

SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

HOME EDUCATION



2011- 2012

<http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/learning/student services/documents/homeedpacket.pdf>

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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.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACTS

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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 to the district school superintendent of the county in which the parent resides within 30 days of beginning your home education program. (Appendix A, Form 1)
2. Maintain a portfolio of records.
3. Make your portfolio available for inspection by the superintendent upon a 15-day written notice.
4. Submit an annual evaluation for each child to the superintendent within one year of the letter of intent. (Form 4)
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 5)

Q 2. **Will I need to file a notice of intent for my five-year-old kindergartner?**

Five-year-old children who turn 6 after February 1, 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 School Board of Polk County's *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 AN APPROVED KINDERGARTEN.

Q 3. **Will the district award my child a diploma?**

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

Q 4. **How can a home education student obtain a diploma?**

School districts, adult high schools, and community colleges are not authorized to provide regular high school diplomas to home school students who complete a high school course of study.

Any Florida home school student, who has earned seventeen high school credits and wants to graduate with a Polk County High School Diploma, **must be enrolled in their respective zoned high school by the first day of**

school of their senior year. In addition to meeting all graduation requirements, a passing score on all sections of the FCAT is necessary.

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 (863) 534-7450.

Q 5. What is part-time enrollment with Polk County Schools?

Students enrolled in Home Education have the opportunity to supplement their home education program by enrolling part-time at their zoned school. They may take no more than three classes at their zoned school. The parents must first give the District Home Education Office "Internet to Home School Form". Then the parent should contact their local school for specific enrollment procedures. Students who are enrolled part-time are subject to all applicable rules and regulations pertaining to full-time students, including: dress code, attendance policy, and code of student conduct. To help ensure academic success, students in grades 6 through 12 are strongly encouraged to register prior to the start of the semester in which they will attend. The parent must provide transportation and supervision for their child to and from the school.

Part-time enrollment guidelines do not include magnet and school of choice schools.

Q 6. 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 7. 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.

Q 8. 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 9. 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.

Q 10. What is Florida Virtual School?

The Florida Virtual School is the first statewide online high school in the nation to provide online courses to all students in affiliated school districts throughout Florida. Florida Virtual School is a no-campus secondary school that offers interactive courses based on the Sunshine State Standards. Instruction is available at any time and any place. You may learn more about Florida Virtual School by calling (407) 513-3587 or by visiting the website at <http://flvs.net>.

Q 11. What is Polk Virtual School?

The Polk Virtual School is a franchise of Florida Virtual School. Information may be obtained by phoning Donna Nicolodi, Director of Polk Virtual School, at (863) 534 – 7214 or by visiting the website at www.polk-fl.net/pvs. The Polk Virtual School Franchise (PVS) is a curriculum service which provides students in grades 6 – 12 the opportunity to take online courses taught by Polk County teachers. PVS uses courses developed by the award winning Florida Virtual School through our franchise partnership. The Polk Virtual School Franchise serves district students through specialized partnerships with home education, public schools, private schools and charter schools.

Q 12. What is the Polk County District Full-time Virtual Instructional Program (PCDVIP)?

The **Polk County District Full-time Virtual Instructional Program** is an online public school program that serves students in grades K-12 that meet the state eligibility mandates for enrollment. (A student wishing to enroll in PCDVIP must have been enrolled in a Florida public school for the entire last school year). Students enrolled in the District Full-time Virtual Instructional Program will complete all course work through the on-line program and are required to adhere to all state and local policies for public school students. The PCDVIP students are required to participate in all testing programs and must meet attendance expectations through daily work submissions. Registration will begin June 10, 2010 and close September 3, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year. **(This program does not serve home schooled students. Students do work from home but are classified as full-time public virtual students, not home schooled students).**

Q 13. 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 zoned school to schedule a test date. For more information on advanced placement, visit the AP Central website, www.apcentral.collegeboard.com

Q 14. Can a child who has been home educated enter/return to public school?

Yes. A student seeking to enter or re-enter a Polk 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.

Q 15. 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 16. Will there be expenses associated with home educating my child and will I be responsible for them?

Yes. There will be expenses associated with home education; e.g., books, materials, and any other instructional materials you choose to utilize. All expenses for home education are paid by the parents.

Q 17. Will Polk County Schools be sending me something telling me what I should be teaching?

