

Vision
100% Student Success

Mission
"Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life."

Dear Parent/Guardian:

These guidelines and resources are in response to your inquiry regarding the Home Education Program. Keep these materials for future reference should you choose to home educate your students.

Steps to Register for Home Education

1. The parent/guardian submits a notice of intent to establish and maintain a home education program to Pinellas County School's Home Education Office. A form is included as the last page of this packet for your convenience.
2. The parent/guardian completes all sections of the Notice of Intent and mails it to the home education office within 30 days of the establishment of a home education program. The address is included on the form.
3. The Pinellas County Home Education office will process the intent and mail a letter of acceptance to you on the start date of your program. Please keep this document in your home education file.
4. The parent/guardian researches, identifies and purchases curriculum and materials to use for the home education program.
5. The parent/guardian prepares the child's portfolio, educational log and decides which assessment method will be used for the required yearly evaluation. (See the attached copy of Florida Statutes related to home education for further details). Information regarding Evaluators can be found at www.pcsb.org then by clicking on Departments & Divisions, then Charter Schools and Home Education.

There are parent volunteer support groups for home educators. If you would like information regarding meetings and home educating ideas, please call the numbers listed below or visit the web sites.

Florida Parent Educators Association Toll Free 1-877-275-3732

www.fpea.com

FPEA District 5 Information

<http://fpea.com/homeschooling/get-connected/fpea-district-5>

Pinellas Parent Educators Association

www.myppea.com

It is the responsibility of the home education parent/guardian to provide all learning materials. Pinellas County Schools does not provide textbooks, instructional materials or assistance in the teaching of home education children. If you decide to use a virtual school program as your home educational curriculum choice, please understand that these programs do not issue a diploma when utilized as a home education curriculum. You may review PCS student expectations at our web site www.pcsb.org.

If your child has numerous absences from the previous school he/she attended then you will be required to attend Home Education portfolio review sessions as pursuant to Florida Statute 1003.26.

In the event you choose to enter a home school program and in the future your child reenters a public school; it will be the responsibility of Pinellas County Schools to determine placement and credits accepted according to Policy 5463. Please notify this office in writing if you no longer are home educating and submit a final evaluation. We will then update your file.

Information on dual enrollment, extra-curricular activities requirements and acceptance of credits is also included in this packet to assist you in your efforts in becoming familiar with home education processes and requirements.

Wishing you success in your educational endeavors.

Still not sure home education is the best educational endeavor for your child? You may want to investigate several other educational settings such as:

- PCS Virtual School for grades K–12 which can be accessed at www.pcsb.org/virtualschool
- Educational Alternative Services has many programs available please call 588-6069.

CREDIT AND/OR GRADE PLACEMENT

As a parent who has chosen the option of teaching your child in a Home Education Program, you need to be aware of the impact of your decision should you choose to reenroll your child in a Pinellas County secondary public school (grades 6-12).

Home education programs are considered non-accredited schools since they do not meet specific Southern Association of Colleges and Schools standards. Therefore, a student who withdraws at a particular grade level to be taught in a Home Education Program might not reenter the public school system at the grade level the student might have attained had he never left public education. The grade level placement of a student shall be the decision of the school principal based on all available data and the recommendations of his/her professional staff.

IMPORTANT HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

- High schools shall accept credits according to the process defined in our School Board Policy 5463. A home educated student returning to a PCS high school will be placed in the appropriate sequential course level in mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts. The student's credit will be based on successful completion of one grading period of course work in each of the four subject areas. Credit for all other courses will be accepted at face value provided that an equivalent course is contained in the listing of approved courses for high schools in Florida. For each subject area in which the student earns a C or higher during the student's first grading period after transferring to a Pinellas County high school, the grades and credit earned in the school from which the student is transferring will be entered on the student's transcript
- 5460 Final Semester Attendance Requirement for Diploma Eligibility: Students who transfer into a Pinellas County high school during their senior year must be enrolled full time in Pinellas County School's courses for the entire semester prior to graduation in order to be eligible for a diploma from a Pinellas County public school. These courses may not be taken through Florida Virtual School. However, a Pinellas County high school diploma may be granted to a student transferring in from a school district with a policy, which will not allow that district to grant a diploma to a student who was not enrolled for the entire semester prior to graduation. It is recommended that you check with the guidance department at your local high school to ensure that you are meeting all graduate requirements for Pinellas County Schools.
- Please be aware that students enrolled in a Home Education Program will not receive a high school diploma from a Pinellas County high school or the State of Florida since they are not subject to state and district graduation requirements. Some home school students are enrolled at what's referred to as an umbrella school, which will oversee their home schooling and issue them a diploma. Florida Virtual Home School (FLVS) is not a diploma granting Institution. A student may choose to take the General Educational Development (GED) tests when he/she reaches the age of eighteen in order to attempt to qualify for an equivalency diploma. For more information regarding the GED Program, please call the GED Office at 588-6326.

