

CREDIT AND/OR GRADE PLACEMENT

As a parent who has chosen the option of teaching your child in a Home Education Program, you need to be aware of the impact of your decision should you choose to reenroll your child in a Pinellas County secondary public school (grades 6-12).

Home education programs are considered non-accredited schools since they do not meet specific Southern Association of Colleges and Schools standards. Therefore, a student who withdraws at a particular grade level to be taught in a Home Education Program might not reenter the public school system at the grade level the student might have attained had he never left public education. The grade level placement of a student shall be the decision of the school principal based on all available data and the recommendations of his/her professional staff.

IMPORTANT HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

- High schools shall accept credits according to the process defined in our School Board Policy 5.12. A home educated student returning to a PCS high school will be placed in the appropriate sequential course level in mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts. The student's credit will be based on successful completion of one grading period of course work in each of the four subject areas. Credit for all other courses will be accepted at face value provided that an equivalent course is contained in the listing of approved courses for high schools in Florida. For each subject area in which the student earns a C or higher during the student's first grading period after transferring to a Pinellas County public high school, the grades and credit earned in the school from which the student is transferring will be entered on the student's transcript
- 5.12 (11) Final Semester Attendance Requirement for Diploma Eligibility: Students who transfer into a Pinellas County public high school during their senior year must be enrolled full time in Pinellas County Schools' courses for the entire semester prior to graduation in order to be eligible for a diploma from a Pinellas County public school. These courses may not be taken through Florida Virtual School. However, a Pinellas County public high school diploma may be granted to a student transferring in from a school district with a policy, which will not allow that district to grant a diploma to a student who was not enrolled for the entire semester prior to graduation. It is recommended that you check with the guidance department at your local high school to ensure that you are meeting all graduate requirements for Pinellas County Schools.
- Please be aware that students enrolled in a Home Education Program will not receive a high school diploma from a Pinellas County high school or the State of Florida since they are not subject to state and district graduation requirements. Some home school students are enrolled at what's referred to as an umbrella school, which will oversee their home schooling and issue them a diploma. Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is not a diploma granting institution. A student may choose to take the General Educational Development (GED) tests when he/she reaches the age of eighteen in order to attempt to qualify for an equivalency diploma. For more information regarding the GED Program, please call the GED Office at (727) 588-6298.

Students can apply directly to the College or University of their choice even without a high school diploma. Most universities in the U.S. have developed admissions processes specifically for home school students. It is highly recommended that you check with the Admission Office of the College or University for the requirements of accepting Home Educated students transcripts.

INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Interscholastic extracurricular activities are open to registered home schooled students. Students must meet the same residency requirements and standards as set forth by the School Board, for all students in the school district. The student must register through student assignment for school placement.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REQUIREMENTS

All students (including home educated students) who participate in district sponsored extracurricular athletics, athletic support activities, cheerleading; music and related activities; drama and related activities; ROTC; FPSA; and other activities designated in a complete listing on file in the Risk Management and Insurance Department, are required to purchase the student accident insurance policy offered through the School Board prior to being permitted to tryout, participate in, or engage in any of these activities. The premium provides limited medical coverage for injuries resulting from an accident which occurs during participation in any sports (an additional premium is required for participation in high school football) and any after school extracurricular activities. In addition, students who are covered by the district's student insurance policies are insured against catastrophic injuries (arising out of participation in school activities) for up to \$5,000,000.

The purchase of accident insurance is required, whether or not the student is covered by any other accident or medical insurance. The policy enrollment form and instructions may be obtained at the time of sign-up from the school staff employee who supervises the activity. It is available at any time during the school year.

Students wishing to participate in high school athletic programs must follow the procedures provided by Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA), <http://www.fhfsaa.org>

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

For information regarding the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, please call (727) 588-6013 or visit the website at:
<http://www.firn.edu/doe/brfutures/noflfs.htm>

Eligibility criteria for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship specify that a student must have earned "a standard Florida high school diploma...unless the student completes a home education program according to s. 1002.41." [Section 1009.531 (1) (b), Florida Statutes] In lieu of the diploma, all home educated students must be registered with the district where they reside for grades 11 and 12. In addition, students must meet the general requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

For information regarding Financial Aid for College, visit the website at:
<http://www.firn.edu/doe/brfutures/noflfs.htm> or <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

For information regarding Preliminary SAT, visit the website at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

To register for the SAT or ACT visit the following websites:
Apply for SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/testing/>
Apply for ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/index.html>

STEPS TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY WITH FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL (FLVS)

For homeschoolers to begin their journey with FLVS they must register with their school district's Home Education Department. Before placement with FLVS can occur, the homeschool confirmation letter must be received by the FLVS office via fax at (407) 317-7963.

Parents can find many resources at the FLVS website:
<http://www.flvs.net> go to tab **Students and Parents** - then tab - **Florida Residents** - then tab **Resources: Academic Planning**

Florida Virtual School Course Progression Plan can be found at:
http://www.flvs.net/students_parents/course_progression_recommendations.php

Registration Tips:
Go to <http://www.Flvs.net>, find the grey bar that says **APPLY FOR ADMISSIONS>FLORIDA STUDENTS**>Follow the steps for admission. Home schooled students must select **HOME SCHOOLED** Pinellas. At the end of the process, the student will receive user name and password. Log out of student account and return to FLVS.net home page. The guardian must now open a Guardian account. **CHOOSE STUDENT & PARENTS>GUARDIAN ACCOUNT**>follow the steps. The guardian receives a separate username and password. Return to FLVS.net, the student logs in using their username and password. Follow the steps to request a course. Log out of student account. The guardian must now log in and **APPROVE** the courses. Once the courses are approved the student will be awaiting placement. Student should monitor enrollment status. Once a classroom is assigned, the student will be contacted by their FLVS instructor with information on starting the course.

An Annual Educational Evaluation is required for each student who is home educated. Since FLVS is not a school of record it is their policy **NOT** to complete an annual evaluation. The district home school office will provide parents with resources to complete these evaluations.