No. The parent/guardian who assumes the responsibility of educating a student at home also assumes the responsibility for providing curriculum, instruction, educational materials, and evaluations necessary to determine student progress.

Q 18. Where do I find materials?

School districts do not supply books, curricula or materials, for home education purposes. Some home school parents utilize the following resources:

Florida Parent-Educators Association (FPEA)

P. O. Box 50685
Jacksonville, FL 32240-0685
Toll-free telephone: 1-877-275-3732
Website: www.fpea.com
Email: Office@fpea.com

Florida Textbook Depository (Jacksonville)

P. O. Box 6578
Jacksonville, FL 32236
(904) 781-7191
Website: www.fsbd.com

Polk County surplus school books can be found at the Textbook Warehouse located at the **Jim Miles Professional Development Center, 5204 US Hwy. 98 South, Lakeland.** Contact Al Lunsford, M-F from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The Textbook Warehouse is closed during all holidays.

Curriculum vendors may be located on the Internet. Your public library provides Internet access and possibly materials that can supplement your program. The key words “Florida Home Education” and also “home education” will yield many results as you search for home education websites.

Q 19. 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, Polk Virtual School, the Florida Virtual School, correspondence courses, or other means to provide sequentially progressive instruction.

Q 20. How do I seek support from others who are teaching at home?

There are home education support groups in every district. The Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA) is a statewide organization that provides comprehensive home education information in their online special edition newsletter, www.fpea.com FPEA can be contacted at:

Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA)

P. O. Box 50685
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-0685
1-877-ASK-FPEA
Website address: www.fpea.com
E-mail address: office@fpea.com

Parents with Internet access may also search online for various home education oriented organizations.

Q 21. 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.

Q 22. 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:

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, 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.

Q23. 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 4)

Q 24. **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 4). 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 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 25. **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 may, after notice to the parent, terminate the home education program and require the child to enroll in public school to meet the compulsory attendance law.

Q 26. **Does my child have to take the FCAT or any other state assessments?**

No. Home school students **are not required** to take any type of state assessment tests. An annual evaluation is the only evaluation mandated by law. If you choose to have your child take the FCAT, please contact the Office of Accountability at (863) 534-0691.

Items to be considered if you want your home education student to take the FCAT:

1. The deadline for writing, or reading, math and science is one week before the test administration. The testing schedule can be found on the Polk County School Board's website at www.polk-fl.net.

2. After calling the District Office of Accountability, parents are responsible for calling the school site to sign up and get **dates/times to report**.
3. Students can **ONLY** be tested at their grade level with the same subject area tests offered to public school students.
4. High school students who took the 10th grade test in reading or math and failed may **NOT** take a retake version until the next test administration.

ESE students must follow these procedures:

1. The parent must take a copy of the most recent IEP to the school at least one week prior to the test date.
2. If the IEP is not produced, the student can still test, but will not be eligible to receive accommodations.
3. The parent is responsible for obtaining the IEP from a previous school.

Q 27. 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, the student shall be placed academically as any other student who seeks to enter a public school. After classroom observation and assessment, placement may be adjusted.

Q 28. What if my child was sent to an Alternative Education Program?

Students who are assigned to an alternative education program or another school for disciplinary reasons **must** complete the program before returning to their school of assignment.

Q 29. 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 5) 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 30. Does the School Board of Polk 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 Office of Exceptional Student Education at (863) 534-0930.

Q 31. 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 Management at Polk State College, (863) 669-2822 or (863) 292-3758.

Q 32. How do I know if an educational program is regionally accredited?

Educational programs are **regionally accredited** if they are sanctioned by **one** of the following associations:

1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
2. New England Association of Colleges and Schools
3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
4. Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
6. Western Association of Colleges and Schools

Q 33. What are examples of regionally accredited correspondence programs?

See Appendix C.

Q 34. Are other accrediting agencies acceptable?

Some accrediting agencies are reputable and others are not.

Q 35. Do home education students have the same opportunity as public school students to enter the college of their choice?

This depends on the student's qualifications and the admission requirements of the postsecondary institution.

Q 36. Can home education students apply for a state scholarship?

Yes. Information regarding all state of Florida 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. You may obtain detailed information at, <http://www.Floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf>.

