Franklin County School District

2025-26

Home Education Handbook

APPROVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ON 07/29/2025

INTRODUCTION

Home education, as defined by Florida law, is “sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of Sections 1002.41, 1003.01, and 1003.21.” The law gives parents much freedom in directing and choosing the educational programs that best meet the needs of their child. Parents are responsible for all aspects of the student’s home education program. Throughout the state of Florida, children of all ages are being home educated, with many of them entering college straight from their home education programs.

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Guidelines

Establishing a Home Education Program

Q 1. **What are the responsibilities of parents who wish to establish a home education program?**
To establish a home education program and maintain compliance, as required by Section 1002, the parent must:

1. Send notice of intent (Form 1) to the district Home Education office within 30 days of beginning your home education program.
2. Maintain a portfolio of records.
3. Make your portfolio available for inspection by the Home Education upon a 15-day written notice.
4. Submit an annual evaluation for each child to the Home Education within one year of the letter of intent. (Form 2)
5. Preserve your child's portfolio for two years.
6. Submit a notice of termination within 30 days upon completion of your home education program when you stop home educating your child, or upon moving from the county. (Form 3)

Q 2. **Will I need to file a notice of intent for my five-year-old kindergartner?**
Five-year-old children who turn 6 before February 1 of the school year must be enrolled in school according to Florida Statute1003.21. Five-year-old children who are not of compulsory attendance age and who are home schooled for kindergarten are not required to register for the Home Education Program. However, if a letter of intent is filed for a five-year-old kindergartner, then the parent must keep a portfolio and the child must be evaluated.

The Franklin County School Board *Student Progression Plan* states that students entering first grade must be 6 years old on or before September 1 of the school year and have successfully completed a county approved kindergarten. **HOME EDUCATION IS NOT A COUNTY APPROVED KINDERGARTEN**.

Q.3. **Do I have to hold a teaching certificate to teach my child at home?**
No. A parent is not required to have a valid Florida teaching certificate to home educate his/her child.

Q 4. **Do I have to teach my child myself or are there other educational avenues available?**
A family that has established a home education program as required by statute may enlist the help of a tutor, the Florida Virtual School, correspondence courses, or other means to provide sequentially progressive instruction. Any curriculum materials purchased will be at the parent's expense.

Q.5. **Who is responsible for the records if I hire a tutor to teach my child?**
If a private tutor is hired to provide instruction for the child, the parent is responsible for maintaining the child's portfolio.

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Virtual Schooling

Q 6. **What is Florida Virtual School?**

The Florida Virtual School is a statewide online school that provides online courses to all students in affiliated school districts throughout Florida. Florida Virtual School is a no-campus school that offers interactive courses based on the Florida State Standards. Instruction is available at any time and any place. You may learn more about Florida Virtual School by calling (800) 374-1430 or by visiting the website at http://flvs.net. (FLEX)

Q 7. **How does my child register to take an Advanced Placement (AP) Test after completing a virtual school advance placement course?**

Florida Virtual School will determine when a test is needed. Home education parents will need to contact the guidance counselor at their school to register for the AP test. Test dates are date pre-set by the College Board for all AP tests. For more information on advanced placement, visit the AP Central website, http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jpf

Q 8. **Does the School Board of Franklin County provide services for Special Education students?**

Yes. Special Education students participating in home education may enroll in Exceptional Student Education related services and a maximum of three periods of direct instruction. For additional information, you may call the Special Programs Director @850-670-2810 ext. 4109

Dual Enrollment

Q 9. **Can my child participate in dual enrollment?**

Home education students may participate in "dual enrollment" at a community college. For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Gulf Coast State College, (850) 769-1551

Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Q 10. **Can my child participate in interscholastic, extracurricular activities offered at public schools?**

Yes. Home education students must be given the same opportunity as public school students. The law prohibits any requirement that would make participation less accessible for home education students.