Students can apply directly to the College or University of their choice even without a high school diploma. Most universities in the U.S. have developed admissions processes specifically for home school students. It is highly recommended that you check with the Admission Office of the College or University for the requirements of accepting Home Educated student's transcripts.

INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Interscholastic extracurricular activities are open to registered home schooled students. Students must meet the same residency requirements and standards as set forth by the School Board for all students in the school district. To enroll:

- Complete co enrollment form PCS 2-3112
- Submit co enrollment form to PCS Student Assignment office
- Student accident insurance required School Board Policy 8760
- To participate in high school athletic programs students must follow the procedures provided by Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) and complete the required EL7 forms (section B of the "Verification of Student Registration with Public School District Home Education Office" page of the EL7 forms must be completed & signed by the Home Education Office).

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

For information regarding the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, please call 1-888-827-2004 or visit the website at:
<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

Title XLVIII
K-20 EDUCATION
CODE

Chapter 1002
STUDENT AND PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
EDUCATIONAL CHOICES

View Entire
Chapter

1002.41 Home education programs.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “home education program” has the same meaning as in s. [1002.01](#). A home education program is not a school district program and is registered with the district school superintendent only for the purpose of complying with the state’s attendance requirements under s. [1003.21\(1\)](#). The parent is not required to hold a valid regular Florida teaching certificate.

(a) The parent, as defined in s. [1000.21](#), who establishes and maintains a home education program shall notify the district school superintendent of the county in which the parent resides of her or his intent to establish and maintain a home education program. The notice must be in writing, signed by the parent, and include the full legal names, addresses, and birthdates of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. The notice must be filed in the district school superintendent’s office within 30 days of the establishment of the home education program.

(b) The district school superintendent shall accept the notice and immediately register the home education program upon receipt of the notice. The district may not require any additional information or verification from the parent unless the student chooses to participate in a school district program or service. The district school superintendent may not assign a grade level to the home education student or include a social security number or any other personal information of the student in any school district or state database unless the student chooses to participate in a school district program or service.

(c) The parent shall file a written notice of termination upon completion of the home education program with the district school superintendent, along with the annual evaluation required in paragraph (f), within 30 days of termination.

(d) The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio must consist of the following:

1. A log of educational activities that is made contemporaneously with the instruction and that designates by title any reading materials used.
2. Samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student.

(e) The parent shall determine the content of the portfolio, preserve it for 2 years, and make it available for inspection, if requested, by the district school superintendent, or the district school superintendent’s agent, upon 15 days’ written notice. Nothing in this section shall require the district school superintendent to inspect the portfolio.

(f) The parent shall provide for an annual educational evaluation in which is documented the student’s demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with her or his ability. The parent shall select the method of evaluation and shall file a copy of the evaluation annually with the district school superintendent’s office in the county in which the student resides. The annual educational evaluation shall consist of one of the following:

1. A teacher selected by the parent shall evaluate the student’s educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student. Such teacher shall hold a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level;
2. The student shall take any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher;
3. The student shall take a state student assessment test used by the school district and administered by a certified teacher, at a location and under testing conditions approved by the school district;
4. The student shall be evaluated by an individual holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of s. [490.003\(7\)](#) or (8); or

5. The student shall be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the district school superintendent of the district in which the student resides and the student's parent.

