

FLVS[®] Home Education Guide 2017-18



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Florida Home Education Laws & Responsibilities

Home education is one of five legal ways to satisfy Florida’s compulsory attendance law. Statute 1003.01 (13) gives parents the choice of achieving regular school attendance through one of these provisions:

- Public school
- Parochial, religious, or denominational school
- Nontraditional private school
- Home education program
- Private tutoring program

Home Education Program—Florida Statute 1002.41

Under this statute, parents or guardians who teach and direct the education of their own students at home must notify their district school superintendent and meet the other requirements of this law. The student must show educational progress each year. These students are legally considered “home education students.” By definition, a home education program is “sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian in order to satisfy the requirements of Statute 1003.21 and 1002.41.”

Rights and Responsibilities

The parent or guardian is not required to be a certified teacher or have any educational qualifications. As the parent or guardian, you are the primary instructor for, and supervisor of your student’s education. Supplementary instruction through other curriculum sources is permissible and encouraged.

Parental Responsibilities

There are six stipulations that must be established and followed to comply with Florida law as a home educator:

1. Send a notice of intent to your district school superintendent.
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 student to the superintendent.
5. Preserve each student’s portfolio for two years.
6. Submit a letter of termination upon completion of your home education program, upon enrollment in a public or private school, or upon moving from the county.

Adapted from The Guide to Homeschooling in Florida, Eighth Edition, Published by the Florida Parent-Educators Association (www.fpea.com).

Where can I get information on my homeschooling legal responsibilities?

Please visit: www.hslda.org

Please visit: www.fpea.com

Where do I begin?

Florida Department of Education:

<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/home-edu/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Homeschool students make up 22% of the Florida Virtual School® (FLVS®) population. FLVS teachers and staff often receive questions from students and parents or guardians regarding homeschooling policies and practices. Visit this link to get started on your journey of homeschooling your student: flvs.net/homeschool.

1. Is FLVS a homeschool program?

FLVS is a public, online school providing Kindergarten–12th grade courses to Florida students at no charge. There are several advantages to taking courses with FLVS. First, all FLVS courses meet the Florida Standards and FLVS is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancED. Additionally, all FLVS core courses are NCAA-approved. FLVS takes pride in providing students the best online education by allowing students to work with a certified teacher. Students also have the opportunity to explore a full range of courses that include honors and Advanced Placement®* levels.

2. Does FLVS give a diploma to homeschool students?

No. FLVS does not issue diplomas to students registered as home educated students.

3. My student is homeschooled, how does he receive a high school diploma?

Homeschool students do not earn a traditional diploma. Home educated students, per Florida law, complete a home education program as designed by the parent or guardian. Once the student completes all needed courses, the parent or guardian is responsible for filling out the Home Education Affidavit, therefore attesting that his/her student has completed high school as a homeschool student. A sample of the Home Education Affidavit may found on page 13 of this guide.

To earn a diploma, a home education student may opt to re-enroll his/her senior year into the local public high school or into the FLVS Full Time Program. Students re-enrolling into the local public school or transitioning into the FLVS Full Time Program will be held accountable for all district graduation requirements.

Alternatively, some homeschool students may elect to take the General Education Development (GED) test and be awarded a Florida High School diploma from the Florida Department of Education, if the student receives a passing score. Once the test is passed, the Florida Department of Education will send the student a diploma. To learn more about the GED Exam option visit: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/hse/faq.stml>.

4. If my home educated student will not receive a diploma, how will he go to college?

Homeschooled students apply directly to the College or University of their choice with a signed affidavit attesting that the student has completed a home education program. In addition, students will be required to take placement tests or submit an SAT or ACT score. Lastly, a transcript must be provided by the parent or guardian to the College or University. Please contact your desired college or university for more information, as each institution may have additional requirements.

