



## Feb 2017 Survey Question: What items in your home education program plan would you wish to have reimbursed with funding?

33 Respondents				
<b>1. Online courses provided by organizations outside of Alberta including courses provided by ADLC and CBE and other Alberta providers. Museums, zoos, science centres and activities visited outside of Alberta and Canada.</b>				
	Yes	29	87.878%	
	No	2	6.06%	
	N/A	2	6.06%	
	COMMENTS:	11		
	<p>- This question is kind of confusing. "online courses provided by organizations outside Alberta...including those provided INSIDE Alberta from places like ADLC and CBE"? This question would have benefited from an editor or proofreader. I'm also curious how one "visits an activity" as per the second statement. I also don't understand why online courses are being grouped with educational sites outside Alberta. But yes. I believe all online courses should be eligible for funding if they are in the program plan. I also believe admission to educational sites anywhere should be eligible.</p>			
	<p>- It shouldn't matter where the online courses are hosted as it is all the same to the student. Are courses outside of Alberta currently not funded? We visit museums when we travel as they present great learning opportunities. Boards may need guidelines as to how to reimburse foreign currencies - - my board seems poorly-educated about this.</p>			
	<p>- Any online classes that fit in education plan regardless of where the provider is from (ie: U.S.)</p>			
	<p>- One of my children takes on-line classes out of the U.S. and they are fantastic...</p>			
	<p>- There are an immense amount of online courses and locations for field trips that would be highly beneficial to many students. Our options should not be limited based on the location of such. The world is our classroom</p>			

	- Learning never ends and some of the richest experiences will not be located inside Alberta borders.			
	- None are in my plp			
	- Museums, zoos, science centres etc. are legitimate educational experiences whether in or out of the province of Alberta.			
	- We travel to countries based on our learning plan and visit museums, science centres and zoos. A museum like the Louvre can't be duplicated in Alberta and I'm sure we spend more academic time there, compared to a parent with a child in a physical school.			
	- If included in the education plan of the child as part of their program for the year - in other words, intended learning; not just a way to cover travel costs on a normal family vacation			
	- All these things provide valuable learning experiences and should be eligible for funding.			
<b>2. Course registrations and resources purchased from June 30 to September 1 during the summer months.</b>				
	Yes	30	90.91%	
	No	3	9.09%	
	N/A	0		
	COMMENTS:	18		
	- Absolutely! Many homeschoolers start pre-planning for the next year before the current year is even done.			
	- I'd actually like to see this go back further, to April. The largest homeschooling conference (AHEA) happens mid-April in Alberta, and lots of folks buy materials for next year at the curriculum vendors there as it saves shipping. (There's also sometimes conference discounts as well). We cannot submit receipts for these items in May (spring claim) if we are not planning to use them until the following school year, which leaves us unable to purchase items at this conference and get them reimbursed, if funding is dated back only to June 30.			
	- We learn year-round. Need funding for courses both purchased and attended during the summer.			
	- We don't follow a school year for our education, I may purchase items related to education at anytime.			
	- Home school is year round...			
	- Most of my planning happens in these months. Most of the purchases I make are during these months. how else could i be organised and ready for the upcoming school year?			

	- Learning is ongoing, and purchasing in advance allows us to start curriculum either when the child is interested, or without delay beginning September 1st.
	- You can often catch sale items during this time. As well I often purchase a year ahead for curriculum in order to have time to plan.
	- Even earlier, since as parents, we are always alert to learning materials and opportunities for our students. School boards limit the time. Please prevent this from happening
	- Learning can happen at any time throughout the year. Many home schoolers choose to follow non traditional "school year" calendars.
	- We are year round education, not limited to certain hours of the day, or months of the year.
	- Resources purchased the prior year (i.e. AHEA convention) should be eligible as well
	- Absolutely; and even courses purchased previous to June 30 if intended for the next school year (many homeschool parents shop in March or April of the previous school year for the one to come
	- Not all courses are offered on the standard public school schedule. Curriculum shopping takes place when I have time, and sometimes the only time available is during the summer months.
	- I do most of my planning in the summer - if I have to wait until September 1 to order and pay for resources my kids will be behind their public and private schooled peers, which puts them at a disadvantage.
	- As long as you are registered with a board
	- Many programs require pre-registration and waiting until Sept 1 is not feasible in some cases. If the activity is to take place during the school year, it should not matter when it was purchased.
	- School teachers do their planning during the summer, so do homeschoolers. In fact, I'd say March on should be able to be counted towards the following school year.
<b>3. Sport, music, art and drama lessons delivered as a private lesson to an individual.</b>	
Yes	30 90.91%
No	2 6.06%
N/A	1 3.03%
COMMENTS:	13
	- It is not always feasible to gather a group of kids together. Many kids learn better one on one. Group lessons can be wasteful at times with many disturbances or kids not at the same level.

