

# Learning Project Workshop

Topics:	What is a learning project?
	What the government requires
	About creating a learning project
	Ideas on how to comply while still keeping as much freedom of choice
	Important considerations
	Advantages of having a learning project

## What is a learning project?

A plan that should be intended for yourself, then shared with the DEM as required.

Generally sets out subjects, goals, resources/activities, and time needed that will help attain those goals

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*“Four steps to achievement: Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently.” – William Ward*

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These plans are not made to lock us in, but to be used as a map, directing us while still enabling us to look around and enjoy the scenery or sometimes allow little side trips that enrich our journey. Also, when we have a definite destination (goal) in mind, if we come upon a roadblock (ie. this year Covid 19/Coronavirus, or a curriculum or activities that just don't work for us), we can look for an alternate route that will help us get there. Otherwise we might just end up wandering aimlessly.

**What the government requires:** (on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year or within 30 days of a student quitting attendance of an educational institution)

There are a number of specifics, then we'll look at how to create a plan.

- 1) LP to cover the activities or content needed for the program established by the minister in order to take ministerial and school board exams (school-at-home: use the Quebec schools' curriculum in its entirety)

OR

2) LP to cover the knowledge and skills and the (varied and stimulating) activities necessary “to achieve the objectives included in the program of each subject [...] to allow progress in learning equivalent to that applicable per cycle at school .” Therefore, include the programs of study concerned and a brief description of the activities chosen in relation thereto

- Language of instruction (English or French)
- Second language (English or French: opposite or the language of instruction)
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Social sciences (according to what is taught in the cycle of instruction of the student)
- other subjects or knowledge and skills such as art, physical education, etc. are optional, but they do like to see variety. (there are sections for this in both the Ministry forms and the one provided by HSDLA)

\*\* The Minister may, at the request of the parents of a handicapped student or a student with social maladjustments or learning disabilities, excuse the student from part of the provisions.

\*Other basic information needs to be included in the learning plan submitted:

- 1) the student’s name, address and date of birth;
- 2) the name, address and telephone number of the student’s parents
- 3) if applicable, the date on which the student stopped or will stop attending an educational institution and the permanent code assigned to the student by the MEES.
- 4) School board of your jurisdiction
- 5) Chosen educational approach
- 6) the educational resources that will be used
- 7) an approximate plan of the time to be allocated to the learning activities
- 8) the names and contact information of every organization that will be contributing to the student’s learning and a description of the extent of the contribution
- 9) how the student’s progress is to be evaluated
- 10) the last level of educational services received by the student from an educational institution (if applicable).

Again, not official legal advice, so check out the forms and information that HSLDA and the Ministry of Education have provided. I have tried to be as complete as possible, but you are responsible for always seeking out the most updated information and resources from HSDLA , the DEM, and ACPEQ.

Where can I find templates or samples of the Learning Project?

HSLDA: see helpful links, templates, and resources in the Members Area under *Provincial Forms and Homeschooling Laws - Quebec*

DEM Templates:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/references/tx-solrtyperecherchepublicationtx-solrpublicationnouveaute/results/detail/article/homeschooling-learning-project-templates-1/>

### **About creating a learning project**

As mentioned before, YOUR learning project is YOUR plan, based on the needs of YOUR child and YOUR objectives for them.

This means that while complying with the DEM requirements, you are taking into consideration your own goals, needs, and wants.

Prepare: Sit down, brainstorm, and research on your own or with your spouse.

What are your goals /objectives for the year?

- Identify your hopes and goals for your children, educationally, developmentally, vocationally, relationally (socially) and spiritually
  - For the DEM focus on educational and vocational
- Look at what the Education Ministry sets out as the general objectives for the cycle (grade) that your child would be in.
  - Since the government now asks that we “achieve the objectives included in the program of each subject [...] to allow progress in learning equivalent to that applicable per cycle at school”, we do have to take the time to be aware of what this entails.
  - You can look in detail at every single objective or work with the more general objectives outlined.
    - Perusing both can help to understand what they are looking for and identify topics and activities that might be helpful.
    - General overview:
      - Primary school
      - [http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site\\_web/documents/education/jeunes/pfeq/PFEQ-tableau-synthese-primaire-2018-EN.pdf](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/education/jeunes/pfeq/PFEQ-tableau-synthese-primaire-2018-EN.pdf)

Highschool

[http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site\\_web/documents/education/jeunes/pfeq/PFEQ-tableau-synthese-secondaire-cycles-1-et-2-EN.pdf](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/education/jeunes/pfeq/PFEQ-tableau-synthese-secondaire-cycles-1-et-2-EN.pdf)

- Detailed objectives:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/teachers/quebec-education-program/>

and/or a summary in straightforward terms (in French)

<http://www.alloprof.qc.ca/bv/pages/r0000.aspx>

- Know what your educational approach will be.
  - For more info see <https://homeschool.today/education-methods/>
  - Consider: Your personal style as well as that of your child(ren)

Your goals (discussed above)

Your lifestyle or life events (ie, travel, expecting baby or taking care of a loved one, etc.)

