

SANTA FE ISD

UIL Participation Handbook

For Non-Enrolled Home School Students and Families

2026-2027 School Year

Purpose

This handbook explains the SFISD process, required documents, eligibility date schedule, and parent responsibilities for non-enrolled home school students seeking participation in UIL activities through Santa Fe ISD.



1. Overview and Eligibility Basics

Santa Fe ISD may provide eligible non-enrolled homeschool students with the opportunity to participate in UIL activities in the same manner that opportunities are provided to enrolled students, subject to UIL standards, SFISD procedures, residency requirements, and program expectations.

Start Early

The parent/guardian should initiate the SFISD process at least **four** weeks before the first game, contest, performance, or event so that application review, testing, registration, and program forms can be completed before participation begins.

A student may not begin practice or participate until SFISD confirms that all required steps have been completed and the parent/guardian receives written approval to begin.

The following activities are currently available:

Athletic Activities				
Football	Volleyball	Cross-Country	Basketball	Soccer
Baseball	Softball	Track	Tennis	Golf
Fine Arts or Academic Activities				
One Act Play	Band	UIL Academics		

2. Parent Action Checklist

Complete each item before practice or participation unless otherwise directed by SFISD. Use the checkboxes as a parent tracking tool.

- ☐ Complete the SFISD UIL Homeschool Application for Non-Enrolled Students found on the District Website.
- ☐ Schedule and pay for the grade-level proficiency testing with the Curriculum & Instruction Department before the student practices. *The Curriculum & Instruction Department will have testing dates scheduled throughout the year. A student will be allowed to practice/play if they have scheduled and paid for the testing. If the student misses the testing date, they will not be allowed to play until the next testing date.*
- ☐ Pay the required testing fee and __ fee when the application is submitted.
- ☐ Complete **New Student Online Registration** in **Skyward Family Access** and provide all required enrollment documentation.
- ☐ Provide proof of residency in the same manner required for enrolled students. Students who reside in another school district will need to provide proof that the district does not allow Homeschool Participation.

- ☐ If the student competes in Athletics or Marching Band, submit the required athletic physical before the first day of practice. The correct forms can be found on the SFISD Athletic Website.
- ☐ Read and sign all applicable program handbooks, athletics/fine arts/academic forms, and UIL participation forms.
- ☐ Submit grades according to the eligibility schedule in this handbook and any additional dates provided if the student becomes ineligible.

3. Contacts for Grade Submission and Participation Questions

Area	Contact	Email	Purpose
Athletics	Marilyn Richardson, Athletic Secretary	marilyn.richardson@sfisd.org	Athletic grade documentation and program questions
Fine Arts	Natalie Mancuso, C&I Secretary	Natalie.mancuso@sfisd.org	Fine arts grade documentation
Grade-level Proficiency Testing	Curriculum & Instruction Department	Natalie.Mancuso@sfisd.org 409-925-9010	Testing setup, application process, and parent questions

4. 2026-2027 UIL Eligibility Schedule for Home School Grade Submission

Parents are required to submit grades based on the SFISD Eligibility schedule. This can be found on the district website and will be shared with you in the approval process. SFISD operates on a 9-week grading period, but UIL requires all schools to check grades on the 6th week of school. If a student is ineligible, they must sit out for 3 weeks until they can show passing grades. Students are allowed to continue practicing but are not allowed to play games.

If parents do not submit grades on time, Homeschool students will not be allowed to practice or play games until grade documentation has been received.

If a student becomes ineligible at a grade check, the parent/guardian remains responsible for submitting grades during the nine-week grading cycle on the dates provided by SFISD. A student who is academically ineligible may practice but may not participate in contests or travel for contests until eligibility is restored under UIL rules.

Description of Dates:

Grade Submission Date	Parent Grade Submission Deadline	Eligibility Date
This is usually the Friday before the week that grades are due. No additional assignments can be added, and all make-up and late work must be submitted, or zeros must be counted.	This is usually on a Wednesday deadline. That gives staff 2 days to process the grades before the eligibility list is published.	Usually on a Friday. Eligibility List is published to coaches. This is the last day the student can play. The will become ineligible the Monday after.

5. SFISD Fees

Homeschool Students are required to pay the same fees that enrolled SFISD students pay. These course fees are published year. In addition, there may be other activity fees that are required for Booster clubs, competitions, apparel, etc. Homeschool students will be charged the same amount as regularly enrolled students.

Testing Fee: The State of Texas requires any ISD participating in the Homeschool program to administer a state proficiency test. SFISD has selected the Stanford Achievement Test. The testing fee is \$45 and is required before the student is scheduled for the test. Testing dates will be scheduled throughout the year and the student must choose the date immediately after their application or before their activity tryout date. Students must take this test in the district. Scores cannot be submitted by parents.

Activity Fees and Equipment

Students are responsible for the same applicable fees as enrolled students and may also need clothing or equipment specific to the sport, fine arts program, or UIL activity. Parents should confirm activity-specific expectations with the coach or sponsor.

6. Participation and Program Expectations

Residency

The student must participate in the school district and attendance zone where the student would be eligible to attend based on residential address. SFISD may require proof of residency in the same manner as enrolled students. Students outside of the attendance zone must provide proof that their home district does not allow homeschool participation.

Public School Enrollment During the Same School Year

A non-enrolled student who was enrolled in a public school during the same school year may not be authorized to participate for the remainder of that school year.

Practice During the SFISD School Day

Participation during a class period is allowed only when the class period is working on the UIL event(s) and the Program Director or Head Coach determines the student may participate during the SFISD class period.

Students who participate during the class period must arrive wearing their SFISD badge, follow the dress code, attend the class and then be picked up. Students are not allowed to loiter or hang out on campus while the assigned class is not in session.

Private Coaching

Private lessons or outside coaching may occur outside the school day hours. Students may not receive private coaching during regular school hours because it conflicts with UIL restrictions. Homeschool students are required to follow all UIL rules and regulations.

Other Leagues

A student participating in UIL through SFISD may not also participate in a home school league for the same UIL athletic activity.

Student Conduct

UIL activities and school events are extensions of school. The SFISD Student Code of Conduct, campus handbooks, and program handbooks apply.

No Pass, No Play

Parents must submit grades on time. If documentation is not received, the student may not play until required documentation is received and eligibility is verified.