

# Validation

## Testing Requirements

For Students From  
Non-Accredited Homeschools or  
Non-Accredited Private Schools

### **Gulf Shores Middle School Homeschool and Private School Information Regarding Grade Level Placement**

Grade placement for students entering our schools from non-accredited schools (as identified by the Alabama State Department of Education) is determined by student performance on validation tests that assess standards from the Alabama Courses of Study or a review of approved standardized tests. Validation tests are required for all students transferring from non-accredited homeschool programs or non-accredited private schools.

Students who have completed the grade level requirement and elect to take validation tests are required to earn the minimum score requirement on each test to enroll in the next grade level. Incoming 7th grade students are required to take two online validation tests, one in 6th grade Reading

and one in 6th grade Math. Incoming 8th grade students are required to take an online 7th grade Reading and an online 7th grade Math test. Computers are provided for validation testing.

No validation tests are timed. The validation process ends once a student scores below the minimum score. For example, Math is the first validation test administered for both incoming grade levels. Should a student score below the minimum score on the Math test, then no other validation tests are administered, and the student is placed at the previous grade level. Validation tests are not administered to students who would turn 16 years of age in 8th grade.

Mrs. Holmes, School Counselor, is responsible for scheduling and administering validation tests. She can be reached at 251-968-8719 and by email: [wholmes@gulfshorescityschools.org](mailto:wholmes@gulfshorescityschools.org) .

Students who submit standardized test scores in lieu of validation tests to the GSBOE central office for review are expected to be on grade level in each core subject. Standardized test scores are required to be current if they are used for consideration for placement. Dr. Connie McNab, GSBOE Psychologist, is the contact person for standardized test review. She can be reached at [cmcnab@gulfshorescityschools.org](mailto:cmcnab@gulfshorescityschools.org) or 251-968-8719.

**Parents who are considering homeschool and private school programs need to be aware of the accreditation status of the programs they select.** It is the responsibility of the parent to provide proof of program accreditation to the Registrar, Mrs. Rachel Osborn. Transcripts indicating successful completion of accredited programs are also required.

Parents of homeschool students may visit the Alabama Course of Study website for information regarding grades 6-8 course content. Here is the link:<http://alex.state.al.us/browseStand.php>

## **Information Regarding Local Homeschool and Private School Accreditation August 2016**

**Non-Accredited Homeschools (Require Validation Tests):**

Central Christian Homeschool in Robertsdale, AL  
Bridge Christian Academy in Magnolia Springs, AL

**Non-Accredited Private School (Require Validation Tests):**

Bayshore Christian School, Fairhope, AL

Marietta Johnson Organic School, Fairhope, AL

**Accredited Homeschools:** There are many online programs that are accredited. Parents are responsible for providing proof of accreditation. Here are some of these accredited homeschool programs:

Alabama Connections Academy

<https://www.connectionsacademy.com/alabama-virtual-school>

International Connections Academy

[www.internationalconnectionsacademy.com](http://www.internationalconnectionsacademy.com)

Calvert Educational Services Homeschool Program

<http://homeschool.calverteducation.com/>

Keystone School Online

[Keystoneschoolonline.com](http://Keystoneschoolonline.com)

**Accredited Private Schools:**

Bayside Academy, Daphne, AL

Christ the King School, Daphne, AL

Central Christian School, Robertsdale, AL

St. Patrick School, Robertsdale, AL

Saint Benedict's School, Foley, AL

***This is not a complete list of non-accredited/accredited homeschool or private school programs.***

***Gulf Shores Middle School requires no validation tests for students transferring from schools that are accredited by the following agencies:***

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Elementary Education; Commission on Secondary Schools  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680  
Phone: 215-662-2680  
[www.css-msa.org](http://www.css-msa.org)

New England Association of Schools and Colleges  
Commission on Public Elementary and Middle Schools; Commission on Public  
Secondary Schools; Commission on Technical and Career Institutions  
209 Burlington Road, Suite 201  
Bedford, MA 01730-1433  
Phone: 781-271-0022  
[www.neasc.org](http://www.neasc.org)

North Central Association  
Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 871008  
Tempe, AZ 85287-1008  
Phone: 800-525-9517  
[www.ncacasi.org](http://www.ncacasi.org)

Northwest Association of Accredited Schools  
Boise State University  
Education Building  
1910 University Drive  
Boise, ID 83725-1060  
Phone: 208-426-5727  
[www.boisestate.edu/naas](http://www.boisestate.edu/naas)

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/ AdvancED  
Council on Accreditation and School Improvement  
Commission on Elementary, Middle and Secondary Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033  
[www.sacscasi.org](http://www.sacscasi.org)

Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
Accrediting Commission for Schools  
533 Airport Boulevard, Suite 200  
Burlingame, CA 94010-2009  
Phone: 650-696-1867  
[www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org)