

Dear Home Education Parent/Guardian:

Please take time to review as a reminder of the responsibilities of the Wakulla County School District and families. Please feel free to contact my assistant, Renee Barrett, or myself if you have questions. Email addresses are [Renee.Barrett@wcsb.us](mailto:Renee.Barrett@wcsb.us) and [Catherine.Cutchen@wcsb.us](mailto:Catherine.Cutchen@wcsb.us). We will be happy to provide additional support or information at (850) 926-0065.

In accordance with Florida Statute 232.41(b), it is my responsibility to process parent notification of home education programs and monitor those programs.

Home Education students are not required to participate in statewide assessments, however, if you would like your child to participate, you must notify the district Assessment office as soon as possible. More information regarding state testing is available on the FL DOE website and the WCSB website. To register your child to take any statewide assessment, you must complete the Statewide Testing Enrollment Form, found on the district website, and submit it to Amanda Hofheinz, Director of Assessment and Instructional Rigor, at [Amanda.Hofheinz@wcsb.us](mailto:Amanda.Hofheinz@wcsb.us). You may also contact Mrs. Hofheinz with any questions you have about the testing process by email or by phone at (850) 926-0065 ext. 9524. **\*If your student will test on a Wakulla County campus they must adhere to the dress code.\***

The annual home education evaluation should be sent to Catherine Cutchen or Renee Barrett. It is recommended that the evaluation be sent in June or July for promotion to the next grade level. This is not a requirement. Your home education student will not be assigned to a grade level unless the student participates in a school district program or service. If your student is participating, their annual evaluations must be turned in on time for grade level promotion to remain eligible with the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA). If your student participates in State Assessments, enrollment in district courses or extra-curricular activities, you will be asked to provide grade level documentation. If you use state assessments (FAST/BEST or EOC) as your student's annual evaluation, **you** must provide a copy of the report to the Home Education Office.

After the initial letter of intent to educate at home is received, it is assumed that your child will continue in subsequent years. At the point you terminate home schooling, move from Wakulla County, or re-enter a public/private school, please notify the Wakulla County director of ESE/Student Services so that our records are accurate.

Occasionally, my office receives electronic information from the Florida School Choice Office and other agencies for home school parents. If we have your e-mail address, this electronic information will be forwarded to you. Should you decide to re-enter a school in the Wakulla County School district, you may review the Wakulla County Pupil Progression Plan, located on the Wakulla County School District website for grade placement guidelines.

The Florida School Choice website is a very good resource for home education parents and may be accessed at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org).

Students participating in a home education program are eligible to participate in Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs. When registering for the ACT or SAT, request a score report for a Florida public college or university so that Bright Futures can access the scores. It is recommended that beginning in the ninth-grade home education students request the Self-Student Guide for Homeschooling Parents, available from Bright Futures Florida Department of Education Home education by contacting the Department of Education Home Education office.

I look forward to partnering with you as a home-education parent to assist in providing the best educational experience possible for your child. Feel free to contact me with questions or comments on ways that my office can serve you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cutchen  
Director of ESE



## Home School FAQ

### What is home education?

Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes (F.S.), defines home education as the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his/her parent or guardian, to satisfy the requirement for compulsory education as defined in s. 1002.20(2), 1003.01(13), and 1003.21(1), F.S. Current law does not prescribe a curriculum or course of study for home education programs.

### How does a parent enroll their child into the Florida Home Education Program through Wakulla County Schools?

If the child is currently enrolled in a public or private school, the parent must complete the withdrawal process at the school prior to enrolling in Home Education. For students already within our county, the registrar at their current school can email the completed Intent to Register for Homeschool to the Home Education office once the withdrawal has been completed.

### What documentation is required?

- As required by s. 1102.41, F.S., to establish a home education program and maintain compliance with the state, a parent must:
- Send a written **Letter of Intent** to the school district superintendent.
- Maintain an education portfolio of student records and materials used.

### What is a portfolio?

Section 1002.41, F.S., defines a portfolio as “A log of educational activities which is made contemporaneously (at the same time) with the instruction, and which designates by title any reading materials used and 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 superintendent, or the superintendent’s designee, upon a 15-day written notice. The superintendent, or the superintendent’s designee, is not required to inspect portfolios.

### What is an annual evaluation?

A student in a home education setting must be evaluated once a year to demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate to the child’s abilities. The parent/guardian selects the method of evaluation from those provided in Florida Statute, then files a copy of the evaluation annually in the superintendent’s office. It is recommended that the evaluation be submitted in June or July for promotion to the next grade level. This is not a requirement.

The evaluation must consist of one of the following:

- A Florida certified teacher chosen by the parent may evaluate the child’s progress based on the review of the portfolio and discussion with the student.
- The student may take any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.

- The student may 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.
- The student may be evaluated by an individual holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of Section 490.003 (7) or (8), F.S.; or
- The student may be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the school superintendent of the district in which the student resides and the student's parent. **Official transcripts from an on-line school are acceptable.**

## **Truancy**

Florida Statute 1003.27 gives the school district the authority to establish a truancy review committee for any child who has exhibited a pattern of non-attendance when the parent/guardian attempts to enroll the child in a home education program. The students' portfolio will be reviewed every 30 days by the committee. Non-compliance with this request will terminate the home education program. Upon termination of this program, the parent must re-enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the definition of "regular school attendance." At that point, the parent or guardian shall not be eligible to re-enroll the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.

## **Is there a curriculum?**

Parents may use any curriculum they choose. The Wakulla County School District does not provide any instructional materials to home education students.