Q 11. **How does the school district determine at which school my child may participate in interscholastic, extracurricular activities?**

Home education students are required to participate at the public school for which they would be zoned based on home residence. Parents should consult with the zoned school's athletic director regarding appropriate forms to be completed for participation in sports teams.

Q 12. **If my child participates in interscholastic, extracurricular activities offered at public schools, must he/she comply with school entry and immunization requirements?**

Yes. Home education students must meet the same entrance and immunization requirements as other students attending public school.

Q 13. **What if the interscholastic, extracurricular activity requires a class to be taken in order to participate?**

In accordance with Section 1006.15(4) (c), a home education student must enroll in class if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity. For example, the school must allow a home education student to take a band class during the day if that class is required for participation in the school's marching band.

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Portfolios/Annual Evaluations

Q 14. **What is a portfolio?**

Section 1002.41(1)(b) defines a portfolio as: "(1) A log of educational activities which is made contemporaneously with the instruction and which designates by title any reading materials used;
(2) Samples of any writings, work sheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student".

Included in the portfolio are the following items:

1. Sequentially progressive lesson plans written during instruction.
2. A list of titles of reading materials, textbooks, and other materials used during instruction; and
3. Samples of each child's work.

The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent/guardian for two years and shall be made available for inspection by the district school superintendent/designee upon 15 days prior written notice. Nothing in this section shall require the district school superintendent to inspect the portfolio.

Q 15. **Must all home education parents submit an annual evaluation?**

Yes. By law, **all** parents who home educate must submit an annual evaluation within one year of the date the Notice of Intent to Home Educate was filed. (See Home Education Program Evaluation Checklist - Form 2)

Q 16. **What type of evaluation will meet the annual requirement?**

An annual evaluation must be submitted for each home education student (See Home Education Program Evaluation - Form 2). The annual evaluation requirement must be met by submitting **one** of the following:

1. Portfolio evaluated by Florida certified teacher.
2. Results of nationally normed achievement test taken by the student and administered by a certified teacher.
3. Results of a state student assessment test taken by the student.
4. Student evaluation by an individual holding a valid active license in psychology.
5. Superintendent/Parent Agreement for other valid measurements; e.g., PSAT, SAT, or ACT scores, grades earned through dual enrollment at community college, classes taken at public schools, accredited private or online schools.

Q 17. **What are the consequences if I do not submit an annual evaluation of my child to the school district?**

Section 1002.41(2) requires the parent to provide an annual evaluation for **each** child. Failure to do so places the home education program in noncompliance. The superintendent/designee may, after noticing to the parent, terminate the home education program and require the child to enroll in public school to meet the compulsory attendance law.

Q18. **How is it determined if my child is promoted to the next grade?**

If the child remains in home education, it is the parent's decision. If the student re-enters public school, it is the **parent's responsibility to provide proof** the student has taken and passed the requirements to enter the grade level the student is being placed. After

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classroom observation and assessment, placement may be adjusted by the administration.

State Assessments

Q 19. Does my child have to take the statewide standardized assessments (FSA Reading/Writing & Math, FCAT Science, FSA and/or NGSSS EOC Assessments)?

No.

Home education students **are not required** to take any statewide standardized assessments. An annual evaluation is the only evaluation mandated by law. If you choose to have your child participate in these statewide standardized assessments, please complete the Home Education Student Test Registration Form. The registration form may be completed and faxed (850) 670-2801 or emailed lhamm@fcsdfl.org to Lacey Hamm, Assessment Coordinator. Contact information is located in bold at the top of the form.

