



## Evaluation Modalities for Homeschooled Children

### 1. CONTEXT

New regulations for homeschooling came into effect in July 2018 and were most recently amended in July 2021. The *Homeschooling Regulation* indicates the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, school boards and parents.

This document addresses the evaluation modalities in compliance with the *Homeschooling Regulation* and certification of studies.

### 2. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

School boards are required to be in compliance with the following legal regulatory frameworks:

- *Quebec Education Act*
- *Basic School Regulations*
- *Homeschooling Regulations*

### 3. OBJECTIVE

Inform parents of the evaluation modalities to be followed when they wish to register their child for:

- a) A mandatory examination imposed by the Ministry of Education (compulsory and uniform exams), as stipulated under sections 23 and 23.1 of the *Homeschooling Regulation*.
- b) A secondary 4 or 5 school board evaluation for their child to acquire credits toward graduation, meeting all certification of studies requirements stipulated by the Ministry of Education and as stipulated under sections 23 and 23.1 of the *Homeschooling Regulation*.
- c) An optional end-of-cycle internal evaluation that the school board mandates its schools to do, only if such evaluations are mandated by the school board, as stipulated under section 23 (2) of the *Homeschooling Regulation*.

### 4. EVALUATION MODALITIES

Different types and categories of evaluation are available to homeschooled children:

- Mandatory ministry examinations (compulsory and uniform content examinations)
- Secondary 4 and 5 school board local evaluations: mandatory for a child who wants to obtain a secondary school diploma, optional for a child who doesn't want to obtain a secondary school diploma
- Optional school board internal end-of-cycle evaluations

It is the parents' responsibility to respect the evaluation registration procedures and deadlines as stipulated by their associated school board. The registration period deadline for the May-June examination session is March 15.

- All examinations are to be done in person, at the date, time and location specified by the school board. Parents are responsible for organizing their child's transportation and covering the expenses resulting from it.
- For a child to be allowed using adaptations during examinations, parents must have requested it to the school board at least three months prior to the examination date, using the form entitled "Formulaire de demande d'adaptation des conditions de passation d'une épreuve ministérielle", and the school board must have authorized it. If the use of a computer is necessary, only CQSB's computers will be used. No personal electronic devices can be used during examinations, and only resources (devices, softwares, etc.) available in CQSB schools will be made available.
- If a child does not show up for an examination, the mention ABS (absent) will be attributed and the Direction de l'enseignement à la maison (DEM) will receive official notification of this information if it pertains to a mandatory ministry exam.
- Evaluations will only take place during one of the three yearly examination sessions:
  - May/June
  - July/August (Uniform examinations only)
  - January (Uniform examinations only)

Should a homeschooled child be required to retake an examination they may register to one of the above-mentioned examination sessions.

#### 4.1 MINISTRY EXAMINATIONS

As per stipulated in the *Homeschooling Regulation* (Article 15.1) **all homeschooled children must write ministry examinations**, respecting the official examination schedules published by the Ministry of Education each year:

- Horaire de la session d'examen du Ministère de l'Éducation – Épreuves obligatoires
- Horaire de la session d'examen et de la reprise d'épreuves du Ministère de l'Éducation – Épreuves uniques

##### **Ministry Compulsory Examinations**

Compulsory examinations are summative examinations used to evaluate learning in certain subjects that are not required for the certification of studies. The Ministry of Education is responsible for developing compulsory examinations and educational institutions administer them to students under uniform conditions, on a date specified in the official calendar.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Administrative Guide – 2015 Edition : Certification of Studies and Management of Ministerial Examinations, Chapter 4, Section 4.1

<b>Ministry Compulsory Examinations</b>	
<b>Grade level</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Grade 6	English Language Arts
Grade 6	Mathematics
Secondary 2	Français langue d'enseignement <i>Écriture</i>

### Parents' Responsibility

Parents must register with their associated school board for their child to write a compulsory examination, respecting the registration procedures and deadline specified by their associated school board. Providing a copy of the child's Learning Project to the school board is greatly appreciated. The Learning Project will allow the school board to verify that the child is in the correct level and is writing the appropriate examination.

### School Board's Responsibility

Marks obtained by homeschooled children on Compulsory examinations will be communicated to parents in a written form.

### **Ministry Uniform Examinations**

Uniform examinations are summative examinations used to evaluate learning in subjects that are compulsory for the certification of studies. The Ministry of Education is responsible for developing uniform examinations and educational institutions administer them to students under uniform conditions, on a date specified in the official calendar.<sup>2</sup>

The weighting of a uniform examination corresponds to 100 % of the child's final mark.

