Welcome to Home Learning
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Overview

SelfDesign Home Learning offers an alternative to the SelfDesign Learning Community K-12 online learning program by providing the opportunity for your child to learn independently at home.

It's the most flexible option if you wish to take on the responsibility for your child's education and you are not concerned with B.C. Ministry of Education requirements.

If you'd like to homeschool your child, you are required to register your child in a recognized school as per the provincial School Act.

The SelfDesign Home Learning program differs from our regular K-12 program in the following ways:

- Families do not work with an educator.
- Parents take responsibility for the learning program and do not report to the school.
- Learners' work is not assessed.
- Learners do not earn credit for courses in grades 10 to 12, nor graduate and earn a high-school diploma.

If at any time you would like to explore enrolling your child in our K - 12 program at SelfDesign Learning Community, please visit our website.

If you need further clarification on homeschooling, please see this Ministry of Education web page.
Your contact for Home Learning is Lori Bender. She can be reached at homelearning@selfdesign.org.

Please keep your contact information current with us, including:
- Your email address
- Phone number(s)
- Residence address.

Please notify us if your child changes schools or if you leave B.C.

Check your junk or spam email (and check under the Promotions tab if you have Gmail) from time to time in case our messages or newsletters end up there. If an email from SelfDesign does go into spam, please mark it “not spam”.

Contact us if you have questions or concerns, or if you believe that you should have heard from us and have not.

*Note: Although you don’t have to report to us about your educational program, it is important for us to know how to reach you.*
3 Our Services

- Please note that only certain resource subscriptions are available for families registered in the SelfDesign Home Learning program.

- If requested, SelfDesign will provide school photo IDs. These may be especially useful for teens wishing to access things like student transportation fares or tickets to events. Contact homelearning@selfdesign.org

- If you plan to travel by ferry on an educational field trip – even if the trip just involves your family – we can provide you with a letter indicating that the travel is for educational purposes and requesting discounted fares for the learners under the B.C. Resident Assistance Program. On some shorter routes, learners may travel for free. Please request the letter as far in advance of the travel date as you can. If you should encounter Ferries personnel who are not familiar with how this works, please let us know.

- Learners registered in the Home Learning program who are considered to be in grades 4 and 7 are welcome (but not required) to participate in provincial Foundation Skills Assessment testing. If you are interested, please contact us before October 1.

4 Re-registration

Re-registration in future years is not automatic. Near the end of each school year, we will send you information concerning re-registration for the following school year. Like enrolled learners, B.C. homeschoolers are legally required to be registered with a school in B.C. until they are 16 years of age.
5 Personal Education Numbers

Legal registration under Section 13 of the School Act (i.e., homeschooling registration) means that your child has a Personal Education Number – and their Personal Education Numbers are included in the Home Learning registration confirmation email.

If your child is in kindergarten or is new to B.C., the Ministry of Education will assign a Personal Education Number. If your child is new to SelfDesign but has previously been associated with a K-12 school in B.C. (even as a preschooler within a StrongStart program), we will have access to their Personal Education Number in the Ministry database.

The same Personal Education Number follows your child throughout their registration or enrolment with schools in B.C. and is considered private information. As a parent or guardian, you are entitled to have it, but you are not required to give it to anyone outside the B.C. K-12 or post-secondary educational systems – and you can decline to give it to post-secondary institutions.

If your child’s Home Learning ID card doesn’t suffice for a needed purpose, we will be happy to write a letter on your behalf. Please note: a Personal Education Number cannot be used as proof that your child is currently registered or homeschooled.
Grade 10–12 opportunities

Registered homeschoolers can now take grade 10-12 online learning courses from a different school without giving up your homeschooling status. The Ministry of Education sometimes refers to this as “cross registration/enrolment.” Homeschoolers face more restrictions on this than learners enrolled in online learning programs.

- This does not work if the courses are taken at a “bricks-and-mortar” school or through a public school district’s continuing education program.
- It does not work if the courses are for Grade 9 or lower. In either of these cases, we have to release the learner to the other school.

Taking online learning courses while homeschooling is optional. You can find online learning courses offered in the public system at learnnowbc.ca/Courses/ and a list of independent online learning schools at the government of BC website.

Home Learning and post-secondary admission

Registered homeschoolers do not receive high school diplomas unless they manage to earn enough credits through cross registration/enrolment. To address some of the concerns that might arise, the SelfDesign Home Learning program has compiled several strategies that have worked for learners who successfully accessed post-secondary education without a high school diploma. There are no guarantees, but the information can be a place to start. More information will be made available throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact homelearning@selfdesign.org