

OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION INFORMATION PACKET

Note to Parents/Guardian: This packet contains information we hope you will find helpful to establish your family's Home School program. It includes:

School Board Policy

Home School Packet Including:

Florida Statutes on Home Education
Notice of Intent to Establish a Home Education Program (MIS #4232)
Letter of Termination
Information on Okaloosa County Home School Associations
Options for Home School Families
Okaloosa County School District Calendar

Okaloosa County is a community that has as one of its responsibilities the education of children for their future....and ours. We intend to create a seamless educational plan for two groups of students: students that are schooled at home and students that are schooled in public schools.

The Office of Independent Education is here to serve you. For any questions concerning the Home Education process, please contact Toni Kitchens, Home School Liaison, at 833-5881 or by e-mail at kitchenst@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us .

Home Education

Definition of Home Education - 1002.01 Florida Statute

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

Home Education Program - 1002.41 Florida Statute

- (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 s. 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) A home education program shall be excluded from meeting the requirements of a school day.
- (4) Home education students may participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.15.
- (5) Home education students may participate in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1009.53-1009.539.
- (6) Home education students may participate in dual enrollment programs in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1007.27(4) and 1007.271(10).

- (7) Home education students are eligible for admission to Florida College System institutions in accordance with the provisions of s.1007.263.
- (8) Home education students are eligible for admission to state universities in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the Board of Governors.
- (9) Home education program students may receive testing and evaluation services at diagnostic and resource centers, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.03.

Student Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Student standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation - 1006.15 Florida Statute

- (1) This section may be cited as the “Craig Dickinson Act.”
- (2) Interscholastic extracurricular student activities are an important complement to the academic curriculum. Participation in a comprehensive extracurricular and academic program contributes to student development of the social and intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult. As used in this section, the term “extracurricular” means any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day.
- (3) (a) To be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student must:
 - 1. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the previous semester or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1).
 - 2. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic performance contract between the student, the district school board, the appropriate governing association, and the student’s parents, if the student’s cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) or, for students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-98 school year, if the student’s cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43 (1) which are taken after July 1, 1997. At a minimum, the contract must require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary.

3. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) during his or her junior or senior year.
 4. Maintain satisfactory conduct, including adherence to appropriate dress and other codes of student conduct policies described in s.1006.07(2). If a student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon established and published district school board policy.
- (b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full school day based on rules adopted by the district school board for double session schools or programs, experimental schools, or schools operating under emergency conditions must maintain the grade point average required by this section and pass each class for which he or she is enrolled.
- (c) An individual home education student is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment provisions, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school, provided the following conditions are met:
1. The home education student must meet the requirements of the home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41.
 2. During the period of participation at a school, the home education student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the parent and the school principal which may include: review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses taken at a Florida College System institution, university, or trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.
 3. The home education student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.
 4. The home education student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.

5. The student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or she wishes to participate. A home education student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.
6. A student who transfers from a home education program to a public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period provided the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant to subparagraph 2.
7. Any public school or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a home education student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in home education pursuant to subparagraph 2 to become eligible to participate as a home education student.

Okaloosa County School District
Student Services

Okaloosa Online _____ FLVS _____
Connections Academy _____ K-12 Inc _____
Other _____

Letter of Intent to Establish a Home Education Program

In compliance with Section 1002.41(1)(a) Florida Statute, this is written notice of intent to establish and maintain a Home Education Program for my child(ren).

I have received the Okaloosa County School Board Policy and other relative information pertaining to compulsory school attendance law and Home Education Program.

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Current Grade Level	Last School Attended

Was your student/s formerly enrolled in a Home Education Program in Okaloosa County? Yes _____ No _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

I claim residency in Okaloosa County. Yes _____ No _____

It is my legal responsibility to maintain a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall consist of an instructional log which designates by title the reading materials used and samples of 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 cannot recommend materials, curriculum, or in any way oversee a Home Education Program. Home education students may participate in certain athletic/extracurricular activities as provided in School Board policies and procedures. Home education students may also participate in regular classes at their zoned school, space permitting.

I understand that an annual educational evaluation must be completed (at the cost of the parent/guardian) and a copy submitted to the Office of Independent Education. The month the Letter of Intent is signed will be the anniversary date in which your student's annual evaluation will be due. We recommend that families adopt a late summer evaluation cycle (e.g., by the end of July) which coincides with the regular school year.

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

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Mail or fax to: Office of Independent Education, Attn: Toni Kitchens, Home School Liaison, 120 Lowery Place, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548 E-Mail: kitchenst@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us Fax # (850) 833-3478 Phone # (850) 833-5881

Letter of Termination from the Okaloosa County Home School Program

Dear Superintendent,

It is my intent to no longer home educate the following child(ren). The date of termination is

_____.

Student's Name

Date of Birth

School Name (returning to)

The reason is (check one):

_____ The child has been or will be enrolled in a public, parochial, or private school.

_____ The child has reached age sixteen (16) and is no longer of compulsory school age.

_____ The child will no longer reside in Okaloosa County, Florida.

_____ Other: _____

Parent's Name (Please Print) _____

Home Education Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Return to:

Office of Independent Education, Attn: Toni Kitchens, 120 Lowery Place S.E.,

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 Fax: (850) 833-3478, E-mail: kitchenst@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us

Local Home School Associations Groups

Gulf Coast Christian Home Educator's Association (GCCHEA)

GCCHEA President

E-Mail Address – gccheapres@gmail.com

North Okaloosa Area Home Schoolers (NOAH)

Melinda Ward mel@imaginationfoundry.com

Jessica Dubose jessicadubose@yahoo.com

Options for Home School Families

- Home School students are eligible to take any regular class or extracurricular activity at the public school they are zoned to attend, space permitting. Contact your zoned school for information.

- Okaloosa Online
www.okaloosaonline.com

- FLVS
www.flvs.net

- K-12 Inc (Public Online Courses)
www.k12inc.com

- Connections Academy (Public Online Courses)
www.connectionsacademy.com