Students Completing a Home Education Program

All home-educated students must meet the general requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program except the requirement to earn a standard Florida high school diploma. In lieu of the diploma, all home-educated students must be registered with the district in which they reside for grades 11 and 12. Home Educated students must apply online beginning December 1 of their senior year. Students are responsible for reviewing requirements for Bright Futures as changes often occur after each Legislative Session.

The Florida Department of Education is required to approve home education community service hours for Bright Futures eligibility.

For the **Florida Academic Scholars Award**, a home-educated student must provide official documentation of:

- Registration with the district for grades 11 and 12
- Either a 1270 SAT or a 28 ACT test score, and
- 100 hours of community service
 1. Community service must be approved by the Bright Futures office.
 2. Must be served outside the home.
 3. A student cannot receive monetary compensation for community service.
 4. Documentation must be provided on letterhead of the business or organization served.

For the **Florida Medallion Scholars Award**, a home-educated student must provide official documentation of:

- Registration with the district for grades 11 and 12
- Either a 1070 SAT or a 23 ACT test score
- 75 hours of community service.

Note: Students must complete a Florida Financial Aid Application (apply online at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org or call toll free at 1-888-827-2004 for a hard copy).

The Bright Futures contact for Home Education is Ms. Beverly Lahtinen, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, 1940 North Monroe Street, Suite 70, Tallahassee, FL 32303-4759. She may be contacted at 1-888-827-2004.

Q 37. Will the School Board of Polk County accept my child's high school credits awarded by the Home Education Program?

Credits will be awarded in accordance with State Board Rule **6A-1.09941 State Uniform Transfer of High School Credits.**

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:

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(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) Demonstrated performance in courses taken through dual enrollment or at other public or private accredited schools;
- (d) Demonstrated proficiencies on nationally-normed standardized subject area assessments;
- (e) Demonstrated proficiencies on the FCAT; 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 (3) (e) of this rule if required.

APPENDIX A

The Florida Statute 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;
 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 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).

**HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM NOTICE OF INTENT
SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY**

Student Services
P. O. Box 391
Bartow, Florida 33831-0391
(863) 534-0960 **Fax:** (863) 534-0028

In accordance with Section 1002.41(1), it is my/our intent to establish and maintain a Home Education Program in Polk County, Florida.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): (please print or type)

_____ (Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.
First MI Last

_____ (Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.
First MI Last

*Street Address (number and street) City State Zip Code

Mailing Address (if different from street address) City State Zip Code

*Work Phone *Home Phone *Email Address (For notices, updates, and events.)

List all children who will be enrolled in the Home Education Program – (please print or type)

| *Name (First, MI, Last) | *Birth Date | *Sex | *Race | *Last School Attended | *Special Program e.g., ESE | *Current Grade |
|-------------------------|-------------|------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | |
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*Only the name, address, and date of birth are required by law. Additional information is optional but helpful to the School Board of Polk County in communicating withdrawal, testing, and reentry information to the schools.

I am considering Virtual School for my child. Please send a letter acknowledging home school enrollment to: _____

I have been home schooling for three (3) years and am willing to volunteer on the Home Education Portfolio Review Committee.

Parent/Guardians' Signature: _____

Date of Signature

(Return completed form to the School Board of Polk County at address above.)

To be completed by the School Board of Polk County

Rec'd by SBPC: _____ Enrolled: _____ Database: _____ Scanned: _____ Rev 10/15/08

**HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM
 DIRECTORY INFORMATION OPT-OUT FORM
 SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY**

P. O. Box 391
 Bartow, Florida 33831-0391
 (863) 534-0960

Directory Information is defined as the following student (or adult student) information: name, address, telephone number (if it is a listed number), date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

Directory Information may be released to any individual, agency, or organization without prior consent, unless a parent or eligible student has notified the School Board of Polk County (SBPC) in writing that they do not wish the information released. In addition, two (2) federal laws require SBPC to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three (3) directory information categories - names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised SBPC that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want directory information released, you must complete this form and return with the Home Education Program Notice of Intent within thirty (30) days.

Directory Information Opt-Out Form

If you do not want the School Board of Polk County, Florida (SBPC) to disclose directory information from your child's records in accordance with federal law¹, please mark the appropriate statements below and return this form with the Notice of Intent within the next thirty (30) days.