<b>Ministry Uniform Examinations</b>	
<b>Grade level</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Secondary 4	Mathematics - <i>Reasoning</i>
Secondary 4	Science - <i>Theory</i>
Secondary 4	History of Québec and Canada
Secondary 5	English Language Arts - <i>Reading</i>
Secondary 5	English Language Arts – <i>Production Preparation and Production Writing</i>
Secondary 5	French Second Language: BASE and ENRICHI <i>Compréhension écrite</i>
Secondary 5	French Second Language: BASE and ENRICHI <i>Production écrite</i>
Secondary 5	French Second Language: BASE <i>Interaction orale</i>
Secondary 5	Français langue d'enseignement <i>Écriture</i>

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

### Parents' Responsibility

- Parents must register with their associated school board for their child to write a uniform examination, respecting the registration procedures and deadline specified by their associated school board.
  - For a child who wants to obtain a secondary school diploma: The child's Learning Project must be sent to the associated school board along with the exam registration request.
  - For a child who doesn't want to obtain a secondary school diploma: Although it's not mandatory for parents to provide the school board with the child's Learning Project, it's greatly appreciated. The Learning Project will allow the school board to verify that the child is in the correct level and is writing the appropriate examination.

### School Board's Responsibility

Marks obtained by homeschooled children on uniform examinations will be transmitted to the Ministry of Education and will appear on the child's ministerial Achievement Record. The Ministry of Education is responsible for sending parents the child's Achievement Record. It is normally done by the end of August.

## **4.2 SECONDARY 4 AND 5 SCHOOL BOARD LOCAL EVALUATIONS**

The Ministry of Education awards a Secondary School Diploma to students who have accumulated 54 credits at the Secondary 4 and 5 level, 20 of which must be recognized as Secondary 5 credits and include the following compulsory courses:

- ✓ Secondary 4 Mathematics (*CST*: 4 credits or *SN*: 6 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 4 Science & Technology /Applied Science & Technology (4/6 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 4 History of Québec and Canada (4 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 4 Art (2 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 5 Ethics & Religious Culture or Physical Education and Health (2 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 5 English, Language of Instruction (6 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 5 French, Second Language (*BASE*: 4 credits or *ENRICH*: 6 credits)
- ✓ Secondary 4 and 5 elective courses<sup>3</sup> (for the obtention of the required 54 credits)

In order to accumulate all credits required to obtain a secondary school diploma, students will need to complete evaluation in subjects and subject competencies in addition to those previously mentioned under the section 4.1 *Ministry Examinations*. These additional subject and competency evaluations will be administered by school boards in the form of Local Examinations and Local Evaluations with a weighting of 100 % of the child's final grade. The school board will only provide an evaluation for optional courses that are offered in its schools.

The only evaluations recognized by the nine English school boards (in Québec) are the ones directly administered to homeschooled children by each respective school board. No third-party

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<sup>3</sup> Please contact your associated school board to ensure that they are offering and evaluating the elective courses you may chose for your child. Only elective courses offered by your associated school board will be evaluated.

marks or evidence of learning will be accepted by school boards, whether coming from private schools or private Québec-certified teachers. The mark obtained on a final school board evaluation will be the only one taken into consideration for transmission of results to the Ministry of Education.

#### Parents' Responsibility

Parents must register with their associated school board for their child to write the above-mentioned examinations and evaluations, respecting the registration procedures and deadline specified by their associated school board. The child's Learning Project must be sent to the associated school board along with the examination registration request.

#### School Board's Responsibility

Marks obtained by homeschooled children in secondary 4 and 5 will be transmitted to the Ministry of Education and will appear on the child's ministerial Achievement Record. The Ministry of Education is responsible for sending parents the child's Achievement Record. It is normally done by the end of August.

### **4.3 OPTIONAL SCHOOL BOARD INTERNAL END-OF-CYCLE EXAMINATIONS**

Some school boards may mandate, or not, examinations to their school population. These end-of-cycle examinations differ from one school board to another. If they wish, homeschooled children can write the evaluations mandated by their associated school board, as stated in Article 23 (2) of the *Homeschooling Regulation*, respecting the examination calendar produced by the school board.

#### Parents' Responsibility

Parents must register with their associated school board for their child to write a school board internal end-of-cycle examination, respecting the registration procedures and deadline specified by their associated school board. Providing a copy of the child's Learning Project to the school board is greatly appreciated. The Learning Project will allow the school board to verify that the child is in the correct level and is writing the appropriate examination.

#### School Board's Responsibility

Marks obtained by homeschooled children on school board internal end-of-cycle examinations will be communicated to parents in a written format.

## **5. MINISTRY EXAMINATIONS PREPARATION SESSIONS**

There are two types of preparation sessions offered by school boards to prepare homeschooled students for ministry examinations. These sessions are optional.

