

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools**  
**Florida Home Education Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **What is Home Education?**

A home education program is defined in F.S. 1002.41 as the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by parent or guardian to satisfy the compulsory school attendance requirements of F.S. 1002.20.

2. **Who can teach in the home education setting?**

Any parent who complies with the reporting, record keeping, and student evaluation requirements specified in statutory law may conduct a home education program. The parent is not required to hold a valid regular Florida teaching certificate.

3. **How does a parent enroll their child in the Florida Home Education Program in Miami-Dade County Public Schools?**

If the child is currently enrolled in a public or private school, the parent must complete the withdrawal process at the school prior to enrolling in Home Education. Once the withdrawal process is complete, the parent must notify the district in writing in the county in which the parent resides, of their intent to enroll their child in the home education. In this district, a **Notice of Intent** Form is to be submitted electronically to the Home Education Office at HomeEducation@dadeschools.net. If the child has never been enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the completed form along with **requested district documentation**, are to be submitted electronically to the Home Education Office at HomeEducation@dadeschools.net. Upon enrollment, the parent will receive electronically the officiated Notice of Intent Form that serves as the enrollment confirmation for the child.

4. **What are the basic home education requirements?**

The parent must direct the student, sequentially, with progressive instruction in order to satisfy the requirements of Florida Statutes. Current law does not prescribe a curriculum or course of study for home education programs. The parent is responsible for the curriculum, materials and textbooks, as well as maintaining a portfolio of the student's work. Section 1002.41, (1) (c), Florida Statutes, mandates that the parent provide an annual educational evaluation, which documents the student's educational progress at a level commensurate with their ability. It is the sole responsibility of the parent to provide the required annual educational evaluation of the student. Failure to submit the annual educational evaluation may result in retention of the student. Additionally, a representative of Miami-Dade County Public Schools may contact you to review the student's educational portfolio.

5. ***What are the responsibilities of parents who establish a home education program?***

As required by Section 1002.41, F.S., to establish a home education program and maintain compliance with statute, a parent must:

1. Submit the **Notice of Intent** electronically within 30 days to establish a home education program - **s.1002.41 home education programs**. Prior to enrolling in home education, the child must be withdrawn from a public or private school. If the child has never been enrolled in a Miami-Dade County Public School, the *Notice of Intent* is to be submitted along with the requested district documentation.
2. Maintain a portfolio containing work samples, reading lists (title, author), a log of educational activities and any other materials used/ or developed by the student. Each student's portfolio is to be kept for two years and be made available for inspection by the Superintendent's designee, with a 15-day written notice.
3. Provide an **Annual Evaluation** no later than the anniversary date.
4. Submit a **Notice of Termination** to conclude the home education program within 30 days of termination.

6. ***What type of diploma do home education students receive?***

School districts, adult high schools, and community colleges are not authorized to award a regular Florida high school diploma to home education students. However, a home education student may take the **General Education Development (GED) Test** at an education center and be awarded a Florida GED diploma if the student receives a passing score. The Florida Department of Education toll free number for information pertaining to the GED is 1-877-352-4331.

7. ***Are home education students required to be immunized if they are participating in activities/testing in a Miami-Dade County Public School?***

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are in the Florida Home Education Program and who participate in any Miami-Dade County Public School campus-based activities or testing are required to have age-appropriate vaccines with the proper documentation in accordance with Section **1003.22(4)**, Florida Statutes. For immunization information, please refer to Miami-Dade County Public Schools: Health and Immunization Requirements.

8. ***What if the parent decides to discontinue the program?***

Parents may discontinue the home education program at any time by submitting the completed **Notice of Termination** electronically to the Home Education Office at HomeEducaiton@dadeschools.net. Please be aware that termination notification must be submitted within 30 days of the program's conclusion, and if discontinued, compulsory school attendance laws will go into effect.

## **EVALUATION**

### **9. *What is a portfolio?***

Section **1002.41, F.S.**, defines a portfolio as "A log of educational activities which is made and samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student." (As you teach, you should date and record the activities that occur and materials that are used.)

The portfolio shall include:

A log of educational activities performed daily with instruction.

- A listing of all the reading materials by title.
- Samples of workbooks and worksheets that have been used.
- Samples of writings and other creative materials used or developed by the student.

The law further requires the parent to preserve the portfolio for two years and to make available for inspection by the superintendent, or the superintendent's agent, upon a 15-day written notice. Nothing in the law requires the superintendent to inspect the portfolio.

### **10. *How is the annual educational evaluation requirement fulfilled?***

A parent may select one of the following methods to fulfill the home education annual educational evaluation requirement in Miami-Dade County:

- A teacher selected by the parent or guardian shall evaluate the pupil's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the pupil utilizing the **Home Education Annual Evaluation Form**. Such teacher shall hold a valid professional Educator's Florida Certificate in an academic subject at the elementary or secondary level;
- The student shall take any nationally norm student achievement test administered by a certified teacher;
- The student shall take a state student assessment test used by the District and administered by a certified teacher, at a location and under testing conditions approved by the District;
- The student shall be evaluated utilizing the **Home Education Annual Evaluation Form** by a psychologist holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of **F.S. 490.003(7)**.
- The student shall be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the district in which the student and the parent reside.