## **What is part-time enrollment?**

Home education students may attend their zoned school of attendance to take classes to supplement the parent's home education program. The number and type of classes available are different at the elementary, middle and high school level.

## **May home education students participate in "inter-scholastic extracurricular activities" offered at public schools?**

Yes. Section 1006.15 F.S., requires that home education students be given the same opportunity to participate in "inter-scholastic extracurricular activities" as public school students.

## **What grade levels are allowed to participate in "inter-scholastic extracurricular activities"?**

Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to participate at their zoned school. Students can only participate one year per grade (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12).

## **Does a home education student have to receive permission from the school district to participate in dual enrollment on the community college campus?**

No. College and state universities often request proof that the student is registered and in compliance with a home education program. If the student must provide that information, it can be obtained from the local school district home education coordinator. If a home education student has an articulation agreement with the community college or state university, the school district must provide them with proof that the student is enrolled in a home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41 F.S. The district is not responsible for the transportation of a home education student to dual-enrollment classes.

## **Is there a minimum GPA for home education students to participate in dual enrollment?**

A high school grade point average may not be required for home education students who meet the minimum score on a common placements test adopted by the State Board of Education which indicates that the student is ready for college-level course work; however, home education student eligibility requirements for

continued enrollment in dual enrollment courses must include the maintenance of the minimum postsecondary grade point average established by the postsecondary institution.

### **Are home education students eligible for Bright Future's Scholarship?**

Yes. Home education students may qualify for a scholarship through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program if they are registered with their districts as home education students for grades 11 and 12. Districts only responsibility is to record the volunteer hours, not verify them.

### **Do home education students receive a diploma?**

There is no diploma issued by the public school system in Florida for the completion of a home education program. A signed affidavit of completion (notarized letter) submitted by the student's parent attesting that the student has completed a home education program, pursuant to the requirements of s.1002.41, F.S. is the legal document of completion. As stated in s.1007.263(2)(a), F.S. it is equivalent to a high school diploma and is regularly accepted by state colleges and universities as proof of high school completion. This statement can be included on a student's academic transcript or parent-issued diploma. While not required, some students elect to culminate their home education program by taking the General Educational Development (GED) test. A student is issued a diploma from the Department of Education upon passage of the GED. The toll-free number for information pertaining to the GED is 1-800-237-5113.

### **What do I need if my child has completed homeschool or is re-enrolling in a traditional school?**

All students must file a written notice of termination upon completion of a homeschool program with the district superintendent.

- If a student is re-enrolling in traditional school the home education office must sign off on the "Transition from Homeschool to Public School" form.
- If a student has fully completed their homeschool program, an "affidavit of completion" is an official document that can be notarized to demonstrate proof of completion of a home education program.

### **Scholarship Information**

Scholarship information is found here: (<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>). Not all scholarship recipients enroll with the Home Education Office.

# HOME EDUCATION

SCAN QR CODE TO  
ACCESS HOMESCHOOL  
DOCUMENTS



**Contacts:**

**Catherine Cutchen - Executive Director of ESE**

**Renee Barrett - Administrative Secretary for Student Services**

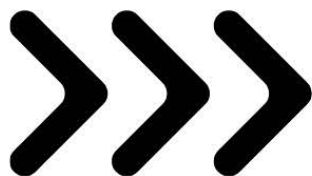
**Phone: 850-926-0065**

**Emails: [catherine.cutchen@wcsb.us](mailto:catherine.cutchen@wcsb.us) or [renee.barrett@wcsb.us](mailto:renee.barrett@wcsb.us)**

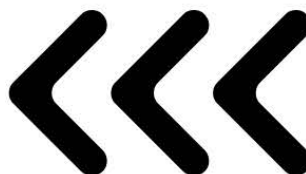
**Website: <https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/departments/student-services/student-services-menu/home-education>**

# FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES

SCAN CODE FOR FL  
BRIGHT FUTURES  
SCHOLARSHIP HANDBOOK



SCAN CODE FOR FL  
FINANCIAL AID  
WEBSITE



Homeschool Eligibility falls  
under “Non-Traditional  
Students”

# SCAN THE QR

**TO SIGN YOUR CHILD  
UP FOR ASSESSMENTS  
WITH WAKULLA  
COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Contact: Amanda Hofheinz  
Director of Assessment and Instructional Rigor

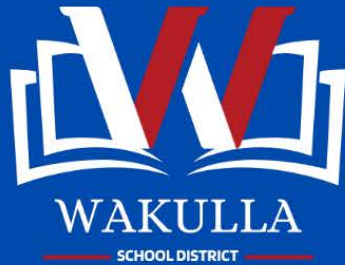
Phone Number:

850-926-0065

Website:

<https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/page/assessment-and-instructional-rigor>





# ASSESSMENTS

WAKULLA COUNTY  
SCHOOLS

## ELEMENTARY

3rd Grade: FAST ELA, FAST Math  
4th Grade: FAST ELA, FAST Math, FAST Writing  
5th Grade: FAST ELA, FAST Math, FAST Writing, 5th Grade Science

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade: FAST ELA, FAST Math, FAST Writing  
7th Grade: FAST ELA, FAST Math/ Algebra 1 EOC, FAST Writing, Civics EOC  
8th Grade: FAST ELA, FAST Math/Algebra/Geometry, FAST Writing, 8th Grade Science

## HIGH SCHOOL

Students enrolled in the following courses have assessments that must be completed:  
Algebra 1/1B, Geometry, US History, and Biology.  
9th and 10th grade: Must complete the FAST Reading PM 3, and FAST Writing Assessment.