
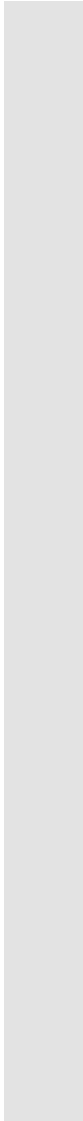


Homeschooling: The Other English Language Education Community

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- This research reports on an ongoing ethnographic inquiry that started in spring 2019. Data in the study derive from publically available sources, including government documents, media publications, and posts in two public Facebook groups (one English, one French) for people interested in homeschooling in Quebec.

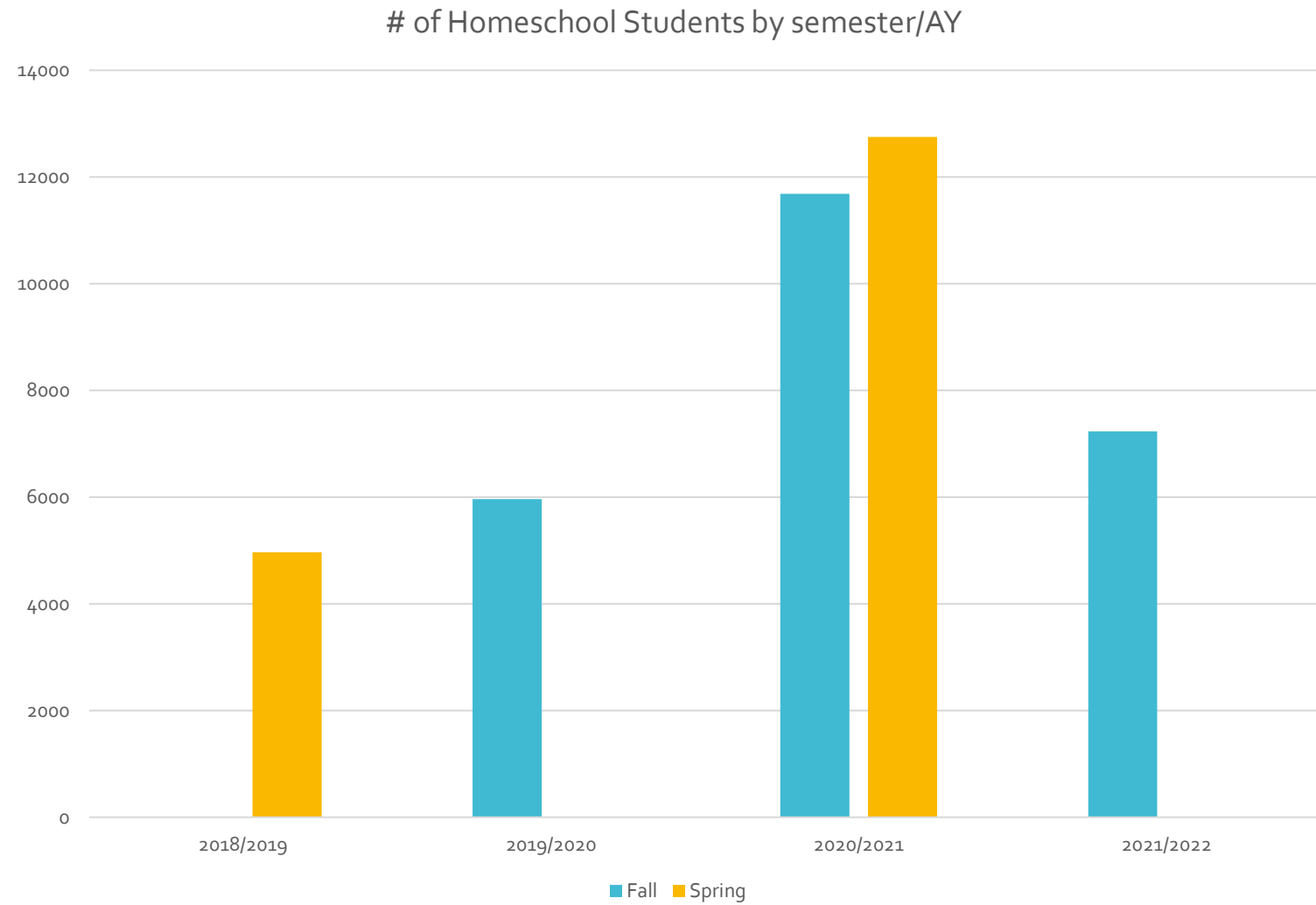
Basic Homeschooling Regulations in Quebec

