



POLICY 8.14

4-I I recommend that the Board adopt the proposed revised Policy 8.14, entitled Home "Education Program."

[Contact: Mary Vreeland and Beth Gillespie, PX 47371.]

Adoption

CONSENT ITEM

- The Board approved development of this revised Policy at the development reading on November 5, 2008.
- This revised policy provides for the responsibilities of parents/guardians to:
 - Provide notice of the decision to establish a home education program
 - Maintain a portfolio of records and materials
 - Provide for an evaluation of the child/children
 - Provide notice of termination of a home education program
 - Compliance with, Fla. Stat. 1002.41, "Home Education Programs."
- This policy has been revised to ensure the District's compliance with, Fla. Stat. 1002.41, "Home Education Programs.", as amended by the 2008 Florida Legislature.
- The revised policy is amended to allow home education students access to virtual schooling as provided by state law.

POLICY 8.14

HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM

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3 1. **Purpose.** The School Board recognizes the rights of parents and guardians to
4 educate their child(ren) at home in lieu of regular attendance in a public or private
5 school. This policy is to ensure the home education program for students of the
6 District are conducted in accordance with state laws and regulations.

- 7 2. **Definitions.**-- ~~As stated in Fla. Stat. § 1002.01(1), a~~
 - 8 a. "~~H~~home education program" is defined as the sequentially progressive
9 instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the
10 attendance requirements of Fla. Stat. §§ 1002.41, 1003.01(~~13~~ 4), and
11 1003.21(1), as now or hereafter amended. The District's home education
12 program includes students age-appropriate for kindergarten through age 18.

 - 13 b. ~~As used herein,~~ "~~P~~parent" means "either or both parents of a student, any
14 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or
15 any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of the
16 parent," as defined in Fla. Stat. 1000.21(5), as now or hereafter amended.

- 17 3. **District Responsibilities.**-- The District's Home Education Office is the
18 Superintendent's designee to receive and review correspondence from parents
19 who are directing home education programs, maintain files of home education
20 students, apply the access and privacy provisions of Fla. Stat. § 1002.22 to any
21 student records or reports created, maintained, or used by the Home Education
22 Office, and review and evaluate the results of annual educational evaluations of
23 home education students in the District. The Home Education Office also complies
24 with all applicable statutes, policies, and rules.

- 25 4. **Responsibilities of Parents or Guardians.** A parent or guardian who registers
26 a child in the home education program shall meet the following requirements of
27 Florida law.
 - 28 a. Notify the Superintendent, through the designated Home Education Office, of
29 the parent's or guardian's intent to establish a home education program, as
30 provided in paragraph 5 herein.

 - 31 b. Maintain a portfolio of records and materials, as provided by paragraph 6
32 herein.

 - 33 c. Provide for an annual evaluation of the child(ren) as provided in paragraph 7
34 herein.

- 35 d. Provide written notice to the Home Education Office of the termination of a
36 home education program consistent with the provisions of paragraph 11
37 herein.
- 38 e. Be familiar with, and are responsible for complying with, Fla. Stat. §1002.41,
39 "Home Education Programs."
- 40 5. **3. Initiating a Home Education Program.--** Pursuant to Fla. Stat. §1002.41(1)(a),
41 a A parent residing in Palm Beach County who ~~desires~~ chooses to direct a home
42 education program for his/her school-age child shall: ~~submit a Notice of Intent by~~
43 ~~U.S. mail, fax, or hand delivery to the Home Education Office of the School District~~
44 ~~within 30 days of establishing a home education program.~~
- 45 a. Provide a written The Notice of Intent to the Home Education Office of the
46 School District within thirty (30) days of establishing the home education
47 program. Such notice shall be in writing, must be signed and dated by the
48 parent and shall include the full name, address, and birth date of each child
49 who will be registered with the Home Education Office. The notice may be
50 provided to the Home Education Office by U.S. mail, fax or hand delivery.
- 51 b. Complete the withdrawal process for any child ~~If the child is already enrolled in~~
52 ~~a public or private school, the withdrawal process should be completed prior to~~
53 ~~initiating the home education program.~~
- 54 c. ~~Parents directing home education programs should be familiar with, and are~~
55 ~~responsible for complying with, Fla. Stat. §1002.41, "Home Education~~
56 ~~Programs."~~
- 57 6. **4. Portfolio Requirement.--** As required by Fla. Stat. §1002.41(1)(b), the
- 58 a. Maintenance of Records and Materials. The parent or guardian directing a
59 home education program shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials,
60 consisting of:
- 61 i. A a log of educational activities, ensuring that the log is made
62 contemporaneously with instruction, designating ~~designates~~ by title any
63 reading materials used, and
- 64 ii. includes Samples ~~samples~~ of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or
65 creative materials used or developed by the student.
- 66 b. Preservation of Portfolio. The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent or
67 guardian for two (2) years and shall be made available for inspection by the
68 Home Education Office upon 15 days' written notice.
- 69 c. Review of Portfolio of Student with Prior Pattern of Non-Attendance Students