## 5.1 FAMILIARIZATION SESSIONS

When children have been registered with their associated school board for a ministry examination, they are entitled to familiarize themselves with previous versions of the examination they registered for.

Those optional sessions are organized by their associated school board according to a precise schedule that will be shared with parents when they register their child for a ministry examination. Parents will have to register their child to the familiarization sessions according to the school board procedure.

Parents are not allowed to consult previous versions of ministry examinations. They can consult the *Guides for Parents* published by the Ministry of Education, “which are designed to inform parents about the June [...] ministerial examinations, present the structure of the exams and the administration procedures, as well as sample documents from past exams.”<sup>4</sup> These guides are available on the Ministry of Education website: <http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/accueil/>.

Only homeschooled children have access to approved ministry examinations in order to familiarize themselves with the format of the exam, so they know what to expect. Please note the following points:

- Only homeschooled children will be granted access to the Familiarization session room.
- They will be asked to leave all of their personal belongings (bags, coats, electronic devices including cell phones, watches, headphones, etc.) outside of the Familiarization session room.
- They are not allowed to take notes or to leave with an examination document.
- They can go through the documents and ask questions regarding the format of the exam to the supervisor.
- The supervisor will not correct any work the student would do during this session or teach any concept that the student would not understand.

## 5.2 PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Students who have registered for ministerial examinations with their associated school board will have access to optional preparatory activities. Parents who will register their child for a ministerial examination will receive information about the available preparatory activities.

Please note that there are no preparatory activities for non-ministerial evaluations.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/contenus-communs/parents-and-guardians/evaluation-of-learning-and-ministerial-examinations/guides-parents/>

## EVALUATION OVERVIEW

Ministry examinations <b>MANDATORY</b>		School Board's Local Evaluations Secondary 4 and 5		School Board Internal End-of-Cycle Exams <b>OPTIONAL</b>
Compulsory Exam	Uniform Exam	<b>MANDATORY to obtain a secondary school diploma</b>	<b>Credits to accumulate amongst the following for children who want a secondary school diploma</b> <b>OPTIONAL for children who don't want a secondary school diploma</b>	
Grade 6 <b>English Language Arts</b>				<i>Refer to your associated school board to know what examinations are available</i>
Grade 6 <b>Mathematics</b>				
	Secondary 4 <b>Mathematics</b> <i>Reasoning</i>	Secondary 4 <b>Mathematics</b> <i>Situational Problem</i>		
	Secondary 4 <b>Science</b> <i>Theory</i>	Secondary 4 <b>Science</b> <i>Practical</i>		
	Secondary 4 <b>History of Qc &amp; Canada</b>			
		Secondary 4 <b>Arts Education</b>		
			Secondary 4 <b>English Language Arts</b> <i>Reading and Production Writing and Talk</i>	
			Secondary 4 <b>French Second Language</b> <b>BASE + ENRICH</b> <i>Compréhension écrite and Production écrite and Interaction orale</i>	
			Secondary 4 <b>Physical Education &amp; Health</b>	
			Secondary 4 <b>Ethics &amp; Religious Culture</b>	
			Secondary 4 <b>Elective Subjects:</b> <i>Check what's available with your associated school board</i>	

Ministry examinations <b>MANDATORY</b>		School Board's Local Evaluations Secondary 4 and 5		School Board Internal End-of-Cycle Exams <b>OPTIONAL</b>
Compulsory Exam	Uniform Exam	<b>MANDATORY to obtain a secondary school diploma</b>	<b>Credits to accumulate amongst the following for children who want a secondary school diploma</b> <b>OPTIONAL for children who don't want a secondary school diploma</b>	
	Secondary 5 <b>English Language Arts Reading</b>	Secondary 5 <b>English Language Arts Talk</b>		
	Secondary 5 <b>English Language Arts Production Preparation and Production Writing</b>			
	Secondary 5 <b>French Second Language BASE + ENRICHI</b> Compréhension écrite			
	Secondary 5 <b>French Second Language BASE + ENRICHI</b> Production écrite			
	Secondary 5 <b>French Second Language BASE</b> Interaction orale	Secondary 5 <b>French Second Language ENRICHI</b> Interaction orale		
			Secondary 5 <b>Mathematics</b> <i>Reasoning and Situational Problem</i>	
			Secondary 5 <b>Financial Education</b>	
			Secondary 5 <b>Contemporary World</b>	
		Secondary 5 <b>Physical Education &amp; Health*</b>		
		Secondary 5 <b>Ethics &amp; Religious Culture*</b>		
			Secondary 5 <b>Arts Education</b>	
			Secondary 5 <b>Elective Subjects:</b> <i>Check what's available with your associated school board</i>	

\* Credits associated to either one of these courses are mandatory for obtaining a secondary school diploma.