

July 15, 2021

Dear Ms. Arnall,

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education and Nicole Williams, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Education, forwarded your emails regarding home education in Grande Prairie School Division and Rocky View School Division for the 2021/22 school year. As Assistant Deputy Minister, Program and System Support Division, Alberta Education, I am pleased to respond.

The Government of Alberta followed through on a platform commitment by passing the *Choice in Education Act* in June 2020. The act amends the *Education Act* to affirm that parents have the right to choose the kind of education they feel is best for their children. The *Choice in Education Act* is intended to strengthen Alberta's successful tradition of education choice, which includes public and separate schools, francophone schools, charter schools, independent (private) schools, home education and early childhood education.

A parent choosing a home education program that is supervised by a school authority must find an associate board or associate private school that is willing to take on that responsibility and supervise the home education program. However, it is important to note that there are no provisions in the *Education Act* or in the *Home Education Regulation* that require school authorities in Alberta to agree to supervise home education programs, even for their resident students. School authorities that have made the choice to supervise home education programs may, for various reasons, decide to not supervise a particular home education program.

For the situations you have described in Grande Prairie School Division and Rocky View School Division, I would encourage the parents to address their concerns directly with the school and school authority, and to consider the other options that are available to them.

Sincerely,
Kindy Joseph
Assistant Deputy Minister
Program and System Support Division