70 with a prior pattern of public school nonattendance may be subject to regular
71 monthly portfolio reviews in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 1003.26(1)(f) until the
72 home education review committee reaches consensus that the student's home
73 education program is in compliance with Fla. Stat. §1002.41(1)(b).

74 d. Failure to Provide Portfolio.

75 i. If the parent or guardian fails to provide a portfolio to the committee, the
76 Home Education Office, as the Superintendent's designee, shall
77 terminate the home education program as required by Fla. Stat.
78 §1003.26(1)(f)2, and the parent shall be required to enroll the child within
79 three (3) days in an attendance option that satisfies regular school
80 attendance in: a public school; a parochial, religious, denominational, or
81 other private school; or private tutoring program that meets the
82 requirements of Fla. Stat. § 1002.43.

83 ii. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. §1003.26(1)(f)2, a parent whose home education
84 program is terminated under this paragraph shall not be eligible to
85 reenroll the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.

86 7. ~~5.~~ **Annual Evaluation.** -- ~~As required by Fla. Stat. §1002.41(1)(c), the~~ The parent or
87 guardian of each student in the home education program must provide for an
88 annual evaluation demonstrating that the student's educational progress is
89 commensurate with his/her ability.

90 a. Submission of Evaluation. The annual evaluation must be submitted by
91 each anniversary date of the student's registration with the Home Education
92 Office and ~~must comply with the requirements of Fla. Stat. § 1002.41(1)(c)1, 2,~~
93 ~~3, 4, or 5.~~ the evaluation shall consist of one of the following:

94 i. An evaluation of the student's progress by a Florida certified teacher
95 chosen by the parent based on a review of the portfolio and discussion
96 with the student. Such teacher shall hold a valid Florida regular certificate
97 to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.

98 ii. Any nationally-normed student achievement test that is administered by a
99 Florida certified teacher.

100 iii. A state student assessment test administered by a Florida certified
101 teacher, at a location (e.g., zoned public school) and under testing
102 conditions approved by the test publisher. The School District shall
103 provide the test materials, monitored site and test results.

104 iv. An evaluation by a psychologist holding a valid active license pursuant to
105 Fla. Stat. 490.003(7) or (8).

- 106 v. An evaluation with another other valid measurement tool as mutually
 107 agreed upon the by the Home Education Office and the parent or
 108 guardian. One acceptable method to the School District of satisfying Fla.
 109 Stat. §1002.41(1)(e)5 is providing an official transcript from an accredited
 110 correspondence/distance learning institution.
- 111 b. Failure to Submit Evaluation. The failure of a parent or guardian to submit an
 112 annual evaluation for each student in a home education program places the
 113 student's home education program in non-compliance. The Home Education
 114 Office, after notice to the parent or guardian, may terminate the home
 115 education program, and require The the parent to shall enroll the student in his
 116 or her zoned school or an attendance option that satisfies Fla. Stat. §1002.43.
- 117 c. Student with Probationary Status. The Home Education Office, as the
 118 Superintendent's designee, shall review the results of the annual evaluation
 119 and notify the parents of home education students regarding their probationary
 120 status if the students' progress is not at a level commensurate with their
 121 abilities. The Home Education Office shall review and re-evaluate probationary
 122 students' evaluations at the end of one year to determine if remediation has
 123 been achieved. Removal of probationary status and continuation of a home
 124 education program are contingent upon the student's demonstrating
 125 educational progress commensurate with his/her ability at the end of the
 126 probationary period.
- 127 8. **6- Eligibility for Public Participation.--** Registered home education students are
 128 eligible to participate in certain public education programs as follows:
- 129 a. ~~An individual home education student shall be eligible to participate in: the~~
 130 ~~Participate in extracurricular activities (e.g., sports) at the secondary level~~
 131 ~~following policies and rules of Florida High School Athletic Association~~
 132 ~~(FHSA) (1006.20). Activities may also be available at the zoned elementary~~
 133 ~~school. Interscholastic extracurricular activities at a public school assigned by~~
 134 ~~the District, provided the conditions of Fla. Stat. 1006.15(3)(c) are met;.~~
- 135 b. ~~The the~~ Bright Futures Scholarship Program in accordance with Fla. Stat.
 136 1009.53-1009.539; ~~and.~~
- 137 c. Dual enrollment programs, ~~in accordance with Fla. Stat. 1007.27(4) and~~
 138 ~~1007.271(10). Home education students are eligible for: including admission to~~
 139 ~~community colleges in accordance with Fla. Stat. 1007.263 and admission to~~
 140 ~~state universities in accordance with State laws and School Board policies.~~
 141 Fla. Stat. 1007.261,
- 142 d. ~~b. Home education students may receive Testing and evaluation services at~~
 143 ~~diagnostic and resource centers in accordance with Fla. Stat. 1006.03. Home~~
 144 ~~education students may access some instruction at their zoned public school if~~