	- I think all these are best learned in a group class, which is currently covered. Individual lessons is getting to an "elite" level that should be paid for by the parents, IMO.
	- Not currently doing these activities privately but I believe they should be funded.
	- Some kids don't do well in a group setting and benefit from individual lessons in their home or someone else's. As long as the teacher is accredited, these should be covered.
	- I am not a music teacher so this has to be hired out, a brick and mortar school provides a music teacher to students and this is no different. This is true of sports and other art programs.
	- A well-rounded education includes these extra curriculums and are especially important to homeschoolers as otherwise our kids may have little to no instruction or experience in these subjects (most schools provide at least basic instruction in these subjects).
	- Drum lessons and guitar lessons - not available as a group lesson, and would not be as high quality for that setting either.
	- Many of our students prefer a more personalized experience and that is partly why they choose a home education path.
	- Home schooling allows for the flexibility to meet individual students' needs. Sometimes this means providing private lessons as opposed to group experiences. Home school funding should reinforce this flexibility.
	- The reason we homeschool is to avoid groups of peers. We should not be forced into them in order to draw funding.
	- How else is a homeschooler to learn music, etc., since class lessons are not as accessible an option?
	- Far more efficient learning mode (get more value for the money), group classes frequently not available if you live away from major urban centres.
	- Funding should be usable for learning of all kinds, not just group programs.

**4. Annual passes to activities such as museums, science centres and zoos, gym memberships, ski hills, and recreation centres**

	Yes	31	93.94%	
	No	1	3.03%	
	N/A	1	3.03	
	COMMENTS:	14		
	- At minimum cover the child's membership. Though often teachers are admitted for free....as parents, we are their teachers. So covering a teacher's membership is important.			

	- Annual passes AND individual admissions. I think its absurd that my child could go swimming, or bowling, or to a gymnastics centre to help fulfill 'breadth of activity' requirements for Phys Ed 10, for example, but I cannot use these receipts for funding. If we want fit and broadly educated/experienced adults in our society, we need to support physical activities, as well as arts and trips to museums.
	- With the limited funding provided we should be able to decide whether annual memberships are a better deal for us.
	- Including at least one parent for elementary aged kids since they would pay for a chaperone in a school setting and the child would not be able to attend alone.
	- These type of venues are a regular part of our "classroom"
	- Often this is the most cost-effective way to access these facilities and also encourages a family to visit more often because it's "already paid for".
	- Annual ski passes - a regular component of our physical activity plan
	- These are our students' physical education experiences and requirements for high school credit.
	- Often home school learning takes a different shape than traditional school learning. This learning can be more hands-on and experiential. Once again, it is this flexibility that allows parents in conjunction with educators to best provide an educational experience tailored to best meet the needs of individual students. Funding should open up more opportunities for such flexibility.
	- Passes are better value and we don't just go for one visit like schools do. We visit many times to cement the learning acquired from them.
	-These are intense learning activities, either physically or mentally, very important to provide hands-on learning for a well-balanced child
	- Better value for dollars spent if multiple visits taking place. In the case of recreation activities, most homeschoolers do not have a fully functional gym in their home, so an annual pass to a facility is far better value than purchasing individual items.
	- Funding should be usable for learning of all kinds, not just group programs.
	- I feel that ski hills is pushing it.

