Things to Consider for Homeschool Portfolio Review

In the District of Columbia, homeschool programs must provide thorough and regular instruction of sufficient duration and, at a minimum, include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education. Parents/legal guardians are required to maintain a portfolio of the student’s education materials, which includes evidence of the student’s current work in a range of subjects (e.g., writing, completed work in mathematics, and assessments). This portfolio must be maintained for at least one year and be available to OSSE for review, upon request. This document is a guide for families on the homeschool portfolio review process and how to prepare for a portfolio review.

You’ve been selected for a portfolio review – Now what?
✓ In your portfolio review notification email, you received a date and time for your portfolio review meeting. Please respond to the meeting request as soon as possible. If you are not available at the meeting date and/or time provided, please contact OSSE to request an alternate meeting time.

How to prepare for your portfolio review – Things to consider.
✓ Create a portfolio (e.g., binder or digital files) and include documentation as required in the District of Columbia. For more regarding homeschool regulations, please see the District of Columbia Homeschool Regulations.
  o Consider adding an information page that would include the listing of books and/or curriculums used.
  o Add quarterly reports, report cards, attendance record, calendar of field trips and other educational activities.
  o Make sure each subject area is clearly identified and dated.
  o Include example of art projects and any extracurricular activities.

What to expect during your portfolio review?
✓ A review of your educational documents with OSSE’s homeschool staff. The OSSE Homeschool staff will provide feedback as well as ask questions regarding your educational portfolio.

What happens after the portfolio review?
✓ A follow-up communication will be sent reflecting the status of the portfolio review.
✓ If the portfolio review is sufficient, no further action is required.
✓ If the portfolio review is considered insufficient, a corrective action plan (CAP) will be included in the notification indicating issues to resolve. A response to the CAP is required within 30 days.

What happens when issues identified in a CAP are not corrected?
✓ If deficiencies noted in the portfolio review have not been corrected within the 30 days, OSSE will rescind your homeschool eligibility and you will be required to enroll the student(s) in school in accordance with DC’s compulsory education requirements.
Any additional questions regarding homeschooling? Please send an email to OSSE.Homeschool@dc.gov.