- 145 ~~the class is available and related to an interscholastic extracurricular activity in~~
 146 ~~which the home education student participates at the zoned school and/or if~~
 147 ~~the class is related to the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) for~~
 148 ~~exceptional student education.~~
- 149 e. Access instruction, if eligible, at their zoned school if the class is related to an
 150 extracurricular activity the student participates in and/or relates to the student's
 151 Individual Education Plan (IEP) for Exceptional Student Education (ESE). In
 152 order to begin this process, the parent/guardian should contact the zoned
 153 public school.
- 154 f. Virtual instruction (e.g., Florida Virtual School) as allowed by Florida law, such
 155 as Fla. Stat §. 1002.37.
- 156 9. ~~7.~~ **Instructional Materials.**-- The parent of a home education student shall be
 157 responsible for obtaining and paying for instructional materials; the District does not
 158 provide books, curricula, or materials for home education students. However, book
 159 series no longer in use in the District may be available, from the District's textbook
 160 depository a local school, for lending or free disposition to the public pursuant to
 161 Fla. Stat. 1006.41.
- 162 10. ~~8.~~ **Support Groups; Neutrality.**-- Solely for the convenience of parents directing
 163 home education programs, the Home Education Office is authorized to provide a
 164 list of home education support groups, which may be able to provide assistance
 165 with curriculum, instruction, annual evaluations, and other educational matters of
 166 interest to those directing a home education program. However, provision of such
 167 list shall not imply any direct or indirect endorsement or sponsorship of any group
 168 on the list, and the District shall not be responsible for any act or omission of any
 169 such independent support group.
- 170 11. ~~9.~~ **Termination of the Home Education Program By Parent or Guardian.**-- If the
 171 student's home education program is discontinued, a written notice of termination
 172 shall be filed by the parent or guardian with the Home Education Office, as the
 173 designee of the Superintendent, within 30 days after such termination, as required
 174 by Fla. Stat. 1002.41(1)(a).
- 175 12. ~~40.~~ **Enrollment in Public School.**-- If a home education student enrolls full-time in
 176 a public school within the District, grade placement and transferable credits shall
 177 be determined by the school administrator(s) in accordance with School Board
 178 policies ~~such as 8.022, 8.20,~~ and the Student Progression Plan. The student's
 179 home education curriculum, portfolio, and evaluations may be reviewed at the
 180 school prior to placement or credit decisions.
- 181 13. ~~44.~~ **Diploma.**-- The District is not authorized to provide a regular high school
 182 diploma to home education students. However, such students may take the
 183 General Education Development (GED) test at an adult education center and be

184 awarded a GED diploma by the State of Florida if the student achieves a passing
185 score. Alternatively, the student may be eligible to receive a diploma from an
186 accredited correspondence or distance learning program if the student has
187 completed the high school course of study required by such institution. Parents
188 may access a list of regionally accredited institutions, without any implication of the
189 endorsement by the District, from the Home Education Office.

190 14. **Scholarships.--** Registered home education students may apply for the Florida
191 Bright Futures Scholarship and others in accordance with Florida Statutes. The
192 Home Education office will provide information as required by the scholarship's
193 guidelines.

194 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 10011002.41(2), (3); 1002.41

195 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1002.01(1); 1002.41; 1003.01, 1003.21,
196 1003.26(1)(f)(2); 1006.15; 1007.27(4); 1002.37

197 HISTORY: 5/7/86; 5/7/97; 4/28/03 ___/___ 2008

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 8.14 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date