



## POLICY 8.14

**5-F** I recommend that the Board approve development of the proposed revised Policy 8.14, entitled "Home Education Program."

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

### Development

### CONSENT ITEM

- 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. ~~"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, "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. §§ 1002.41(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.

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Attorney

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Date