



Home Schooling Funding

Eligible Purchases Reference

Yellowknife Education District No. 1

YK1 may provide funding each year to help cover the costs of delivering your home schooling program. This reference sheet summarizes what you can and cannot claim under Administrative Procedure 270 and the 1996 Ministerial Home Schooling Directive.

The core rule

Eligible expenses are instructional materials and educational services that are directly connected to the approved NWT curriculum and your submitted Educational Plan. All claims must be supported by receipts.

At a Glance: Eligible vs. Not Eligible

✓ Eligible Expenses	✗ Not Eligible
Curriculum packages (NWT-aligned)	Computers, tablets, and other hardware
Workbooks and consumable learning materials	Printers and peripherals
Textbooks and reference books	Software not tied to approved curriculum
Course fees (online or correspondence)	House or room renovations
Educational service subscriptions	Furniture
Manipulatives and hands-on learning kits	Parent salary or tutoring fees to self
Art and craft supplies (curriculum-linked)	General household supplies
Science materials and experiment kits	Items purchased before approval from the Superintendent or designate (off-list)
Printed assessment or test materials	Expenses outside July 1–May 15 claim window
Consumable PE supplies tied to a specific curriculum unit	Durable sports or recreation equipment (bikes, skates, balls, home gym gear)

✓ Eligible Expenses	✗ Not Eligible
Private lessons (music, art, movement) that are separately invoiced, curriculum-linked, and pre-approved	Ice time, studio/rink rental, league or team fees, and other costs bundled with lessons
Off-list items approved in advance by the Superintendent or designate	Expenses incurred before registration is confirmed
	Items not connected to your Educational Plan

Eligible Expenses — In Detail

To be eligible, a purchase must meet all of the following criteria:

- It is an instructional material or educational service (not equipment or capital spending)
- It is directly connected to the approved NWT curriculum
- It aligns with your submitted Educational Plan for the current year
- You have a register receipt for the purchase
- The purchase was made between July 1 and May 15 of the school year

Curriculum and Course Materials

These are the most common eligible purchases. They include printed and digital learning materials that deliver curriculum content to your child.

- NWT curriculum packages or equivalents approved for NWT use
- Workbooks, activity books, and consumable student materials
- Textbooks, reference books, and student readers
- Correspondence or distance education course fees
- Online course or learning platform subscriptions (curriculum-aligned)

Assessment and Evaluation Materials

Materials used to measure and document your child's progress are eligible where they align with your agreed assessment approach.

- Printed test or quiz booklets
- Assessment record forms and portfolios
- Standardized curriculum-based evaluation packages

Hands-On and Supplementary Learning Materials

Physical materials that directly support delivery of curriculum content are eligible.

- Mathematics manipulatives (e.g., base-ten blocks, fraction tiles, geometric solids)
- Science experiment kits and consumable lab supplies

- Maps, globes, and geography learning tools
- Art and craft supplies where directly tied to a curriculum unit
- Music theory workbooks and consumable sheet music practice materials
- Educational games and learning kits connected to curriculum outcomes

Physical Education Materials

Physical Education is a recognized curriculum subject, but equipment for it is judged by the same test as everything else on this list: is it consumed in delivering a specific lesson, or is it a durable good you keep and reuse? The following are eligible on that basis:

- Consumable items used up or worn out within a specific PE curriculum unit
- Printed PE curriculum materials, fitness log books, or skill-assessment worksheets

Durable sports and recreation equipment — the kind of item that outlasts a single lesson — is not eligible, regardless of its connection to your PE curriculum. See Durable Sports and Recreation Equipment, below.

Educational Service Subscriptions

Subscriptions to educational services are eligible where they are on YK1's pre-approved list, or where you have received advance approval from the Superintendent or designate.

- Online learning platforms delivering NWT-aligned curriculum content
- Digital library or research database subscriptions for student use
- Educational streaming services with curriculum-connected content (pre-approved or approved in advance)

Private and Recreational Instruction (Music, Art, Sports, and Similar Lessons)

Piano, art, skating, hockey, and similar private lessons come up often enough that it's worth spelling out how the core rule applies to them. Like any other third-party service, lessons are eligible only where all of the following are true:

- The lesson genuinely delivers curriculum content — most often Arts Education (music, visual art) or Physical Education (movement, skill development)
- That connection is documented in the student's submitted Educational Plan — not simply that your child takes lessons, but that the lessons are how a specific part of the curriculum is being delivered this year
- The instruction is invoiced separately from any equipment, facility rental, or team/program fees bundled with it
- The arrangement has been approved in writing by the Superintendent or designate — once per year, at the same time your Educational Plan is reviewed, rather than lesson by lesson or term by term

In many cases, the Superintendent designates the principal to handle this kind of approval, so in practice you'll usually raise this with your principal when you submit your Educational Plan, rather than submitting a separate request to the Superintendent's office. Once the arrangement described in your plan is approved, that approval covers the rest of the school year — you don't need to seek approval again for each term or each invoice. If the arrangement changes materially during the year (a different instructor, a different focus, a significant cost change), let your principal know, since that may need to be reflected in an updated plan.