*AP and Advanced Placement Program are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

Frequently Asked Questions continued

5. Is my homeschool student required to take the FSA or End-of-Course (EOC) Exams?

Homeschooled students are not required to take any type of state assessment test. Some students may elect to take the FSA or EOC as part of their annual evaluation. Participation is optional. Please contact your district for further information regarding evaluations or taking the FSA or EOC exams.

6. Can my student participate in extracurricular activities in a public school?

Home education students are eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities at their local zoned public school, provided they meet the same immunization and GPA requirements as students attending any non-home education program. Please refer to Florida Statute Section 1006.15(5) for more information and the FPEA can also provide additional resources: www.fpea.com.

7. If my student is taking courses with FLVS, can an FLVS instructor conduct an annual evaluation of my student?

No. FLVS employees may not fill out annual evaluations as it constitutes a conflict of interest. There are five methods of evaluation to choose from provided by statute. Parents may contact their local district home education program office or local support group to obtain the names of available evaluators in their area.

8. What if my student was attending a physical school when he/she started with FLVS, and he/she is now homeschooled. Is there anything I need to do now?

Students must change their academic profile to Homeschool and enroll with their district's home education office to remain in courses. For a list of district contacts visit <https://www.flvs.net/student-resources/homeschool/district-contacts>. For additional information please contact our customer service representatives at 800-374-1430, option 1.

9. What if my child wants to return to a public or private school?

Any student who is within the compulsory attendance age has the right to enroll in a public school. Current district policies and State Board Rule 6A-1.09941 govern the grade placement of the home education student. Students returning to a public or private school must contact the school and meet all requisite high school graduation requirements of that school or district, including the FSA and/or EOC (for public schools).

10. How can I get a copy of my child's FLVS official transcript?

Students may print an unofficial transcript from their Cumulative Academic Report. Students may request an official transcript at our website: <https://www.flvs.net/student-resources/transcript-request>.

11. What is my student's FLVS GPA?

Florida Virtual School is not a homeschooling school of record, thus does not calculate GPA for homeschooled students. Parents or guardians however are encouraged to calculate their child's GPA. Homeschooled students applying for scholarships or college admission, should keep in mind that the university or scholarship granting institution will re-calculate the student's homeschool GPA.

Frequently Asked Questions continued

12. If I have more questions about FLVS, who do I contact?

Students and parents or guardians may contact our office at 407-513-FLVS (3587) or via email at info@flvs.net.

13. How do I know which courses my student should take?

Home educated students are advised to design their curriculum to enable them to achieve their post high school goals. There are many things to consider when building the curriculum. For example, students who plan on attending a university or college should gear their course selections to college admission requirements. At a minimum, students should align with Florida Graduation options. The FLVS website provides students and parents or guardians with prerequisite and course progression recommendations. To view minimum core State University Admission requirements visit: <https://www.flvs.net/student-resources/homeschool/course-progression>.

14. Where can I get homeschooling support?

Florida Parent-Educator Association: www.fpea.com

15. Where can I read about Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship?

Bright Futures for Homeschoolers:

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>

16. Where do I get information about the PSAT?

PSAT: www.collegeboard.com

17. How do I register for the SAT or ACT?

Apply for SAT: www.collegeboard.com

Apply for ACT: www.act.org

18. Where do I begin to get Financial Aid for College?

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org and www.fafsa.ed.gov

19. My student is going into the military. What test should he/she take?

Take the ASVAB: www.asvabprogram.com

20. How do I make sure my student is eligible to play college sports?

Home educated student athletes can receive clearance from the NCAA. Parents or guardians should obtain the eligibility requirements before ninth grade to assure all academic and documentation requirements of the NCAA are met. For NCAA Eligibility – Homeschooled: www.ncaa.org or <http://tinyurl.com/HomeSchoolNCAAIInfo>.