Your time and availability

Specific needs for your child or family

What curricula and activities will you use to accomplish your goals?

- Considering your goals, approach, and current situation (time, finances, family life)
- Language
- Availability of curricula and activities
- Will you use a pre-prepared package or mix and match? Will you use textbooks already geared for the Quebec student or something that has comparable objectives?
- Who can you join with for activities or support?

Determine how you will know that your child has reached your objectives. It's more important that YOU know, than that they (the DEM) know. These choices will be influenced by your educational approach.

- Skills demonstrated
- Awards
- Tests
- Work accomplished which show development, learning, understanding of what is learned (texts, etc)
- Projects & presentations (take pictures or videos)
- Where they have arrived to in books, work, etc.

What third-party evaluations will you choose for your child?

- School board
- Private school
- Licenced teacher
- Ministerial examinations
- Portfolio submitted to the Minister

**\*\*Note that the new regulation stipulates that students will be required to pass Ministerial (provincial) exams as of the 2021-2022 school year.**

Write out your plan:

**“A dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true.” – Greg Reid**

**“Writing your goals down not only forces you to get clear on what, exactly, it is that you want to accomplish, but doing so plays a part in motivating you to complete the tasks necessary for your success. The process of putting your goals on paper will force you to strategize, to ask questions about your current progress, and to brainstorm your plan of attack.” – Peter Economy**

- Write in the first person
- Use action verbs and words “I will teach...We will visit...”
- Keep it short and concise

Changes to the plan:

As two veteran homeschoolers (David and Sheila Long) have said before me: “Adapt your plan if necessary, but only in extreme circumstances should you change your objectives. Your plan is your roadmap and directions to get there. You may need to take a detour, as conditions require, but you will rarely change your destination.”

\*In this case, you must notify the DEM of any major changes within 15 days.

### **Ideas on how to comply while still keeping as much freedom of choice**

The DEM is looking for “indicators of compliance”... This means they are trying to reduce the risk of a poor education for your child. They are busy and unlikely to delve into the tiniest details of your plan.

- Show awareness of the Quebec education program, especially since we are expected to provide the educational opportunities that correspond to the objectives of the pertinent cycle

- Employ words and terms used in the objectives of the Education Ministry (using their own educational jargon), as long as you understand it as well
- Cover general objectives in the plan without being too specific
- Show that you are planning varied, interesting, and effective methods and activities for learning
- Focus on educational and vocational goals (do show socialization opportunities, though)
- Keep it short and simple
- Keep learning activities general such as: working through curricula, texts and workbooks, presentations, projects, experiments, etc. (again, no need to get into small details)
- Examples of other knowledge and skills can include: sports, lessons, clubs, Co-ops, Home Ec., field trips, hobbies, etc.
- Educational resources: Titles of main curriculum books, texts, workbooks, major reference materials, Google/Internet, literature/novels, atlas, etc. (other than the title of the main curr., just name things generally without specifics, ie. museums, novels, etc.)
- Approximate time allocated to each subject/activity: Once again, be general. Be realistic. You can say number of hours per week or per day (for each subject or as a whole), or even total amount of hours expected. This is an estimate. (Good also for your planning to see if added together the entire plan takes a reasonable amount of time)
- Organisations that will be contributing to the student's learning: ACPEQ, HSLDA, clubs, sports, outside teachers/tutors, Co-op classes \* see suggestions in HSLDA sample

### Important considerations:

Evaluation of Learning Project: - The Ministry will assist you if they find that your plan does not comply with the law and regulations.

-Expect/ask for this in writing

-Provide relevant documents if given written request (Do not provide them with your educational materials, since they are not to evaluate materials used, but only that you will be covering an equivalent educational experience.)

-The parent has 30 days to respond to correct a “non-compliance”  
(communicate with the Ministry as soon as possible to clarify the issue(s) and keep communication regular and open to show “good faith” as you work through the issues)

Dates: - Learning Project submitted on or before **September 30<sup>th</sup>** (or within 30 days of a child discontinuing attendance at an educational institution)

-Mid-Term status and progress reports submitted between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> month after the implementation of the learning project (can be combined)

- Base these on your Learning Project. Describe progress.

-Completion report (including status and progress) submitted no later than **June 15**

- Any third-party evaluations will be submitted at the same time

### **Advantages of having a learning project:**

Helps ground you and guide your choices

Can refer to it later in the year to:

- \* Help check progress
- Remind you of your goals
- Help get back on track (redirect) if you are wandering

Can be adapted if something is really not working

Gives a sense of accomplishment when you realize what has been achieved.

### **Links for Quebec Laws and Regulations;**

Quebec Education Act

<http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/showdoc/cs/l-13.3>

Quebec Homeschool Regulation

<http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/l-13.3,%20r.%206.01>