Where those conditions are met, the following are the kinds of costs that can be claimed:

- Per-lesson or per-term instruction fees for piano, other instrument, voice, or visual art lessons

- Per-lesson instruction fees for skating, hockey, or similar movement instruction, where the instructor is delivering skill development documented as part of the year's Physical Education

Instruments themselves — a piano, violin, or similar purchase — are durable equipment and fall under the same rule as other capital items; see Durable Sports and Recreation Equipment, above, for how that test is applied.

Lessons tip: Raise music, art, or sports lessons with your principal when you submit your Educational Plan, so the arrangement can be reviewed and approved for the whole year in one step. Ask your instructor or facility for an invoice that separates instruction fees from ice time, studio rental, or equipment rental — a single bundled receipt for a "hockey program" or "piano package" makes it difficult to identify what, if anything, is eligible.

Not Eligible — What Cannot Be Claimed

The following categories are explicitly excluded under the Ministerial Home Schooling Directive and AP 270, regardless of how they may be used in your program.

Capital Expenditures and Hardware

Capital expenditures are not program costs under the Home Schooling Directive. This includes:

- Computers, laptops, tablets, and e-readers
- Printers, scanners, and other peripherals
- Cameras, audio recorders, and similar equipment
- Any other hardware or durable electronic device

Technology tip: If a specific technology item is essential for a curriculum learning goal and no less costly alternative is available, you may request advance approval from the Superintendent or designate. The request must be submitted and approved before the purchase is made. Hardware and equipment remain ineligible even with this process — approval is only available for software or service-based technology items.

Durable Sports and Recreation Equipment

Sports and recreation equipment that is durable — meaning it has a useful life beyond a single lesson and would normally be kept and reused across the year or beyond — is treated as capital equipment, the same as computers and other hardware, regardless of its connection to your PE curriculum. This includes:

- Bicycles, skates, skis, snowboards, and similar durable outdoor equipment
- Balls, bats, hockey sticks, and other durable sport-specific gear
- Home gym equipment, weights, and fitness machines
- Helmets, pads, and other durable protective equipment

Where possible, request use of school gymnasium facilities and equipment instead — this can be noted in your Educational Plan as support requested from the school. Genuinely consumable PE supplies tied to a specific curriculum unit remain eligible; see Physical Education Materials, above.

Sports equipment tip: The same all-or-nothing rule that applies to computers applies here — there's no partial or off-list approval path for durable sports equipment, no matter how central it is to your PE curriculum. If a genuinely consumable, curriculum-tied PE item isn't on the pre-approved list, you can still request advance approval from the Superintendent or designate, the same as any other off-list item.

Home or Facility Costs

Costs related to the physical space in which you home school are not program costs. This includes:

- House or room renovations
- Furniture, shelving, or storage
- Utilities or internet service

Salary and Personal Compensation

Compensation paid to the parent or any family member for delivering the program is not eligible. Nor are tutoring fees paid to a third party unless the service is a separately invoiced, curriculum-aligned educational service approved by the Superintendent or designate in advance. See Private and Recreational Instruction, above, for how this applies to music, art, and sports lessons specifically.

Facility Rental, Equipment, and Program Fees Bundled with Lessons

Even where the instructional portion of a lesson is eligible, the following related costs are not — they're facility access, equipment, or program fees rather than instructional materials or services:

- Ice time, rink rental, or studio rental, whether booked separately or bundled with a lesson
- League, club, or team registration and program fees
- Recital, competition, or performance entry fees
- Costumes, uniforms, or team apparel
- Musical instruments and sports equipment (see Durable Sports and Recreation Equipment, above)

Where a single invoice bundles instruction with any of the above, only the portion clearly and separately itemized as instruction can be considered.

Out-of-Window or Unapproved Purchases

The following are not eligible regardless of what was purchased:

- Any expense incurred outside the July 1 to May 15 claim window
- Purchases made before registration was confirmed
- Off-list items purchased without prior approval from the Superintendent or designate
- Items claimed without a register receipt

Requesting Approval for Off-List Items

If you would like to purchase something not on YK1's pre-approved list, you must request approval from the Superintendent or designate before spending the money. In most cases, the school principals is designated as being able to consider and approve off-list items if they meet all of the requirements. Your request needs to demonstrate:

- A clear connection between the item and the approved NWT curriculum
- Alignment with your submitted Educational Plan
- That the item is appropriate for your child's grade level
- For technology items: that less costly or simpler alternatives are unavailable or unsuitable for the specific learning goal

Under AP 270, the Superintendent may designate another person — often the principal — to handle these approvals. Unless you're told otherwise, raise off-list requests with your principal first.

Important: approval must come first. Purchases made before approval from the Superintendent or designate is granted are not eligible for reimbursement, even if the item would otherwise qualify. Always request approval in writing and wait for a written response before purchasing.

How to Submit a Reimbursement Claim

Once you have made eligible purchases, follow these steps to claim reimbursement:

- Complete the district's approved reimbursement form (available from your school or the District office)
- Attach a register receipt for every item listed on the claim
- Submit the claim between July 1 and May 15 of the current school year
- Only include expenses incurred within that same July 1–May 15 period

Funding amounts, if any, are announced by June 30 each year before the school year begins. Registration does not guarantee a specific funding amount — this is determined annually by the District.

Questions about whether a specific purchase is eligible? Contact the principal of your registering school or the District office before making the purchase.

This reference sheet is based on YK1 Administrative Procedure 270 – Home Schooling and the 1996 Ministerial Home Schooling Directive. In the event of any conflict, the procedure and directive prevail.