact Numbers (at least 2)
- Therapist Reports (Psychologist/Occupational/Speech) if available

Any additional information which may assist in supporting the learner.