Important Items to Note

Please take this information into consideration if you plan on having your home education student participate in the statewide standardized assessments:

1. The registration deadlines are clearly marked on the registration form. Failure to meet the registration deadlines will result in your child being **unable** to test. **Please review the registration form by the end of January to ensure all deadlines can be met.** The testing calendar can be found on the Franklin County School Board website under Parents and Testing.
2. It is the **parent's responsibility** to contact the school **at least two weeks prior to the testing window** to ensure that the student is present on the specific date and time provided by the school official.
3. A student may ONLY test at his/her grade level with the same subject area tests offered to public school students at that grade level. *Per state guidelines, "Grades 11 and 12 Home Education Program students are NOT permitted to take the Reading Retake or FSA ELA Retake."

ESE Students Requiring Test Accommodations

1. At the time of registration, the parent/guardian is responsible for indicating a need for accommodations, as well as providing supporting documentation associated with this request, including the most recent Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.
2. If documentation is not provided, the student may still test, but will not be eligible to receive accommodations.

Diplomas

Q. 20.**Will the district award my child a diploma?**

No. School districts are not authorized to award a diploma to a home education student.

Q 21**. How can a home education student obtain a diploma?**

School districts, adult high schools, and community colleges are not authorized to issue regular high school diplomas to home education students who complete a high school course of study. To receive a diploma from your zoned high school, you must attend your senior year from day to day, meet all graduation requirements, and have a passing score on the FSA.

A home education student can take and pass the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test at an education center and be awarded a GED diploma by the state of Florida, or utilize a curriculum provider (e.g., correspondence school) that offers a credential to the student. For GED information, call (850) 670-2810 ext. 4110.

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Credits

Q 22. **Will the School Board of Franklin County accept my child's high school credits awarded by the Home Education Program?**

Credits will be awarded in accordance with State Board Rules as follows:

State Board Rule: 6A-1.09942 State Uniform Transfer of Students in the Middle Grades

The purpose of this rule is to establish uniform procedures relating to the acceptance of transfer work and courses for students entering Florida's public schools composed of middle grades 6, 7, and 8 from out of state or out of country. The procedures shall be as follows:

Grades earned and offered for acceptance shall be based on official transcripts and shall be accepted at face value subject to validation if required by the receiving school's accreditation. If validation of the official transcript is deemed necessary, or if the student does not possess an official transcript or is a home education student, successful completion of courses shall be validated through performance during the first grading period as outlined in subsection (2) of this rule.

(1) Validation of courses shall be based on performance in classes at the receiving school. A student transferring into a school shall be placed at the appropriate sequential course level and should be passing each required course at the end of the first grading period. Students who do not meet this requirement shall have credits validated using the Alternative Validation Procedure, as outlined in subsection (3) of this rule.

(2) Alternative Validation Procedure. If validation based on performance as described above is not satisfactory, then any one of the following alternative identified in the district student progression plan shall be used for validation purposes as determined by the teacher, principal, and parent:
   a) Portfolio evaluation by the superintendent or designee;
   b) Demonstrated performance in courses taken at other public or private accredited schools;
   c) Demonstrated proficiencies on nationally-normed standardized subject area assessments;
   d) Demonstrated proficiencies on the FCAT; or
   e) Written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school. Students must be provided at least ninety (90) days from date of transfer to prepare for assessments outlined in paragraphs (3)(c) and (d) of this rule if required.

State Board Rule: 6A-1.09941 State Uniform Transfer of High School Credits

The purpose of this rule is to establish uniform procedures relating to the acceptance of transfer work and credit for students entering Florida's public schools. The procedures shall be as follows:

(1) Credits and grades earned and offered for acceptance shall be based on official transcripts and shall be accepted at face value subject to validation if required by the receiving school's accreditation. If validation of the official transcript is deemed necessary, or if the student does not possess an official transcript or is a home education student, credits shall be validated through performance during the first grading period as outlined in subsection (2) of this rule.

(2) Validation of credits shall be based on performance in classes at the receiving school. A student transferring into a school shall be placed at the appropriate sequential course level and should have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 at the end of the first grading period. Students who do not meet this requirement shall have credits validated using the Alternative Validation Procedure, as outlined in subsection (3) of this rule.

