



NEWS RELEASE
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AQED Sets the Record Straight on Who Can Homeschool in Quebec

The organization cuts through conflicting information

Montreal, QC, August 27th, 2020 – The non-profit homeschooling organization, *Association Québécoise pour l'éducation à domicile* (AQED) addresses some of the misconceptions surrounding homeschooling. Put plainly: everybody in Quebec is eligible to homeschool their child.

The distinction must be made between 'homeschooling' and 'distance learning.' In light of the recent surge in popularity of the topic, the terms have inadvertently been interchanged in some reports and articles.

'Distance learning' or 'online learning' in the context of the current discussion, is the service provided by school boards (SB) or *Centres de services scolaire* (CSS), to deliver education to students via online and other supporting measures, by a teacher affiliated with the school board/CSS. It is this service for which the Ministry of Education requires a doctor's note.

With 'homeschooling,' the term used in the law and by the *Direction de l'enseignement à la maison* (DEM)—the arm of the Quebec Ministry of Education that deals with homeschooling—parents take on the entire responsibility of their child's education, replacing full-time school attendance.

Noemi Berlus, director of AQED says, "It is every parent's right to homeschool. You do not need permission from the ministry or school board, but you must register with the DEM and *inform* your school board within 10 days after you withdraw your child to be in compliance with the law. You can do this at any time during the school year." She continues, "Because of conflicting information floating around, some people mistakenly think that they require permission or a doctor's note to homeschool and are genuinely surprised when they find out they do not."

Says Berlus, "There are 72 school boards in Quebec. With the regulations changing multiple times over the past few years and especially since 2018, some school boards may not be up to date with the latest laws. AQED is here to support new and existing families in their homeschooling journey."

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The date of July 1st has been cited as being the deadline to register, but applies only to returning families that homeschooled their children in the previous year, and not to families new to homeschooling.

For more information, visit the AQED FAQ page <https://www.aqed.qc.ca/en/support/faq>

and for real-time discussion, the AQED Facebook groups, in both English and French.

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AQED is a non-profit, secular organization that brings together more than 1,500 families who educate more than 3,500 children in Québec. It provides information and support to Québec parents who choose to homeschool. It represents its members before the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur, school service centres, and other organizations related to youth and education. It supports and defends the rights of parents to educate their children according to the pedagogical method they prefer, while protecting the child's right to a healthy and balanced education.

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