# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOME EDUCATION

**Q. In the Northern Territory, is home education the same as distance education?**

A. No. Home education is distinctly different to distance education where a distance education school is responsible for the planning, delivery, assessment and reporting of the child’s learning program.

Home education requires parents to accept responsibility for planning, teaching, assessing, recording and evaluating a teaching and learning plan for each child. Parents must apply for, and be granted approval from, the Department of Education to home educate.

For further information on enrolment with a distant education school, refer to the [Enrolment in Distance Education Schools guidelines](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/enrolment).

**Q. If I enrol my child in an online or distance education course with an education provider, do I still need to apply for approval to home educate?**

A. Yes. Parents must submit an application outlining the home education program, which may include enrolment in an online or distance education course that supports the delivery of the curriculum. It is unlikely that home education will be approved if the student’s sole source of education is an online or distance education course.

**Q. How and when do I apply for home education approval?**

A. Parents who are applying to home educate in the Northern Territory for the first time should refer to the [New Home Education Application guidelines](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/home-education) for full details of the application process.

Parents must complete the Home Education Application Form and provide information and documentation to support the application. Applications are accepted twice a year.

Semester 1: Applications should be submitted in November /December and will close in January.

Semester 2: Applications should be submitted in May /June and will close early July.

Parents must ensure that their child remains enrolled at, and attends, a government or non-government school until approval to home educate is granted.

**Q. Do I have to provide details of the curriculum and teaching and learning plan?**

A. Yes. Parents are responsible for providing documentation of a home education program which, in the opinion of the department, will provide quality education that supports and develops the child’s ability to think creatively, innovate, solve problems and engage with new disciplines.

Parents are encouraged to refer to the [Home Education Curriculum and Teaching and Learning Requirements Information Sheet](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/homework) for guidance on developing the home education program for their child/ren.

The [Home Education Application Form](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/home-education) also guides parents through the development of a teaching and learning plan.

**Q. How long does the approval to home educate last?**

A. Approval to home educate is from the date of the approval until 31 December of that year. The *Education Act* requires parents to apply annually for approval to home education.

**Q. If my child continues to be taught at home, will he/she be eligible for a Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET)?**

A. No, your child will receive no accreditation for home education. If you require certification for future employers, secondary, tertiary or vocational studies, your child must satisfactorily complete a program in a school offering Northern Territory Board of Studies Approved Courses of Study.

**Q. Am I eligible for financial assistance from the Department of Education?**

A. No. However, parents who have an approval to home educate from the department are entitled to the NT Government’s Back to School Payment Scheme and the Sports Voucher Scheme.

The Home Education Officer will provide information on how to access these schemes to parents who have received approval to home educate.

**Q. Do I need formal teacher training or teaching experience to be a home educator?**

A. Parents do not need formal teacher training or teaching experience to be home educators. However, a capacity to plan and provide for the educational needs of the child must be demonstrated.

Parents may choose to employ a teacher to develop and deliver all or part of the teaching and learning plan. The *Education Act* requires any teacher (with exception of the parent) conducting the home education to be registered with the [Northern Territory Teacher Registration Board](http://www.trb.nt.gov.au/).

Additionally, where a teacher, tutor or instructor is employed to deliver all or part of a teaching and learning plan or specific learning area, parents must observe the requirements of the [*Northern Territory Care and Protection of Children Act*](http://notes.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislat/legislat.nsf/d989974724db65b1482561cf0017cbd2/f0092f33f0f9bf2b69257fb200038a9b?OpenDocument) by ensuring that the person holds a current [Working with Children Clearance](https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/apply-for-a-working-with-children-clearance).

**Q. Am I able to obtain copies of Australian Curriculum documents and related support and resource documents?**

A. Full details of the Australian Curriculum for all year levels are available at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>.

The department recommends that parents use the [Australian Curriculum](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/) to find the curriculum and achievement standards appropriate for their child’s year level to develop their child’s home education program.

**Q. Can a decision by the department to decline my application or cancel my home education be reviewed?**

A. Yes. An applicant who feels aggrieved by a determination not to approve an application, or to cancel a home education approval, may request a review of that determination. The request must be placed in writing within 30 days of notification to decline an application or cancel a home education approval. The applicant must clearly outline the grounds on which they consider the decision should be reviewed.

Refer to the [Declined or Cancelled Home Education guidelines](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/home-education) for further information.

**Q. Can I apply to home educate my child/ren while traveling?**

A. No. Parents must be able to facilitate a home inspection in Term 3 of the school year as a condition of being approved for home education. This is a legal requirement as per Section 47 of the *Education Act*. For this reason home education is not a suitable alternative for traveling families.

If travel is planned for less than one Semester, parents should discuss how they may accommodate the educational needs of the child with their school.

If travel is for one Semester or more, parents may apply to enrol their child in a Northern Territory [Distance Education School](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/enrolment).

**Q. Can my child be approved for part-time home education and enrolment in school?**

A. Part time school enrolment and part time home education is only available to senior secondary students who enrol in subjects with the Northern Territory School of Distance Education.

To be enrolled as a part time student, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. undertaking senior secondary studies (Years 10, 11 or 12); and
2. a minimum of 2 years of approved home education directly preceding the application to enrol; and
3. a teaching and learning program plan that details the distance education school subject/s to be undertaken and a current Home Education Approval Notice.

Refer to the [Enrolment in Distance Education Schools guidelines](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/enrolment) for further information.

**Q. May I return my child to a government or non-government school at any time?**

A. Yes. Home education does not prevent you from seeking entry, or re-entry, for your child to a government or non-government school. Normal enrolment procedures apply.

**Q. What is compulsory school age?**

A. Children who turn six years of age on or before 30 June of the school year are of compulsory school age and must be enrolled in a school or participating in an approved home education program.

Once a student has completed Year 10 the child must participate in an eligible option until they reach 17 years of age. An eligible option is approved education or training or, provided the student is 15 years or over, paid employment or a combination of the two.

**Q. If I need more information or an application form, whom should I contact?**

A. Information can be accessed through the [Department of Education website](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/home-education) or by contacting the Home Education Officer on any of the details below.

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 School Support Services

 Department of Education

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