Student's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Directory Information is defined as the following student information: name, address, telephone number (if it is a listed number), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

_____ **DO NOT DISCLOSE** my child's directory information without my prior permission.

_____ **DO NOT DISCLOSE** my child's name, address and telephone number to the entities checked below without my prior permission:

_____ U. S. Military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, etc.)

_____ Colleges and other educational institutions

I understand that by completing and submitting this form, SBPC will restrict the disclosure of this type of information from my child's educational records and that SBPC has no further obligation to contact me on a case-by-case basis to request my consent for the disclosure of directory information.

 Parent/Guardian Name

 Signature

¹ The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (20 U.S.C. § 1232 g.), Section 9528 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (P.L. No. 107-110), and the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002*, (P.L. 107-107) U.S.C. 503, as amended by Section 544.

HOME EDUCATION DISTRICT SURVEY
SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

P. O. Box 391
Bartow, Florida 33831-0391
(863) 534-0960

OPTIONAL

Directions: Please share some of the reasons why you have decided to home educate your child.

**HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM EVALUATION
SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY**

Student Services
P. O. Box 391
Bartow, Florida 33831-0391
(863) 534-0960

(Please print)

Student: _____ Grade (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Check the option which satisfies the annual evaluation required in Section 1002.41(1)(c).

- ____ 1. Portfolio evaluated by Florida certified teacher (complete evaluation below).
- ____ 2. Results of nationally normed achievement test taken by student and administered by certified teacher (attach results).
- ____ 3. Results of state student assessment test taken by student (attach results).
- ____ 4. Student evaluation by an individual holding a valid active license in psychology (attach results).
- ____ 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 (attach results).

Please return this form, along with a copy of any evaluation or test results to the School Board address listed above. This information is due on the anniversary date of your home education program.

REMINDER TO PARENTS:

If you are **NOT** planning to continue to home school for the next school term, you are required by statute to submit a Notification of Termination of Home Education Program (Form 5). If a notice is not received, the student's file will remain active and an annual evaluation will be required.

HOME EDUCATION WRITTEN EVALUATION FORM

____ Upon a portfolio review and discussion with the student named above, I have found that the student has demonstrated progress at the level commensurate with his/her ability and is ready to be promoted to the next level.

____ Upon a portfolio review and discussion with the student named above, I have found that the student **has not** demonstrated progress at the level commensurate with his/her ability and **is not** ready to be promoted to the next level.

Evaluation Date: _____

Signature of Florida Certified Teacher: _____

Florida Certificate Number: _____ Date of Expiration: _____

Date Received by School Board of Polk County: _____

Rec'd by SBPC: _____ Genesis: _____ Database: _____ Scanned: _____ Rev 10/15/08

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM
SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY**

Student Services
P. O. Box 391
Bartow, Florida 33831-0391
(863) 534-0960

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Street _____ 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: (Optional)

- _____ Returning to Polk County public school
- _____ Enrolling in private school
- _____ Moving out of district
- _____ Other (please specify) _____

Date Program Terminated: _____

Parent/Guardians' Signature: _____ **Date of Signature** _____

Return completed form to School Board of Polk County at address above.

To be completed by School Board of Polk County

Rec'd by SBPC: _____ Withdrawn: _____ Database: _____ Scanned: _____ Rev 10/15/08

