

Three suggestions for your main argument

Here are three suggestions for your main argument. Remember: They are mutually exclusive. That means that you can pick only **one** of them and write your argument in favour of that position:

1. **OPTION 1:**

If you believe that the current home education sections in the BELA Bill is such a mess that it should be scrapped and re-written from scratch, this option is for you.

You may mention as reasons for your argument any of the points a.-i. under Option 2 below, as well as the arguments in [this article](#). The linked article also gives ideas for specific items you may want to ask for in your submission.

You additionally may wish to explain that as you did not put your child in **school** you can't see why your child's education should be regulated by the South African **Schools Act**. You could also mention that you are putting your child's best interest first, as is required by the Constitution and Children's Act, and that the Children's Act provides ample protection for your child's rights.

2. **OPTION 2:**

If you believe that the DBE should regulate home education, but that the way it is done in the BELA Bill is problematic, you can ask for changes to the current BELA Bill. Here are some of the most common changes home educators would like to see:

a. Notification instead of registration. In other words, the parent notifies the Department that they will be home educating instead of having to ask permission. You can [click here](#) to read some arguments in favour of this change.

b. Choose the curriculum/approach and assessment that works for your child. The freedom to use a curriculum or approach of their choice (not CAPS), and assessments that follow their curriculum or approach (not CAPS). You can [click here](#) to read some arguments in favour of this change.

c. Home visits should be scrapped. You request that the provision for home visits prior to registration be scrapped from the Bill. You can [click here](#) to read some arguments in favour of this change.

d. Home education should be defined to include full-time tutors at home, as well as home education at other venues, with parental supervision. You request that the definition of home education be changed to be clear and precise, and to include full-time tutors, as well as home education at venues which are not the child's home (such as a library). You can [click here](#) to read some arguments in favour of this change.

Some other concerns frequently mentioned, which you may want to address, include:

e. The definition of basic education, which defines basic education in terms of the National Curriculum.

- f. The cost of annual assessments.
- g. The restrictiveness of annual assessments.
- h. The fact that educational psychologists and occupational therapists are excluded from being “competent assessors”.
- i. The fact that the Minister has power to make regulations on home education.

3. OPTION 3:

If you believe that the DBE (Department of Basic Education) should have no role in regulating home education, then Option 3 is the option for you. You can argue that children who are not in school, but receiving home education, should not be regulated by the SA Schools Act and that the Children’s Act provides better protection for the homeschooled child.

Here you can emphasize that you have chosen to home educate because it is in your child’s best interest and that the Bill of Rights states that “A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.” Section 28(2)

You can [click here](#) for examples of arguments in favour of this position, as well as ideas on what you can ask for.

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