**5. Annual registration for education based activities such as Girl Guides, soccer leagues, etc.**

	Yes	20	60.61%	
	No	10	30.3%	
	N/A	3	9.09%	
	COMMENTS:	6		

	- It would great to have some of these covered since they do fall in our lesson plans - ie: PE But I can understand if they were not covered by AB Ed.			
	- I think these are community activities parents should pay for. I totally grant they are educational, however.			
	- if these are on the program plan, and meet educational outcomes, like phys ed, social studies etc, then they should be at least partially covered by funding.			
	- Do not have these item on my PLP			
	- Experiences such as these can meet learner outcomes and provide educational opportunities. Funding flexibility would make it possible for parents and students to have these learning opportunities.			
	- Girl Guides meet many science, voluteerism, and physical education outcomes.			
<b>6. Tangible items such as kitchen equipment, sewing equipment, woodshop equipment, electronic equipment, photography equipment as per program plan.</b>				
	Yes	30	90.91%	
	No	2	6.06%	
	N/A	1	3.03	
	COMMENTS:	11		
	- If it is in the program plan, then YES. Materials are needed to teach			
	- the budget for this should be separate and not infringe on our yearly \$800.			
	- Much of this is already explicitly covered according to the guidelines (eg. both camera and sewing machines are noted), so I am wondering why this question is here and what you are driving at.			
	- Learning happens everywhere.			
	- Many items are purchased specifically for the purpose of educating just as a school teacher would.			
	- Brick and mortar schools provide these items, so we should also be eligible for funding for similar items.			
	- If a child has specialized interest in a certain field, this can help defray the costs of responding to said child's interests.			
	- This is a tough one. I've seen this abused in the form of parents purchasing equipment that the kids are then not allowed to touch, specifically electronics like iPads and laptops. I have no idea if there's any way to rectify this though.			

	- If a students is interested in learning to sew or cook, and it is part of his/her school program plan, then purchasing equipment would be necessary in order to meet objectives and learner outcomes. Funding should support such purchases.			
	- All tangible items required by the program plan should be funded.			
	- Schools purchase this type of equipment for courses that require it; why should homeschool students be denied the opportunity to take an elective course for which they may not already own the appropriate tools?			
<b>7. Films, software, video and computer games, all genre, if included in program plan</b>				
	Yes	29	87.88%	
	No	3	9.09%	
	N/A	2	6.06	
	COMMENTS:	8		
	- If it is in the program plan, then YES. Materials are needed to teach			
	- Yes for some, no for others. I think movies related to the program plan should be covered, such as seeing a movie of a book being read in literature studies. Attending plays is allowed and this to me should fall under the same principle. Software, absolutely, if it required by the program plan. I do not support asking for funding video games at this time. While I agree that video games are educational, I am concerned that asking for increased funding so more people can homeschool--something I understand as being part of AHEPS' agenda--and at the same time asking for this funding to be used for video games, sends the wrong message to both the government and the media/public. Let's secure funding for phys ed, or technology, or more funding in general, before we move on to items many people will strongly question.			
	- We use the library when we can but when we do purchase these items they should be covered. Video games provide a great learning experience and shouldn't be discriminated against in favor of books and videos.			
	- As many students are highly visual and experiential learners, these items are necessary.			
	- For visual and kinesthetic learners, this type of delivery often offers some of the best instruction. Also, a child will always learn more if they are interested, which is often the case with games.			
	- We are living in a digital age, and students must have opportunities to explore and learn about all sorts of technology. Funding should support this.			
	- All video and computer games are educational in some way and meet many of the 20 outcomes of the Schedule.			
	- Not sure about this one. Hard to think video games should be fundable, but many kinds of software should be.			

<b>8. Increased limits on technology. \$500 per child per 3 years is inadequate to cover kindles, laptops, headphones, mice, keyboards, ram, failed hard drives, thumbdrives, etc.</b>				
	Yes	28	84.85%	
	No	4	12.12%	
	N/A	1	3.03%	
	COMMENTS:	10		
	- Technology becomes obsolete too fast. \$500 doesn't cover much as is for one year.			
	- this should be a separate budget not infringing upon the yearly \$800.			
	- This is an area that DESPERATELY needs clarification from Alberta Education. Saying "we recommend you put a yearly limit on tech" as in the current reimbursement guidelines is FAR too vague and open to discrepancy between boards. But I see the boards' side too: if they allow, say, the full \$800-odd for a student on tech, will the government say that's "more than they were thinking should be allowed" and claw back? I think technology should not be limited if its supported by the program plan. We don't say "only \$200 on books a year", and given the way the world is (online books, videos, courses, etc) we should also not have a limit on technology, which changes rapidly.			
	- What do kids in a school setting get per child for these items?			
	- I don't think limits should be set for any category, it should be up to the parent to determine where the funding should be used. I have one child that is very technology based and another that is very science based, computers and iPads are much more expensive than my science based child that has nearly no cost to most of his research and experiments.			
	- We live in an online world. Unless the school boards are going to supply these items, we need to be able to purchase them as needed in order to meet educational requirements for our students.			
	- Especially for older children - if we are valuing stem careers and education, we should be supporting those as options			
	- Technology is both a tool for learning and a subject (or many) to be learned. It is expensive but necessary for preparing our students to function in our current and future society. There should be no limit on the amount of a student's funding that can be spent on technology. There should also be no limit on when a student can purchase new technology.			