### **11. *What requirements must be met by a teacher conducting an annual evaluation of a home education student?***

As defined in Section 1002.41, F.S., a teacher who evaluates a home education student must hold current certification in academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level in the state of Florida. Of the five evaluation options described in the law, three involve a certified teacher.

**12. *What occurs if the district does not receive the annual educational evaluation?***

Section 1002.41 (2) (c), F.S., requires the parent to provide an annual evaluation for each student in the home education program and to file a copy of the evaluation annually with the district. Failure to comply with this requirement places the Home Education Program in non-compliance.

## **INSTRUCTION**

**13. *What curriculum is used and where are textbooks purchased?***

The parent may use any curriculum preferred. CPALMS is an online toolbox for information, vetted resources, and interactive tools that help educators effectively implement teaching standards. It is the State of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions.  
<http://www.cpalms.org/public/>.

The costs for textbooks are the responsibility of the parent. Instructional materials used in Miami-Dade County Public Schools may be purchased through the **Florida School Book Depository**. For additional textbook information, you may call Miami-Dade County Public Schools office of Instructional Materials and Textbooks at (305) 995-2573.

**14. *Do school districts provide instructional materials to home education students?***

There is no requirement for districts to provide instructional materials to home education students.

**15. *Does the district maintain a list of tutors and evaluators?***

No. The district does not maintain a list of tutors and evaluators. However, the resource link of the district's Home Education page provides the names of community organizations that provide support to the home education community, external to the district.

**16. *The home school for my child offers some electives that my child would like to enroll in. Can my child take courses on the school campuses?***

Yes. Home education students may attend their home zoned school part-time or enroll in Miami-Dade Virtual School classes.

**17. *May home education students take dual enrollment courses at district high schools?***

Yes. Districts that have a part-time enrollment policy may enroll home education students in the school district. This is a local decision that is articulated in the district's student progression plan.

**18. *What is part-time enrollment?***

Home education students may attend their zoned school of attendance to take classes to supplement the parent's home education program. The number and type of classes available are different at the elementary, middle and senior high school level. Part-time enrollment should occur at the beginning of a semester.

**19. *May home education students enroll at specialized or magnet schools?***

Yes. Most districts have established a selection process for any student wishing to attend a magnet school. A home education student would adhere to the same process as a public school student.

**20. *May home education students take virtual classes?***

Yes. There are two options for virtual classes.

- **Miami-Dade Virtual School (M-DVS)** provides online options for students to earn high school credits. Registration and enrollment occur at specified times during the year.
- **Florida Virtual School (FLVS)** is a public on-line school providing tuition-free middle and high school courses to Florida students. To enroll a home education student in part-time courses at FLVS, parents must send the officiated Notice of Intent from Miami-Dade County Public Schools to the FLVS office, which serves as verification that your child is enrolled in the district's home education program.

***INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES***

**21. *May home education students participate in "inter-scholastic extracurricular activities" offered at public schools?***

Yes. Section 1006.15 F.S., requires that home education students be given the same opportunity to participate in "inter-scholastic extracurricular activities" as public school students. The law prohibits any requirements that would make participation less accessible for home education students. The law also allows for home education students to develop an agreement to participate in "inter-scholastic extracurricular activities" at a non-public school.

**22. *What grade levels are allowed to participate in inter-scholastic extracurricular activities?***

Section 1006.15 F.S., primarily addresses students in grades 9-12 but does not prohibit students in lower grades from participation. The by-laws of the Florida High School Athletic Association regulate which students, and under what circumstances those students may participate in the inter-scholastic extracurricular activity.

**23. *How does the district determine at which school the home education student may participate in extracurricular activities?***

The home education student must meet the same residency requirements as other students to participate in extracurricular activities.

**24. *Do home education students have the same opportunity as public and nonpublic school students to enter a college of their choice?***

Yes, depending on the student's qualifications and the admission requirements of the postsecondary institution. In order to understand the specific admission requirements of a postsecondary institution, home educators should directly contact the admissions office of the institution of their choice.

**25. *Are home education students eligible for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships?***

Yes. Home education students who are enrolled in their district, in grades 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> may qualify for scholarships through the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Programs. **The Home-Educated Student Guide** provides information on eligibility, requirements and timelines.

**26. *How can a parent get more information about the eligibility requirements for driving privileges?***

Parents may find information about student's driving privileges at **F.S. 322.091 Eligibility requirements for driving privileges**. In addition, you may contact the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles at (850) 617-2000.