

## Home Education “Supervision” Guidance

The 2019 Legislature passed a new law governing Home Education in North Dakota. This significant change clarifies several issues that have arisen across the state. First, new definitions have been instituted:

### **15.1-23-01. Definitions.**

1. "Home education" means a program of education supervised by a child's parent in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
2. "Parent" includes a child's legal guardian.
3. "Supervise" means the selection of materials, determination of an educational philosophy, and oversight of the method, manner, and delivery of instruction.

Definition three is most significant, as the previous law only allowed the child's parent to educate the child. The only way a parent could have another person (virtually or in person) educate their child was if the parent was physically present and acting as a filter for all curriculum. This law gives parents freedom to choose how the child is educated, however it must be noted the parent is still solely responsible for their child's education.

The 2019 Home Education version of the [Century Code](#) clarifies that a parent may choose any way they see fit to educate their child. This may be virtually, through independent classes, work study, public school, etc.

As previously mentioned, the Home Education parent still has significant responsibilities they must fulfill to remain legal, regardless of whom or what is chosen to teach their child. Two substantial responsibilities are:

### **15.1-23-04. Home education - Required subjects - Instructional time.**

A parent supervising Home Education shall include instruction in those subjects required by law to be taught to public school students. The instruction must have a duration of at least four hours each day for a minimum of one hundred seventy-five days each year.

### **15.1-23-05. Home education - Academic records.**

A parent supervising Home Education shall maintain an annual record of courses taken by the child and the child's academic progress assessments, including any standardized achievement test results. If the child transfers to a public school district, the parent shall furnish the record, upon request, to the school district superintendent or other administrator.

It is recommended from the North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA) and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) that a parent maintain meticulous records of both classes taught and standards met during these classes.

These records will be helpful to the parents for multiple reasons, including:

- If the student transfers to a public school;
- Filling out college applications and scholarships; and
- Resources for educating younger children in the household.

If you have any questions regarding Home Education, please contact [Joe Kolosky](#) with the NDDPI at (701) 328-2755 or [Theresa Deckert](#) with the NDHSA at (701) 662-6347.