(2) The district school superintendent shall accept the results of the annual educational evaluation of the student in a home education program. If the student does not demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate with her or his ability, the district school superintendent shall notify the parent, in writing, that such progress has not been achieved. The parent shall have 1 year from the date of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial instruction to the student. At the end of the 1-year probationary period, the student shall be reevaluated as specified in paragraph (1)(f). Continuation in a home education program shall be contingent upon the student demonstrating educational progress commensurate with her or his ability at the end of the probationary period.

(3) A home education program shall be excluded from meeting the requirements of a school day.

(4) Home education students may participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.15.

(5) Home education students may participate in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1009.53-1009.538.

(6) Home education students may participate in dual enrollment programs in accordance with ss. 1007.27(4) and 1007.271(13).

(7) Home education students are eligible for admission to Florida College System institutions in accordance with the provisions of s. 1007.263.

(8) Home education students are eligible for admission to state universities in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the Board of Governors.

(9) Testing and evaluation services at diagnostic and resource centers shall be available to home education program students, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.03.

(10) A school district may provide exceptional student education-related services, as defined in State Board of Education rule, to a home education program student with a disability who is eligible for the services and who enrolls in a public school solely for the purpose of receiving those related services. The school district providing the services shall report each student as a full-time equivalent student in the class and in a manner prescribed by the Department of Education, and funding shall be provided through the Florida Education Finance Program pursuant to s. 1011.62.

(11) A school district may provide access to career and technical courses and programs for a home education program student who enrolls in a public school solely for the career and technical courses or programs. The school district that provides the career and technical courses and programs shall report each student as a full-time equivalent student in the class and in a manner prescribed by the department, and funding shall be provided through the Florida Education Finance Program pursuant to s. 1011.62.

(12) Industry certifications, national assessments, and statewide, standardized assessments offered by a school district shall be available to home education program students. Each school district shall notify home education program students of the available certifications and assessments; the date, time, and locations for the administration of each certification and assessment; and the deadline for notifying the school district of the student's intent to participate and the student's preferred location.

(13) A school district may not further regulate, exercise control over, or require documentation from parents of home education program students beyond the requirements of this section unless the regulation, control, or documentation is necessary for participation in a school district program.

History.—s. 106, ch. 2002-387; s. 82, ch. 2007-217; s. 29, ch. 2011-5; s. 5, ch. 2012-191; s. 175, ch. 2014-17; s. 28, ch. 2014-39; s. 2, ch. 2016-137; s. 1, ch. 2018-134.

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

IN COMPLIANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTE, THIS SERVES AS THE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO ESTABLISH A HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM ON ____/____/____.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Address:

City

Zip Code

Home Phone*

Cell Phone*

E-mail Address*

Student (s) Full Legal Name(s)

Birthdate

It is my intent to establish and maintain a home education program for the above-named student(s). As the parent/guardian, I have read and will comply with information in and related to Florida Statute 1002.41 as acknowledged below.

Please acknowledge understanding of the statutes below by initialing the line.

_____ I understand that Home Education students do not receive a public high school diploma. A home education program is not a school district program and is registered with the district school superintendent only for the purpose of complying with the state's attendance requirements under s. 1003.21.

_____ I understand that I am to keep and maintain a portfolio of records consisting of: a log of educational activities that is made contemporaneously with the instruction and that designates by title any reading materials used and samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student.

_____ I understand I am required to provide an annual evaluation to the office of Home Education upon the anniversary of establishing this Home Education program (one year from start date).

_____ I understand should I terminate my Home Education program I will provide written notification of termination and a final evaluation to the office of Home Education within 30 days of my termination date.

_____ I understand that choosing a virtual school curriculum (such as FLVS or PVS) does not negate any of these requirements.

I would like my acceptance letter mailed _____

I would like my acceptance letter e-mailed _____

(please provide your e-mail address)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date:

(ACTUAL SIGNATURE AND INITIALS REQUIRED, TYPED OR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES/INITIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)

If you have any questions, please call our office at 727-588-6209

Send to: Pinellas County Schools Home Education Department
P.O. Box 2942
Largo, Fl. 33779-2942

Fax: 727-588-5038

E-mail: CSHE@pcsb.org

* Items marked with an asterisk are optional