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(3) Alternative Validation Procedure. If validation based on performance as described above is not satisfactory, then any one of the following alternatives shall be used for validation purposes as determined by the teacher, principal, and parent:

(a) Portfolio evaluation by the superintendent or designee;

(b) Written recommendation by a Florida certified teacher selected by the parent and approved by the principal;

(c) Satisfactory performance in courses taken through dual enrollment or at other public or private accredited schools;

(d) Satisfactory performance on nationally-normed standardized subject area assessments;

(e) Satisfactory performance on a statewide, standardized assessment; or

(f) Written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school. Students must be provided at least ninety (90) days from date of transfer to prepare for assessments outlined in paragraphs (3)(d) and (e) of this rule if required.

Rulemaking Authority 1003.25, 1003.4282 FS. Law Implemented 1003.25, 1003.4282 FS. History–New 8-28-00, Formerly 6-1.099, Amended 9-22-03, 4-30-12, 3-25-14.

Q 23. Does my child have to take End-of-Course (EOC) Exams?

No.

Home school students **are not required** to take EOC exams. An annual evaluation is the only evaluation mandated by law. If you choose to have your child participate in an EOC administration, please contact Lacy Hamm, Testing Coordinator ext. 3003 to schedule dates and times

- If a home education student earned the EOC credit (Biology, Geometry, Algebra 2, US History) through an accredited agency, then the credit is accepted at face value and NO EOC is required.
- If a home education student earned the EOC credit through a non-accredited agency, then the student may participate in the EOC's. If passing scores are earned, the student can be awarded the credit through the CAP program.
- Passing the Algebra EOC is a graduation requirement for ALL home education students who return to public school.

Important Items to Note

Please consider this information if you plan on having your home education student participate in an EOC administration:

1. The registration deadlines are marked on the registration form. Failure to meet the registration deadlines will result in your child being **unable** to test. **Please review the registration form by the end of January to ensure all deadlines can be met.** The testing calendar can be found on the Franklin County School Board website under Parents and Testing.
2. It is the **parent's responsibility** to contact the school **at least two weeks prior to the testing window** to ensure that the student is present on the specific date and time provided by the school official.

ESE Students Requiring Test Accommodations

1. At the time of registration, the parent/guardian is responsible for indicating a need for accommodations, as well as providing supporting documentation associated with this request, including the most recent Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.
2. If documentation is not provided, the student may still take the test, but will not be eligible to

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receive accommodations.

Scholarships

Q 24. **Can home education students apply for a state scholarship?**

Yes. Information regarding all state-administered awards can be found online at http://www.Floridastudentfinancialaid.org.

Bright Futures eligibility can be determined at the end of the first term of the senior year. The Florida Legislature is authorized each year to change eligibility and funding requirements. Please monitor the website below for current information regarding eligibility for **The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program**.
http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm

For any questions please call (850) 410-5173 or toll-free at (888) 827-2004.
Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Terminating Home Education Programs

Q 25. **What should I do when it is my intention to no longer home educate?**

Provide written notice of termination of the home education program to the superintendent within 30 days of the termination. (Notice of Termination of Home Education Program - Form 3) After terminating your program, you must re-enroll your child or children in a public or private school if they are of compulsory school attendance age (6-16).

Q 26. **Can a child who has been home educated enter/return to public school?**

Yes. A student seeking to enter or re-enter a Franklin County public school from a home education program must meet all entrance requirements (state and district) that any other student must meet. The student shall be placed academically as any other student who seeks to enter a public school. Placement may be adjusted if warranted following classroom observations and assessment.

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FORM 1

Franklin County School District

LETTER OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

In compliance with Section 1002.41(1)(a), Florida Statute, a home-schooling parent must notify the superintendent of schools or designee of the county in which the parent resides of the intent to establish and maintain a home education program. The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent, and shall include the names, birthdates, and address of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. The notice shall be filed in the superintendent's office within 30 days of the establishment of the home education program. A written notice of termination of the home education program shall be filed in the superintendent's office within 30 days of said termination.

