Information for Parents/Carers/Students
Exemptions from Compulsory Schooling and Compulsory Participation

Parents apply for an exemption from compulsory schooling if, for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days, their child can not attend a school or it would be unreasonable in the circumstances to require the child to attend school.

Young people in the compulsory participation phase, or their parents/carers, apply for an exemption from compulsory participation if, for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days, the young person can not participate in any eligible option or it would be unreasonable to require the young person to participate in any eligible option.

Students with exemptions from compulsory schooling or compulsory participation are not considered to be enrolled during the period of the exemption, and the principal is not responsible for the student’s educational program.

The student is excused from being enrolled and attending an educational program for the period of the exemption, and the student’s parents are excused from their obligation in respect to compulsory schooling and compulsory participation.

Parents apply for an exemption from compulsory schooling or compulsory participation using an approved form available from the school. The form should be returned to the school, where staff will check that all necessary documentation has been provided then forward the application on to the decision-maker if necessary.

Decisions about exemptions from compulsory schooling for up to 1 school year are made by the principal of the school the student attends.

Decisions about exemptions from compulsory schooling for more than 1 school year are made by the Executive Director (Schools) of the district in which the student attends school.

Decisions about exemptions from compulsory participation are also made by the Executive Director (Schools). The application form for such an exemption should be completed and provided to the school principal who will forward it on to the Executive Director (Schools).

Once a decision about the exemption has been made, the person who applied for the exemption will be sent a letter to inform them whether or not the exemption has been granted and if any conditions have been imposed.
Most exemptions from compulsory schooling will have one or more conditions imposed which will vary according to the reasons given in the application for exemption.

If a person who has applied for an exemption is not satisfied with the decision made, they can make a submission for the decision to be reviewed.