Middle School

Sample Course Progression Recommendation

Regular Track

6th Grade

MJ Language Arts 1

MJ Grade 6 Mathematics

MJ Comprehensive Science 1

MJ World History

Elective

7th Grade

MJ Language Arts 2

MJ Grade 7 Mathematics

MJ Comprehensive Science 2

MJ Civics

Elective

8th Grade

MJ Language Arts 3

MJ Grade 8 Pre-Algebra

MJ Comprehensive Science 3

MJ US History (8th)

Elective

Advanced / Honors Track

6th Grade

MJ Language Arts 1 ADV

MJ Grade 6 Mathematics ADV

MJ Comprehensive Science 1 ADV

MJ World History ADV

Elective

7th Grade

MJ Language Arts 2 ADV

MJ Grade 7 Math ADV
or M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra

MJ Comprehensive Science 2 ADV

MJ Civics ADV

Elective

8th Grade

MJ Language Arts 3 ADV

MJ Grade 8 Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1*

MJ Comprehensive Science 3 ADV

MJ US History (8th) ADV

Elective

Rigorous Track

6th Grade

MJ Language Arts 1 ADV

MJ Grade 7 Mathematics ADV or
MJ Grade 8 Pre-Algebra

MJ Comprehensive Science 2 ADV

MJ World History ADV

Elective

7th Grade

MJ Language Arts 2 ADV

Algebra 1*

Earth Space Science*

MJ Civics ADV

HS World Language (Level 1)*

8th Grade

MJ Language Arts 3 ADV

Geometry*

Biology*

MJ US History (8th) ADV

HS World Language (Level 2)

*Courses award high school credit.

Recommendations for Middle School Completion

Home educated middle school students (grades 6-8) are advised to complete at least the 12 Core Courses for promotion:

- 3 MJ Language Arts
- 3 MJ Math
- 3 MJ Science
- 3 MJ Social Studies

Electives are optional for middle school home educated students. However, *MJ Career Research & Decision Making* is a public school student elective requirement. If the home educated student plans to return to public school in 7th or 8th grade, this course is advised to be taken. Otherwise, this is an optional course for home educated students.

Middle school students may accelerate into high school credits contingent the required prerequisite is completed. For more details on the acceleration track, public and private school students should speak with their School Counselor for further details. Homeschooled students, please speak with your FLVS Regional Counselor for further details.

How to Schedule Your Middle Schooler's Homeschooling with FLVS

FLVS is a year-round school option that gives homeschooling students the opportunity to earn their needed annual credits without overwhelming the student with a full load. We recommend that students take no more than 3 to 4 courses at one time. Below are some possible schedules for middle school homeschooling students.

4 Core Only Schedule

Middle school homeschool students may choose to do solely core subjects for each grade level; therefore, attempting 4 credits (courses) a year and traditionally working from August to May.

August – May

1. Language Arts
2. Math
3. Science
4. History

Advisement: A typical course week is about 4–5 study hours a week per course, therefore, with 4 classes that means students may be at the computer studying 16–20 hours each week. This schedule leaves room for extracurricular activities.

4 Core + 1 Schedule

Middle school homeschool students may choose to do solely core subjects for each grade level; therefore, attempting 4 credits (courses) a year and traditionally working from August to May. Later, the student will do 1 credit elective at an accelerated pace during the summer months.

August – May

1. Language Arts
2. Math
3. Science
4. History

May – August

1. Elective

Advisement: A typical course week is about 4–5 study hours a week per course, therefore, with 4 classes that means students may be at the computer studying 16–20 hours each week. This schedule leaves room for extracurricular activities.

3+3 Course Schedule

Middle school students attempting 6 credits a year may choose to work on 3 credits at a time. Students who work on this schedule, typically follow the accelerated pace chart to reach their goals.

August – December/January

1. Language Arts
2. Science
3. Elective

January – May/June

1. Math
2. History
3. Elective

Advisement: A typical course week on accelerated pace is about 6–8 study hours a week per course, therefore, with 3 classes that means students may be at the computer studying 18–24 hours each week. This schedule leaves room for extracurricular activities. Highly advised schedule for professional and training athletes.