Completion of this form is optional. You may notify the superintendent in writing using another format.

Home School Program Start Date: _____

Child's Full Legal Name	DOB	Last School Attended	Current Grade

(Please Print) Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Full Residence Address: _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Phone numbers: Home _____ **Work/Other** _____ **E-Mail** _____

I have reviewed the Franklin District School Board Policy regarding Home Education, 9270 on Franklin District schools website **(please initial)** _____

It is my legal responsibility to maintain a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall consist of a log made contemporaneously with the instruction, which designates by title the reading materials used and sample writings, worksheets, workbooks and 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 superintendent or designee, upon 15 days written notice.

I understand that the school district is not required to provide materials, curriculum, books, or in any way oversee a Home Education Program. Home Education students may participate in certain athletic/extracurricular activities as provided in policy and procedure of the School Board.

I understand an annual evaluation must be completed (at the parent/guardian's cost) and a copy submitted to Special Programs Department: Attn: Tracy Shenuski or Monica Moron .

I understand that should I move out of Franklin County, my student(s) will no longer be eligible for home school under Franklin District Schools and will be withdrawn.

I understand that should I terminate this program for any reason a written notice of termination shall be filed with the school district with (30) days of the termination date.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date:** _____

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FORM 2

HOME EDUCATION WRITTEN EVALUATION FORM

There are five options for fulfilling the annual evaluation requirement. Selecting a teacher holding a valid regular Florida certificate to review and discuss the contents of the required portfolio with the student is a frequently used option. (The specific form below is not required but is provided by FCSD for your convenience.)

STUDENT INFORMATION

(Student Name) (Date of Birth)

(Student's Street Address) (Current Grade Level)

(Student's City, State, Zip Code) (Name of Parent/Guardian)

(Evaluation Option Chosen) (Results attached for B-E) (Email Address)

Option A: Portfolio and Student Conference ***Option B: Nationally Normed Test***

Option C: State Assessments ***Option D: Psychological Evaluation*** ***Option E: Virtual School Transcript***

STATEMENT FROM FLORIDA CERTIFIED TEACHER: (only if portfolio Option 1 is used) upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the pupil named above, I certify that the pupil has demonstrated progress at a level commensurate with his/her ability.

I understand Florida law requires that I hold a valid regular Florida certificate in elementary education or in an academic subject at the secondary level. My signature attests to my qualification.

Printed Name of Teacher/Evaluator Evaluation Date

Signature of Teacher/Evaluator Certification Number Certificate Expiration Date

PLEASE RETURN TO:

FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
85 SCHOOL ROAD EASTPOINT FL 32328

NOTE: If you would like to receive notification acknowledging receipt of this written Evaluation Form/Test Scores, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope or provide an email address above. It is assumed that you will continue to home educate your child (ren) unless you submit a written notice of termination.

TO BE COMPLETED BY FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Evaluation Acceptable:_____ Next Evaluation Due:_____

Evaluation Received Date:_____ Notification Sent Date:_____

FORM APPROVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ON 07/29/2025

FORM 3

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

SCHOOL BOARD OF FRANKLIN COUNTY
85 School Road
Eastpoint FL 32328
(850) 670-2810 FAX (850) 670-8579

mmoron@fcsdfl.org

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

In compliance with Section 1002.41(1) (a), this form serves as written notice to terminate the Home Education Program for the student(s) listed below:

Name of Child	Date of Birth	Last Grade Completed

Reason for Termination:

_____Returning to Franklin County public school

_____Enrolling in private school

_____Moving out of district

_____Other: (please specify) _____

Program Termination Date_____

Parent/Guardians' Signature:_____Date:_____

Email, fax or mail completed form to School Board of Franklin County.