REGIONALLY ACCREDITED CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAMS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>AMDG – Education and Training for Life *** 200 Galleria Pkwy, Suite 2000 Atlanta, Georgia 30339 (877) 544-0310</p> | <p>Florida Virtual School ** 445 West Amelia Street Orlando, Florida 32801 (407) 317-3326</p> | <p>Penn Foster *** P. O. Box 1900 Scranton, Pennsylvania 18501 (800) 275-4410</p> |
| <p>ABeka Academy * Box 18000 Pensacola, Florida 32523 (800) 874-3592</p> | <p>Griggs International Academy * 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring, Maryland (800) 782-4769</p> | <p>Seton Home Study School * 1350 Progress Drive Front Royal, Virginia 22630 (540) 636-9990</p> |
| <p>Allied National High School *** 22981 Alcade Drive Laguna Hills, California 92653 (800) 986-4034</p> | <p>Indiana University High School *** 790 E. Kirkwood Avenue Owen Hall 001 Bloomington, Indiana 47405 (800) 334-1011</p> | <p>Sycamore Academy * 2179 Meyer Place Costa Mesa, California 92627 (714) 668-1343</p> |
| <p>American School *** 2200 East 170th Street Lansing, Illinois 60438 (800) 531-9268</p> | <p>Internet Home School * 3060 Hozoni Road Prescott, Arizona 86305 (928) 708-9404</p> | <p>University of Miami Online High School ** 16614 Saddleclub Road Weston, Florida 33327 (877) 871-8163</p> |
| <p>Ashworth University High School *** 430 Technology Parkway Norcross, Georgia 30092 (800) 223-4542</p> | <p>Laurel Springs School * P. O. Box 1440 Ojai, California 93042 (800) 377-5890</p> | <p>University of Nebraska-Lincoln *** 900 North 21st Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68588 (866) 700-4747</p> |
| <p>Blueprint Education ** 1717 W. Northern Avenue, Suite 104 Phoenix, Arizona 85021 (800) 426-4952</p> | <p>Missouri High School Independent Study ** 136 Clark Hall Columbia, Missouri 65211 (800) 609-3727</p> | <p>Whitmore School (CompuHigh) *** 515 Wilson Avenue Morgantown, West Virginia 26501 (866) 859-0777</p> |
| <p>Brigham Young University Independent Study ** 206 HCEB P. O. Box 21514 Provo, Utah 84602 (800) 914-8931 or (800) 468-4634</p> | <p>North Dakota Center for Distance Education ** 1510 12th Avenue N. P. O. Box 5036 Fargo, North Dakota 58105 (701) 231-6000</p> | <p>* K-12 ** 7-12 ***9-12</p> |
| <p>Calvert School * 105 Tuscany Road Baltimore, Maryland 21210 (888) 487-4652</p> | <p>Oak Meadow School * P. O. Box 1346 Brattleboro, Vermont (802) 251-7250</p> | |
| <p>Christa McAuliffe Academy * 402 East Yakima Avenue, Suite 1100 Yakima, Washington 98901 (866) 575-4989</p> | <p>Orange Lutheran High School Online *** 3201 East Elwood Phoenix, Arizona 85034 (800) 520-3969</p> | |

Regional accreditation means that the school has been certified as acceptable by one of the six nationally recognized accrediting organizations in the country, each of which is responsible for a specific geographic area. A regionally accredited program will provide a transcript (or diploma) that may be more readily recognized and accepted by other secondary schools as well as colleges and universities. Other forms of accreditation are available, and some correspondence schools choose not to seek accreditation. A program's inclusion in the following list is not necessarily meant to convey endorsement by the Polk County School Board.

NOTE: Parents and students should contact post-secondary institutions of interest to see if their home education curriculum is eligible for federal financial aid programs.



Home Schoolers on the Ridge

Information Team

2008-2009

If you are interested in joining Home Schoolers on the Ridge support group, you may pick up an application form at any of the parents' night out meetings or down load it from the www.HSOTR.com website.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| Terry Rhoden | 863-676-0619 | trhoden@verizon.net |
| Beth Discher | 863-512-0860 | discher@gmail.com |
| Rosemarie Ohly | 863-439-8144 | my_name_is_not_rosemary@wildblue.net |
| Sherri Nicely | 863-424-4940 | snicely5@msn.com |
| Audrey Blash | 863-297-5273 | fiblash@hotmail.com |
| Janet Yates | 863-439-6252 | Yates6266@yahoo.com |
| Sherry Forrest | 863-299-3434 | genesis1v27@msn.com |

Free information packets can be picked up or down loaded from:

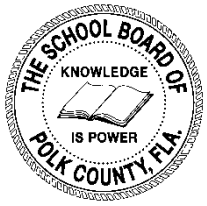
Lighthouse Christian Book Store – 501 Cypress Gardens BLVD – Winter Haven or **The Learning Curve**-6294 Cypress Gardens Blvd SE- Winter Haven

A Guide to Homeschooling can be downloaded from www.fpea.com

Home schooling Workshop or Consultation Services available from:
Learning at Home – Barb Mesh - 863-676-7577

<http://www.learningathome.org/>

Updated 10/15/08



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

P.O. BOX 391
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33831

(863) 534-0500

1915 SOUTH FLORAL AVENUE
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830

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General Counsel

Administration

SHERRIE B. NICKELL, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2, 2012
TO: Home Education Students and their Parents/Guardians
FROM: Kay Noble, Guidance Specialist
Student Services Department
SUBJECT: The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Bright Futures eligibility can be determined at the end of the first term of the senior year. You may obtain detailed information and download a Home Education Packet from the Bright Futures website at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf

Students Completing a Home Education Program

All home educated students must meet the general requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, except the requirement to earn a standard Florida high school diploma. In lieu of the diploma, all home educated students must be registered with the district in which they reside for grades 11 and 12. To receive documentation of registration with Polk County School District, please contact Kay Noble at 534-0027 or Linda Troupe at 534-0928.