- All children living in Québec must attend school:
 - from the first day of the school calendar in the school year following that in which they turn 6 years old
 - until the last day of the school calendar in the school year during which they turn 16 years old OR at the end of which they obtain a diploma awarded by the Minister of Education
 - However, parents in Québec may choose to homeschool their children. Under the Education Act, a child who receives appropriate homeschooling may be exempt from compulsory school attendance.
 - The homeschooling must, however, comply with all the conditions and procedures determined by government regulation, namely those regarding:
 - the characteristics of the learning project
 - the annual evaluation of the student's progress
 - the process applicable in the event of problems related to the learning project or its implementation
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- FROM: <http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/school-boards/support-and-assistance/homeschooling/>

Official Procedures to Homeschool in QC since 2018

- Notice of Intent to DEM
- Notify school board
- Submit Learning Project within 30 days of withdrawal from classes, or by 30 September if notice submitted by 1 July (after end of prior AY)
- Mid-Year Status Report (3-5 months after Learning Project Submission)
- End of Year Status Report & Report on Progress
- Evaluation (Portfolio, Ministry Exams, School Board exams, Evaluation by a QC licensed teacher)
- NOTE: all homeschooled students must include both French and English in their curriculum, and one of these must be designated as the Language of Instruction, although other curriculum may be taught in any language, but subject to Ministry exams in the selected Language of Instruction.

Homeschoolers by the numbers



Varieties of English Homeschoolers

- Diverse Motivations for Homeschooling
 - Some move between formal school and homeschooling, while others are committed to a homeschooling only model
 - Various pedagogies & curricula
- Urban v Rural/Regions
- English School Eligible v Ineligible*

The “Other” English Homeschoolers

- Those who lack legal access to the English School Boards
 - Includes
 - Permanent Residents (immigrants)
 - Temporary residents whose stay exceeds the limit imposed by the Education Ministry
 - Children of citizens who received their education outside of Canada
 - Quebec Canadian citizens who do not have access to English language education and who want to have their children achieve first language proficiency in English

Burdens & Concerns

- DPJ
- Learning Projects
- Curricular Resources
- Access to school board/service centers & other support services
- Social Interactions
- Parental Support/Child care
- Ministry Exams

Key concern: Ministry Exams at the Primary Level

- Ministry exams are mandatory for homeschooled students for the first time this year
- English School Ineligible children being homeschooled with English as the Language of Instruction will take exams this year as administered by the English School Boards
 - These School Boards do not receive the \$ that attaches to Homeschooled students – that \$ goes to the French School Service Center under which they are obligated to register
 - Parents have no contact with these boards
 - Access to preparatory materials is unclear
 - How exams will be administered to these students

Summation

- English School ineligible homeschoolers seek to make connections with others in similar situations to form supportive social networks.
- English School ineligible homeschoolers would generally welcome access to resources and support from the English Schools that are available to eligible households.
- French School Service Centers are not generally meeting the needs of these families, especially if the parent(s) have limited French.
- Few ineligible homeschoolers report asking for, or receiving, services from their school service centers.

Data Sources

- <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/mobile/homeschooling-in-quebec-has-been-gaining-followers-since-the-start-of-the-pandemic-1.5346815?fbclid=IwAR2trnNX8WoEng3GKFpxe3tZUauggggEyrDfMUKHCrGkdLyOFFmbFBqAKTc>
- <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/fewer-quebec-children-being-home-schooled-than-last-year-1.5578974>