

Home Education in Florida

Annual Report 2015-16 School Year

June 2016

Florida Department of Education
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Phone: (850) 245-0502 Toll-free Hotline: 1(800) 447-1636 http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/

Home Education in Florida

Established by the Florida Legislature as a school choice option in 1985, home education is defined in Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes, as "the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent." Section 1002.41, F.S., requires parents to notify the district school superintendent in the county of residence of their intent to establish and maintain a home education program and to provide the name, address, and birth date of each student participating.

Florida law does not require a particular educational background for parents of home-educated students. Parents who home educate their children are able to customize the curriculum to the needs of each child. However, a portfolio of activities, records and materials showing student work must be maintained for two years and made available to the school district if requested in writing. Additionally, Section 1002.41, F.S. requires that students in home education programs annually undergo one of five academic evaluation options, the results of which must be submitted to the school district by the parent.

Each year, the Department of Education surveys all school districts to collect data on the number of students and families who have registered their intent to establish home education programs. For the 2015-16 school year, the numbers provided by the districts indicate that 58,197 families and 83,359 students participated in home education programs. In the last five years, the total number of students in home education has increased by 10,951 or 15% over the 72,408 students reported in 2011-12, with a five-year average of 78,544 students.*



For more information on home education in Florida, please visit the Web site of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at: http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/home-edu/.

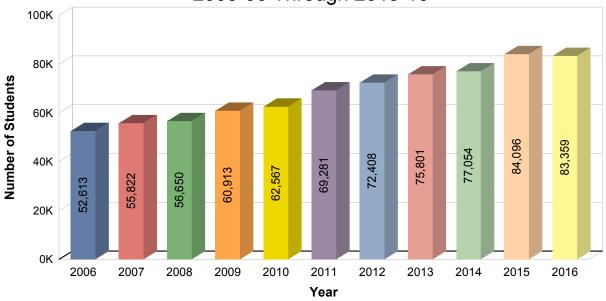
^{*2016} totals declined due to two districts indicating that previous data issues required corrections.

HOME EDUCATION STATISTICS BY DISTRICT, 2015-16

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1	,046
	,524
54 Putnam 308	195
	,034
,	,249
57 Santa Rosa 909	505
58 Sarasota 1,298	925
	,221
60 Sumter 453	283
61 Suwannee 513	368
62 Taylor 105	82
63 Union 124	89
	,694
65 Wakulla 231	153
66 Walton 420	300
67 Washington 160	103

STATE TOTAL: 83,359 58,197

Student Enrollment in Home Education Programs 2005-06 Through 2015-16

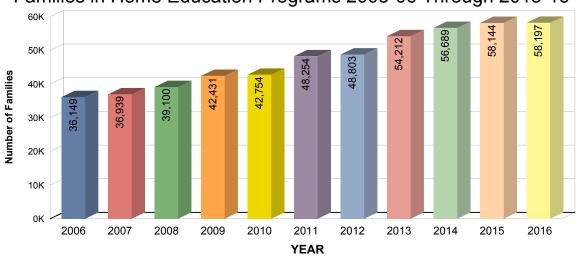


School Year	<u>Students</u>	<u>Change</u>	% Change
2016	83,359	-737	-0.9%
2015	84,096	7,042	9.1%
2014	77,054	1,253	1.7%
2013	75,801	3,393	4.7%
2012	72,408	3,127	4.5%
2011	69,281	6,714	10.7%
2010	62,567	1,654	2.7%
2009	60,913	4,263	7.5%
2008	56,650	828	1.5%
2007	55,822	3,209	6.1%
2006	52,613		

Districts with the Most Home Education Students 2015-16

District Name	Students	<u>%</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>%</u>
Palm Beach	5,995	7.2%	4,437	7.6%
Duval	5,888	7.1%	4,276	7.3%
Hillsborough	5,495	6.6%	3,749	6.4%
Orange	4,785	5.7%	3,675	6.3%
Brevard	4,156	5.0%	3,093	5.3%
Broward	3,726	4.5%	2,749	4.7%
Dade	3,460	4.2%	1,730	3.0%
Polk	3,279	3.9%	2,524	4.3%
Pasco	3,083	3.7%	2,147	3.7%
Pinellas	2,900	3.5%	2,046	3.5%

Families in Home Education Programs 2005-06 Through 2015-16



<u>Year</u>	<u>Families</u>	% Increase
2015-16	58,197	0.1%
2014-15	58,144	2.6%
2013-14	56,689	4.6%
2012-13	54,212	11.1%
2011-12	48,803	1.1%
2010-11	48,254	12.9%
2009-10	42,754	0.8%
2008-09	42,431	8.5%
2007-08	39,100	5.9%
2006-07	36,939	2.2%
2005-06	36,149	