For Internal Use Only

Rec'd by FCSD: _____ Withdrawn:

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Resources for Home School Parents

Florida Statutes: Section 1002.41 Home Education Programs

Chapter 1002 Section 41 - 2023 Florida Statutes (flsenate.gov)

Support Groups for Home Schoolers

www.fpea.com Guide to Homeschooling in Florida (FPEA Facebook)
biling@oysterradio.com Lean Allen, Parent Support

Certified Teachers for Yearly Evaluations

Anne Smoak Certificate #1268460 anne.smoak@myoneclay.net

Apple Blossom Evaluations #1192485 info@appleblossomevals.com

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Home-Educated Applicants
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Legislature is authorized each year to change eligibility and funding requirements. Eligibility criteria for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship specify that a student must have earned "a standard Florida high school diploma unless the student completes a home education program according to s. 1002.41." [Section 1009.531 (1) (b), Florida Statutes] In lieu of the diploma, **all home-educated students must be registered with the district where they reside for grades 11 and 12**. Home-educated students must meet the General Requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. In addition, the documentation listed below is required for home-educated students who wish to be evaluated for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

Required Documentation (no substitutions)

- ***Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)***. Submit a completed FFAA online during the student's last year in a home education curriculum (after December 1st of the last year and prior to graduation). The application gives the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) permission to evaluate the student's test scores and, if needed, high school transcript(s) for eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

- An eligible student who graduates mid-year may receive an initial award in the spring term following the student's graduation. The FFAA must be submitted by August 31 of the student's graduation year (prior to the spring term enrollment).

- After you submit the FFAA, you will receive a User ID and PIN. You are responsible for tracking your application, certifications, and award status online and for keeping OSFA informed of any demographic or institutional changes.

Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!

- The submission of a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) is now an **annual requirement** for Bright Futures eligibility. Note: The student's FAFSA does not have to indicate need; however, must be complete and processed error-free prior to a student's first disbursement of an award. (The Florida State Programs May 15 deadline does not apply to Bright Futures.)

- **SAT or ACT**. Tests taken through the end of June of the student's last year in a home education curriculum will be admissible for a Bright Futures evaluation. Submit scores to FDOE in one of the following ways (preferably the first):

  - Request the test scores be sent to one of Florida's 11 state universities when the student registers for the SAT or ACT. These scores will be sent to the FDOE repository.
  - MAIL the official copy (no photocopies) of the test scores in the original sealed envelope to the address at the bottom of this page.

When applying as a home-educated student, the test score requirement for each scholarship is outlined below. **NOTE**: Bright Futures uses the best score on any section of either test regardless of when the test was taken. SAT and ACT scores are not mixed. *NOTE: FOR BOTH EXAMS, THE REQUIRED TEST SCORES DO NOT INCLUDE THE WRITING PORTION.*

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Minimum Required Test Scores (for 2013-14 high school graduates and thereafter):

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award:

- A best combined score of **1290 SAT** or **29 ACT.**

Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award – TWO WAYS to qualify:

- A best combined score of **1220 SAT** or **27 ACT** OR A best combined score of **1170 SAT** or **26 ACT** with a weighted 3.0 GPA in the required 16 college preparatory credits - documented through Florida public, FDOE-registered private, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) or Florida dual enrollment transcripts. Note that Bright Futures does not accept parental transcripts. You may wish to consult the Comprehensive Course Table (CCT) link to determine if a specific course meets the required college preparatory credits. NOTE: A parent-generated transcript will not be accepted for Bright Futures evaluation.

TRANSCRIPTS – A parent-generated transcript will not be accepted for Bright Futures evaluation. Bright Futures accepts only **sealed, official** transcripts from the following sources:

- Florida public high school, *Florida Virtual Scho,
- Dual-enrollment coursework from a Florida state (community) college, or
- FDOE-registered private high school.