High School

Course Progression Recommendation: Traditional 24-Credit High School Track

English 4 Credits
Math 4 Credits

Science 3 Credits
History 3 Credits

Phys. Ed. 1 Credit
Fine Art 1 Credit

World Lang. 2 Credits
Electives* 6 Credits

Regular Track

9th Grade

English 1
Algebra 1
World History
Earth Space Science or
Physical Science
PE Elective (1.0 credit)
Fine Art Elective (1.0 credit)

10th Grade

English 2
Geometry
Biology
World Language (Level 1)
Elective (1.0 credit)
Elective (1.0 credit)

11th Grade

English 3
United States History
Algebra 2
Chemistry or Marine Science
World Language (Level 2)
Elective (1.0 credit)

12th Grade

English 4
Math for College Readiness
Economics with Financial Literacy
United States Government
Elective (1.0 credit)
Elective (1.0 credit)

Honors Track

9th Grade

English 1 Honors
Algebra 1 Honors
World History Honors
Earth Space Science Honors or
Physical Science Honors
PE Elective (1.0 credit)
Fine Art Elective (1.0 credit)

10th Grade

English 2 Honors
Geometry Honors
Biology Honors
World Language (Level 1)
Elective (1.0 credit)
Elective (1.0 credit)

11th Grade

English 3 Honors or AP English
Language and Composition
United States History Honors
Algebra 2 Honors
Chemistry Honors
World Language (Level 2)
Elective (1.0 credit)

12th Grade

English 4 Honors or AP English
Literature and Composition
Pre-Calculus Honors
Economics with Financial
Literacy Honors
United States Government Honors
Elective (1.0 credit)
Elective (1.0 credit)

Rigorous Academic Track

9th Grade

English 1 Honors
Algebra 1 Honors
World History Honors
Earth Space Science Honors or
Physical Science Honors
PE Elective (1.0 credit)
Fine Art Elective (1.0 credit)

10th Grade

English 2 Honors
Geometry Honors
Biology Honors
World Language (Level 1)
Elective (1.0 credit)
Elective (1.0 credit)

11th Grade

AP English Language and Composition
AP United States History
Algebra 2 Honors
Chemistry Honors
World Language (Level 2)
Elective (1.0 credit)

12th Grade

AP English Literature and Composition
AP Statistics
AP Macroeconomics or AP
Microeconomics
AP United States Government
and Politics
Elective (1.0 credit)
Elective (1.0 credit)

If High School credits were earned while in Middle School, the student may be ahead of the above sample High School track. Please speak with your Counselor for further advising and an individualized academic plan.

*Students must take one elective that includes Character Education. FLVS offers Career Research and Decision Making (0.5 credit) or Digital Information Technology (1.0 credit) to satisfy this requirement.

High School

Course Progression Recommendation: Academic 18-Credit High School Track

English 4 Credits Science 3 Credits World Lang. 2 Credits
Math 4 Credits History 3 Credits Electives* 2 Credits

Regular Track

9th Grade

English 1
Algebra 1
World History
Earth Space Science or
Physical Science
World Language (Level 1)

10th Grade

English 2
Geometry
United States History
Biology
World Language (Level 2)

11th Grade

English 3
Algebra 2
Economics with Financial Literacy
Chemistry or Marine Science
Elective (1.0 credit)

12th Grade

English 4
Math for College Readiness
United States Government
Elective (1.0 credit)

Honors Track

9th Grade

English 1 Honors
Algebra 1 Honors
World History Honors
Earth Space Science Honors or
Physical Science Honors
World Language (Level 1)

10th Grade

English 2 Honors
Geometry Honors
United States History Honors
Biology Honors
World Language (Level 2)

