



NovaBridge School

Ontario Canada | BSID# 887376 | Grades 1-8

FREE GUIDE

The Ontario

Parent's Guide

to Homeschooling Your Child

Legally and Confidently

Your rights, your responsibilities,

and how to give your child a structured

Ontario education from home.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- ✓ Ontario law on homeschooling: what it actually says
- ✓ Your rights and legal responsibilities as a homeschooling parent
- ✓ What the Ontario curriculum requires at each grade level
- ✓ The difference between unassisted homeschooling and a registered school
- ✓ A checklist to help you choose the right approach for your family

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A NOTE TO YOU

You Are Not Doing Anything Wrong

If you are reading this guide, you are already asking the right questions. You want the best for your child. You want structure, quality, and the confidence that what you are doing at home meets Ontario standards. This guide gives you exactly that.

Homeschooling in Ontario is legal. It is a recognized choice. And when done well, it produces students who are academically strong, confident, and well-prepared for whatever comes next. But it requires clarity about your rights, your responsibilities, and the options available to you.

Three things this guide will do for you:

- Remove the confusion around Ontario homeschooling law so you know exactly where you stand.
- Show you what the Ontario curriculum requires at each grade level from 1 to 8.
- Help you decide whether unassisted homeschooling or a registered online school is the right fit for your family.

~60,000

homeschooled students in Ontario
(est. 2024)

Legal

in all provinces and territories

0

government approval required to
begin

NovaBridge School is a registered Ontario school (BSID# 887376) offering the complete Ontario curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 8, fully online. We support homeschooling families with two options: full teacher-supported enrollment, and a homeschooling mode where parents access the curriculum directly. Both are explained in this guide.



SECTION 1

What Ontario Law Actually Says About Homeschooling

Many parents feel uncertain about the legal side of homeschooling. The law is actually straightforward. Here is what you need to know.

The Education Act (Ontario)

Under the Ontario Education Act, parents are required to ensure their children receive "satisfactory instruction at home or elsewhere." This means the law recognizes home-based education as a legal alternative to school attendance.

You are not required to notify the school board. You are not required to follow the Ontario curriculum. You are not required to have teacher certification. The obligation is simply that your child receives adequate instruction.

What the Law Requires vs What It Does Not Require

REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Your child receives adequate instruction. ✓ Your child is of compulsory school age (6 to 18 in Ontario). ✓ You take responsibility for their learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Notifying the school board. ✗ Following the Ontario curriculum exactly. ✗ Having teacher certification. ✗ Government approval or inspection. ✗ Standardized testing.

One Important Nuance

While the law does not require you to follow the Ontario curriculum, it does matter if your child ever returns to the Ontario school system. Schools will assess where your child fits based on their actual knowledge and skills, not their age. A child who has followed the Ontario curriculum, even at home, transitions back into the system with far less disruption.



SECTION 2

Your Responsibilities as a Homeschooling Parent

Legal freedom does not mean no responsibility. As the parent, you take on the role that a school would otherwise fill. Here is what that looks like in practice.

Curriculum Planning

You decide what your child learns and when. If you follow the Ontario curriculum, this is already structured for you. If you build your own, you are responsible for ensuring it is comprehensive and age-appropriate.

Instruction

You are your child's primary teacher unless you enroll them in a school or program that provides teacher support. This requires time, patience, and consistent daily effort.

Assessment and Feedback

You need to know how your child is progressing. Regular review of their work, informal testing, and honest assessment of gaps are your responsibility.

Record Keeping

Even though Ontario law does not require formal record keeping, it is strongly advisable to maintain samples of your child's work, reading lists, and learning milestones. This documentation is valuable if your child re-enters the school system.

Socialization and Enrichment

School provides more than academics. Sports, arts, friendships, and extracurricular activities matter for your child's development. As a homeschooling parent, you need to actively build these opportunities into your child's life.

Your Own Ongoing Learning

Curriculum standards change. New resources emerge. Staying informed about what Ontario schools are teaching at each grade level ensures your child stays on track even outside the traditional system.