To submit transcripts, a Florida private school must be registered with the FDOE School Choice Office. Registration confirmation will be required for a minimum of the last academic year indicated on the transcript. To confirm that a school met the registration requirement, you may contact the School Choice Office by e-mail at SchoolChoice@fldoe.org or call toll-free 1- 800-447-1636.

- **DISTRICT CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION of a home-educated student for 11th and 12th grades** - In order to be eligible as a home-educated student, a student must provide verification of 11th and 12th grade county registration. **Certification of county registration will occur online by the home education district contact.** The submission of a 2013-14 FFAA as a home-educated student will prompt the district to certify the registration online.

If the student was not registered as being home-educated with the district for grades 11 AND 12, but has the minimum transcript information from a Florida public high school, Florida Virtual School, dual-enrollment coursework from a Florida state (community) college, or FDOE- registered private high school, test scores, and the required community service hours, he/she may be able to earn an award as a Florida GED Diploma recipient.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS Documentation -** A home-educated student must complete community service hours during high school and by high school graduation.
- Community service hours may not be hours that benefit the student financially or materially, or be service to family members, defined as: parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and spouses, including all step relations.
- The agency where the community service hours were earned must provide documentation on agency letterhead of the number of hours completed for each date of service, as well as a description of the service performed.
- The hours must be submitted through the student's district where he or she is registered as a home-educated student and approved by the FDOE for the Bright Futures community service requirement.
- Each award requires the following completed and approved community service hours:
  FAS-100 FMS-75 hours

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The Florida Statutes Relating to Home Education

Section 1003.01(13) Regular School Attendance

"Regular school attendance" means the actual attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance within the intent of Section 1003.21 may be achieved by attendance in:

(1) A public school supported by public funds;
(2) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
(3) A private school supported in whole or in part by tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;
(4) A home education program that meets the requirements of Section 1002; or
(5) A private tutoring program that meets the requirements of Section 1002.

Section 1002.41 Home Education Programs

(1) A "home education program" is defined in s. 1002.01. The parent is not required to hold a valid regular Florida teaching certificate.

(a) The parent 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 shall be in writing, signed by the parent, and shall include the names, addresses, and birthdates of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. The notice shall be filed in the district school superintendent's office within 30 days of the establishment of the home education program. A written notice of termination of the home education program shall be filed in the district school superintendent's office within 30 days after said termination.

(b) The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall 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. The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for two 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. Nothing in this section shall require the district school superintendent to inspect the portfolio.

(c) 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;

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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 Section 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.

(1) The district school superintendent shall review and 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 one year from the date of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial instruction to the student. At the end of the one-year probationary period, the student shall be reevaluated as specified in paragraph (1) (c). 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.

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

Section 1002.01 Home Education Program

(1) A "home education program" means the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent to satisfy the attendance requirements of Sections 1002.41, 1003.01(13), and 1003.21(1).

Section 1003.21 School Attendance

(1)(a)All children who have attained the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years…are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

Section 1003.26 Enforcement of School Attendance

(1)(f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified as exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a home education program pursuant to Section 1002, the district school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of Section 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph. The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent to a home education review committee composed of the district contact for home education programs and at least two home educators selected by the parent from a district list of all home educators who have conducted a home education program for at least three years and who have indicated a willingness to serve on the committee. The home education review committee shall review the portfolio of the student as defined by Section 1002.41, every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in compliance with 1002.41(1) (b). The first portfolio review must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2 do not apply once the committee determines

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the home education program is in compliance with Section 1002.41 (1) (b).

2. 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” under Section 1003.01(13) (a), (b), (c), or (e), within three days. Upon termination of a home education program pursuant to this subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible to reenroll the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days. Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance option as required by this subparagraph shall constitute noncompliance with the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 1003.21 and may result in criminal prosecution under Section 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall restrict the ability of the district school superintendent, or the ability of his or her designee, to review the portfolio pursuant to Section 1002.41(1) (b).

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