

Home schooling (also called home education) is the education of children at home, typically by parents or guardians, rather than in a public or private school. Florida Statute 1002.01 defines home school as *“the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements.”*

Home Education is a *parent-directed* educational option, the district does not provide instructional materials to home education students. Materials to help parents implement a home education program are available from many sources. Parents may, at their own expense, order state adopted instructional materials from the Florida State Book Depository or from curriculum vendors that provide online catalogs, and their websites often can be accessed through an Internet search.

The parent must withdraw student from their school of enrollment (if applicable) ***and*** notify the district of their intent to establish the program in writing providing the following:

- Name of each child
- Birthdates
- Address

In addition, the parent/guardian must sign the letter. Although not a requirement, we ask that you include your phone number.

The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall consist of the following:

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

The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years and shall be made available for inspection by the district school superintendent, or the district school superintendent's agent, upon 15 days' written notice.

If the parent of a child who has been identified as exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a home education program, the district school superintendent shall refer the parent to a home education review committee.

The home education review committee shall review the portfolio of the student, every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in compliance. The first portfolio review must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the establishment of the program.

If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the committee, the committee shall notify the district school superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then terminate the home education program and require the parent to enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the definition of "regular school attendance" The parent shall not be eligible to reenroll the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.

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 evaluation is due one year after submission of your intent letter and each year thereafter. The home education law provides five evaluation options:

1. Individual evaluation by a Florida certified teacher of your choice (the district does not provide this service)
2. The student shall take any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher
3. State student assessment test. (Highlands County offers FCAT testing for home school students. Must meet registration deadlines set forth by the district)
4. Psychological evaluation
5. Any other method mutually agreed upon in writing by the parent and the superintendent.

Failure to comply with this requirement may trigger the district's policy regarding non-compliance with compulsory school attendance.

School districts are not authorized to award a regular Florida high school diploma to home education students. However, a home education student may take the General Educational Development (GED) test at an education center and be awarded a Florida GED diploma if the student receives a passing score. The toll free number for information pertaining to the GED is 800-237-5113.

Please send all correspondence; intent letters, evaluations, terminations and/or address change to:

*School Board of Highland County
426 School Street
Sebring, FL 33870*

ATT: Home School Department

Additional information: [DOE Home School link: http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/home%5Feducation/](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/home%5Feducation/)

Florida Parent-Educators Association link: www.fpea.com
Center for Precollegiate Education and Training link: <http://www.cpet.ufl.edu>