The Honest Truth About Going It Alone

Unassisted homeschooling works well for some families and it is genuinely challenging for others. The parents who do it successfully are organized, consistent, and willing to invest significant daily time. If you are not sure you have the time or confidence to cover all subjects at the right level, a registered online school removes that pressure without removing your flexibility.



SECTION 3

What the Ontario Curriculum Requires at Each Grade

Whether you follow it exactly or use it as a benchmark, the Ontario curriculum is the clearest standard available for measuring your child's progress. Here is what is covered at each level from Grade 1 to Grade 8.

	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Arts	Health & Phys. Ed.
Grade	Language	Math	Science	Social Studies		
Grades 1-2 Ages 6-7	Reading foundations, phonics, printing, basic sentences.	Addition, subtraction to 100, counting, shapes.	Plants, animals, daily and seasonal changes.	Family, school, community, local geography.		
Grade 3 Age 8	Paragraph writing, grammar, reading fluency. EQAO year.	Multiplication/division intro, fractions, measurement.	Soils, growth and changes, strong and stable structures.	Communities in Canada and around the world.		
Grades 4-5 Ages 9-10	Multi-paragraph writing, research skills, media literacy.	Long multiplication/division, decimals, geometry, data.	Habitats, pulleys and gears, light and sound.	Ontario communities, Indigenous peoples, physical geography.		
Grade 6 Age 11	Essay writing, critical reading, persuasive text. EQAO year.	Fractions, ratios, algebra introduction, data management.	Biodiversity, electricity, flight.	Canada's relationship with the world, government basics.		
Grades 7-8 Ages 12-13	Literary analysis, research essays, media criticism.	Integers, linear equations, geometry proofs, statistics.	Pure substances, optics, cells, form and function.	Canadian history: colonization to confederation, world geography.		

Arts and Health/Physical Education run across all grades and are not shown above for space. Both are required components of the Ontario curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 8.



SECTION 4

Unassisted Homeschooling vs a Registered Online School

This is the decision most Ontario homeschooling parents face. Both are valid. Both have trade-offs. Here is an honest comparison so you can decide with full information.

	Unassisted Homeschooling	Registered Ontario Online School
Curriculum	Your choice. No formal requirement to follow Ontario standards.	Full Ontario curriculum, delivered by qualified teachers.
Teacher Support	None unless you hire privately.	Dedicated teacher monitors progress, answers questions, and reviews work.
Official School Record	No. Learning is not formally documented in the Ontario system.	Yes. Your child receives an official Ontario school record.
Flexibility	Complete. You set all schedules and pace.	High. Self-paced and asynchronous. Your family controls the schedule.
Cost	Varies. Curriculum materials, resources, and private tutors can add up.	Structured annual tuition. Predictable cost with installment options.
Re-entry to Traditional School	Requires intake assessment. No official record to transfer.	Smooth. Official Ontario record transfers directly.
EQAO Preparation	Your responsibility to prepare.	Teacher prepares and supports your child.
Parental Time Required	High. You are the primary teacher for all subjects.	Lower. Teacher handles subject delivery and assessment.
Extracurricular Options	You source independently.	French, Arabic, Math enrichment, spelling, chess, and more available.

There Is No Wrong Answer Here

Some families thrive with full independence and build remarkable homeschool programs on their own. Others find that having a qualified teacher, structured curriculum, and official documentation removes significant stress and produces better outcomes for their child. The checklist in Section 6 will help you decide which fits your family.



SECTION 5

How NovaBridge Supports Homeschooling Families

NovaBridge School offers two distinct enrollment modes for families who want the Ontario curriculum without the traditional school setting.

Full Enrollment Mode

TEACHER-SUPPORTED

Starting at CAD 3,300 per year

Your child follows the complete Ontario curriculum with full teacher support. This is our primary program for families who want an official Ontario school experience at home.

- Ontario-certified curriculum delivered through an online learning platform.
- A qualified teacher monitors your child's progress chapter by chapter.
- Teacher interaction at key points: questions, chapter reviews, and assessments.
- Official Ontario school record maintained from day one.
- Regular progress reports sent to parents.
- Access to French, Arabic, and extracurricular programs.
- Flexible 4-installment payment plan at 0% interest.