11th Grade

English 3 Honors or AP English
Language and Composition
Algebra 2 Honors
Economics with Financial
Literacy Honors
Chemistry Honors
Elective (1.0 credit)

12th Grade

English 4 Honors or AP English
Literature and Composition
Math for College Readiness or Pre-
Calculus Honors
United States Government Honors
Elective (1.0 credit)

Rigorous Academic Track

9th Grade

English 1 Honors
Algebra 1 Honors
World History Honors
Earth Space Science Honors or
Physical Science Honors
World Language (Level 1)

10th Grade

English 2 Honors
Geometry Honors
AP United States History
Biology Honors
World Language (Level 2)

11th Grade

AP English Language and Composition
Algebra 2 Honors
AP Macroeconomics or AP
Microeconomics
Chemistry Honors
Elective (1.0 credit)

12th Grade

AP English Literature and Composition
AP Statistics
AP United States Government
and Politics
Elective (1.0 credit)

Following these tracks entirely meets General Entrance requirements to any Florida State University or Community College. These tracks also meet Bright Futures FAS & FMS Scholarship Program as well as NCAA eligibility.

*Students must take one elective that includes Character Education. FLVS offers Career Research and Decision Making (0.5 credit) or Digital Information Technology (1.0 credit) to satisfy this requirement.

How to Schedule Your High Schooler's Homeschooling with FLVS

FLVS is a year-round school option that gives homeschooling students the opportunity to earn their needed annual credits without overwhelming the student with a full load. We recommend no more than 3 to 4 courses at one time. Block schedules consisting of 3 courses taken at a time, followed by 3 additional courses upon completion are highly recommended for students taking 6 credits a year.

Below are some possible schedules for students following the 24-Credit Homeschool Track, therefore attempting 6 credits a year.

3+3 Course Schedule

High school students attempting 6 credits a year may choose to work on 3 credits at a time. Students who work on this schedule, typically follow the accelerated pace chart to reach their goals.

August – December/January

1. English
2. Math
3. Elective

January – May/June

1. Science
2. History
3. Elective

Advisement: A typical course week on accelerated pace is about 6–8 study hours a week per course, therefore, with 3 classes that means students may be at the computer studying 18–24 hours each week. This schedule leaves room for extracurricular activities. Highly advised schedule for professional and training athletes.

4 + 2 Course Schedule

High school students attempting 6 credits a year may choose to work on 4 credits (courses) from August to May, and later do 2 credits at an accelerated pace during the summer months.

August – May

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. History

May – August

1. Elective
2. Elective

Advisement: A typical course week is about 4–5 study hours a week per course. With 4 classes that means students may be at the computer studying 16–20 hours each week. This schedule leaves room for extracurricular activities.

Homeschool Completion Affidavit

Instructions

- This affidavit is to be completed by the Homeschool Official
- This affidavit is to be signed and sealed by a Florida Commissioned Notary

Student Information

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Homeschool Official (Parent/Guardian) Certification

This affidavit is executed on behalf of my son/daughter who was educated in a home education program as defined by Florida Statute 1002.41.

I, _____, do by acknowledge under sworn oath that my student, named above, has met the school attendance policy as defined in Florida Statute 232.02 (4) and has completed all curriculum requirements for graduation as defined by Florida Statute 1003.43 or Florida Statute 1003.429, and, therefore, has successfully graduated from a home education program.

Homeschool Official (Parent / Guardian) Signature

Date

State of Florida, County of _____

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ (month), _____ (year)

by _____ (Name of Homeschool Official (Parent/Guardian)).

(Signature of Notary Public – State of Florida)

AFFIX NOTARY SEAL

(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known OR Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced _____

Disclaimer

The laws and information provided in this Guide are as current and accurate as possible. Legislation is passed frequently, thus causing changes to laws and policies. This Guide is only recommended as an educational resource and NOT as legal advice. Families should contact their FPEA District Director for the most current information or the specific interpretations made by their county officials.