	<p>- Mice, keyboards, headphones, thumbdrives, ram and harddrives constantly need to be replaced or upgraded. Each child has a desktop computer for home research and a laptop computer for academic needs on the go. In addition, they have a tablet for travel and a Kindle for reading anywhere. There should not be limits of any kind on what each child requires to meet their educational needs. It's not fair that some children on school programs delivered online get to spend \$1500 per year on technology needs and home education children are limited to the above ridiculous amount.</p>			
	<p>- Technology fails easily - cords and thumb drives etc. need to be replaced even with careful usage. If there is to be a technology cap, the funding level should be raised.</p>			
<p><b>9. Any receipt in the program plan that is dated, from the date of registration with the school authority, until the end of the next school year. (June 30th)</b></p>				
	Yes	28	84.85%	
	No	4	12.12%	
	N/A	1	3.03%	
	COMMENTS:	9		
	<p>- I don't understand what this is asking. What is meant by "date of registration with the school authority"? If I've been with my current board for 5 years, I should be able to claim any receipt from the past 5 years? If so, no. In general, I would like to see receipt acceptance given a "hard date"--ideally April 1 forward for the following year--with no reference to date of registration which will vary from family to family and thus lead to inequities. It also penalizes families who switch boards after purchasing materials. I do not see that my math program, arts class or what have you should become ineligible simply because I switched boards in Sept before the funding cut-off date, but purchased these items in August.</p>			
	<p>- Receipts shouldn't be tied to the school authority, but to the family. I should be able to get funding continuously for all appropriate purchases. If I change boards, I shouldn't forfeit reimbursement for items purchased before I registered with that board. Would like to see ability to carry forward receipts to next year, as Trinity/Wisdom currently offers. This should be consistent among boards.</p>			
	<p>- I think the date range should be expanded, we purchase items when we find them and may plan to use them at a later date.</p>			
	<p>- There needs to be 365 day funding, as homeschool planning happens year round...</p>			
	<p>- Summer months are often used to purchase items and take part in activities that directly relate to the program plan. Purchases in the summer should be expected, how else are we to be organised and ready to go with schooling on day one?</p>			
	<p>- I frequently shop sales for the next year ahead of time to allow lots of time to properly plan the educational programming</p>			

	- I think that it is fair for schools to fund from the date that the child is registered so parents can plan ahead for the new school year in the Fall. It is unconceivable how the government would expect parents to keep receipts only for the academic year of Sept 1 - June 30th when class registrations occur well before Sept 1. As well, most curriculum sales are in the Spring and parents plan then for the next year. I'm sure teachers don't begin planning and purchasing after the school year started and it is unfair for parents to be forced to.		
	- Any receipt within reason.		
	- If this was the case, I would want to be able to register earlier for the following year. I start shopping in March for the following year and would want receipts covered starting then.		
<b>10. One accompanying adult admission with a child under age 12</b>			
	Yes	29	87.88%
	No	2	6.06%
	N/A	2	6.06
	COMMENTS:	10	
	- I don't think an age restriction should be placed on this. There are children older than 12 that may need assistance of an adult.		
	- Our children cannot attend museums, gyms, and so on without an adult present. It is my understanding that when teachers take a class on a field trip the teacher does not pay out of pocket for their own admission. I believe we should be able to claim one adult per 1-5 kids. (I don't think taking two kids you should be able to claim two adults).		
	- Even children over age 12 need accompaniment to a museum. They are not learning in a vacuum, but benefit from discussion and interpretation by adults.		
	- A school teacher would be included in admission if taking a class on a trip, this is no different.		
	- Rephrase to 'One accompanying adult for a registered student'- discussion and supervision of a student for any educational excursion should be a given.		
	- Children under the age of 12 cannot attend most facilities without an adult present. In school, they would be overseen by teachers and chaperones, but as homeschoolers we don't have that option.		
	- Seriously - does the government expect us to drop kids off alone? Teachers on field trips are offered free admission, parents don't get that perk		

	- In certain circumstances, one accompanying adult admission should be reimbursed for children older than 12 as well. Families who have to travel great distances to visit things like the zoo or science centre aren't going to drop their 12-15-year-old off and leave. I also believe that in certain circumstances family passes should be reimbursed even if they cost slightly more than the cost of one adult and (for the sake of argument) two child admissions. Once again, providing this flexibility in funding reimbursement claims would allow many home schooling families to better meet the educational needs of their unique students.
	- Yes. Very reasonable. Children under the age of 12 need adult supervision.
	- Teachers do not pay admission fees when accompanying their classes to facilities. In order to facilitate learning and direct the child, an adult presence is required.