Homeschooling Mode

CURRICULUM ACCESS

Starting at CAD 2,000 per year

You access the NovaBridge Ontario curriculum directly and teach your child yourself. This mode gives you a structured, curriculum-aligned resource without full teacher support.

- Full access to the Ontario curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 8.
- Self-directed learning materials aligned to Ontario standards.
- You control all scheduling and pacing.
- No teacher monitoring included, but curriculum structure is provided.
- Lower cost entry point for families confident in independent delivery.
- Option to upgrade to Full Enrollment at any time.



Also Available at NovaBridge

- Gifted and IEP Program for children with ADHD, dyslexia, or other learning differences.
- After-school tutoring at CAD 55/hr.
- Arabic, French, Chess, Quran, and Skills Development extracurricular programs.
- Financial aid and scholarship options available.



SECTION 6

Your Decision Checklist: Which Approach Fits Your Family?

Answer each question honestly. The pattern of your answers will point you clearly toward the right approach for your child and your family.

1 Do you have 4 to 6 hours per day available to teach your child directly?

YES:

Yes: unassisted homeschooling is feasible.

NO:

No: teacher-supported enrollment fits better.

2

Are you confident you can deliver all six Ontario curriculum subjects at your child's level?

YES:

Yes: consider curriculum access mode.

NO:

No: full enrollment gives you a qualified teacher for every subject.

3

Does your child need an official Ontario school record for future school transitions?

YES:

Yes: only a registered school provides this.

NO:

No: unassisted homeschooling remains an option.

4

Does your child have specific learning needs (ADHD, dyslexia, giftedness)?

YES:

Yes: NovaBridge's IEP program provides individualized support.

NO:

No: either mode applies.

5

Do you want your child to have a qualified teacher reviewing their work?

YES:

Yes: full enrollment mode.

NO:

No: homeschooling mode or unassisted homeschooling.

6

Is having a predictable structured curriculum important to you?

YES:

Yes: NovaBridge curriculum access or full enrollment.

NO:

No: unassisted homeschooling with self-selected resources works.



7

Is cost a primary constraint?

YES:

Yes: homeschooling mode at CAD 2,000/year is the lowest structured option.

NO:

No: full enrollment at CAD 3,300/year provides the most comprehensive support.



SECTION 7

Your Homeschooling Action Checklist

Use this checklist as your practical starting point. Work through each item in order. You do not need to complete everything before you begin. Start with the first five and build from there.

Getting Started

- Confirm your child's current grade level based on their age.
- Pull the Ontario curriculum expectations for that grade from the Ministry of Education website.
- Assess your child's current skills against those expectations honestly.
- Identify specific subject areas where your child is ahead, on track, or needs support.
- Decide between unassisted homeschooling, curriculum access mode, or full enrollment mode.

Setting Up Your Learning Environment

- Choose a dedicated learning space in your home free from distraction.
- Set a consistent daily schedule your child knows and expects.
- Source your curriculum materials (or enroll in a program that provides them).
- Build in breaks, physical activity, and creative time every day.
- Establish a weekly review routine to assess progress.

If You Enroll in a Registered Ontario School

- Complete the enrollment form at novabridgeschool.com/enrollment.
- Submit your child's current school records if transferring.
- Set up your parent portal access to monitor progress.
- Introduce your child to their teacher and ask any questions upfront.
- Review the academic calendar and plan your family schedule around it.

Ongoing Through the Year

- Review your child's progress report each term and discuss it with their teacher.
- Adjust pacing if your child is moving ahead or needs more time.
- Add extracurricular programs as your child's interests and needs develop.
- Keep a simple portfolio of your child's best work each month.



- Connect with other homeschooling families for peer interaction and shared support.



Start With Confidence. Start With NovaBridge.

Whether you want full teacher support or just the curriculum, NovaBridge gives your child a certified Ontario education on your family's terms.

Two ways to get started today:

Full Enrollment

Teacher-supported. Official school record.
From CAD 3,300/yr.

Homeschooling Mode

Curriculum access. Parent-led. From CAD
2,000/yr.

novabridgeschool.com/enrollment

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This guide was prepared by NovaBridge School. All legal and curriculum information is based on Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines current as of 2026. This guide does not constitute legal advice.