For the **Florida Academic Scholars Award**, a home educated student must provide official documentation of:

- Registration with the district for grades 11 and 12.
- Either a best composite of 1270 SAT in Critical Reading and Math only or a 28 ACT without the Writing section, and
- 75 hours of community service.
 1. Community service must be served outside the home.
 2. A student cannot receive monetary compensation for community service.
 3. Documentation must be provided on letterhead of the business or organization served.

For the **Florida Medallion Scholars Award**, a home educated student must provide official documentation of:

- Registration with the district for grades 11 and 12.
- Either a best composite of 1070 SAT Critical Reading and Math only or a 23 ACT without the Writing section.

Note: Students must complete a Florida Financial Aid Application and apply online at: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf or call toll free at 1-888-827-2004 for a hard copy.

All documentation must be sent to Ms. Beverly Lahtinen, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, 1940 North Monroe Street, Suite 70, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4759.

If you have further questions regarding the qualifications for a Bright Futures Scholarship, please call 1-888-827-2004

District 8

Osceola and Polk

FPEA.COM
EXCELLENCE IN HOMESCHOOLING



Florida Parent-Educators Association



District 8 Director

Bob Paulie
(863) 816-0990
Email: district8@fpea.com

My wife Peggy and I, have been homeschooling our 2 sons, Robby and Jared. We have been serving the homeschooling community for over 13 years through the Florida Parent Educators Association. We are humbled and appreciate all of the home school leaders in Osceola and Polk Counties.

To reach Bob: district8@fpea.com

FPEA Recognized Homeschool Organizations

Calvary Baptist Church Academy
(863) 683-6781, (863) 686-0719, carol@calvaryonline.com
www.calvaryonline.com, 617 Private School

Christian Home Educators Cooperative of Kissimmee
(407) 414-8481, trpldr102@aol.com
Support Group, Co-op, Church/Religious Ministry

Classical Conversations - Lakeland
(863) 858-2793, lbennett88@tampabay.rr.com,
www.classicalconversations.com, Support Group
Serving Polk county

Crusaders Christian Homeschool Group of Kissimmee
(321) 443-1422, crusadersok@gmail.com

www.homeschool-life.com/fl/crusaders, Support Group / Co-op

Encouragers Homeschool Group
407-641-8653, homeschoolgroup@gmail.com
www.encouragershomeschoolgroup.com
Co-op, Support Group, Church Ministry

Four Corners Homeschool Network
(863) 424-1331,
fourcornershomeschoolingnetwork@yahoo.com, Support Group

Haven Homeschoolers
(863) 409-9923, bridget@sunnysouthservices.com
www.homeschool-life.com/fl/havenhomeschoolers
Support Group

Heart of Homeschooling Ministry
(863) 816-9423, jkresl@marykay.com
Support Group

Homeschool Friends
(407) 348-5374, pjptorres@aol.com, Support Group
Serving Osceola & Orange Counties

Home Schoolers On The Ridge
(863) 221-1237,
www.HSOTR.com, Support Group

Hope Homeschoolers
(863) 815-3969, nschrader9@aol.com, Support Group

Life of Osceola
(407) 908-6739, LifeofOsceola@yahoo.com
Support Group

Lighthouse Homeschoolers
info@lighthousehomeschoolers.org
www.lighthousehomeschoolers.org, Support Group

Osceola Eagles 4-H club
(407) 870-0129, eileenblanco4h@yahoo.com, Support Group
www.homeschool-life.com/fl/osceolaegles4hclub

Teaching, Encouraging, and Mentoring in Christ
(407) 892-2001, JCisL4evr@juno.com
www.homeschool-life.com/fl/teeamcoop, Co-op and Support Group