Home Education in Florida

Annual Report
2015-16 School Year

June 2016

Florida Department of Education
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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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.*
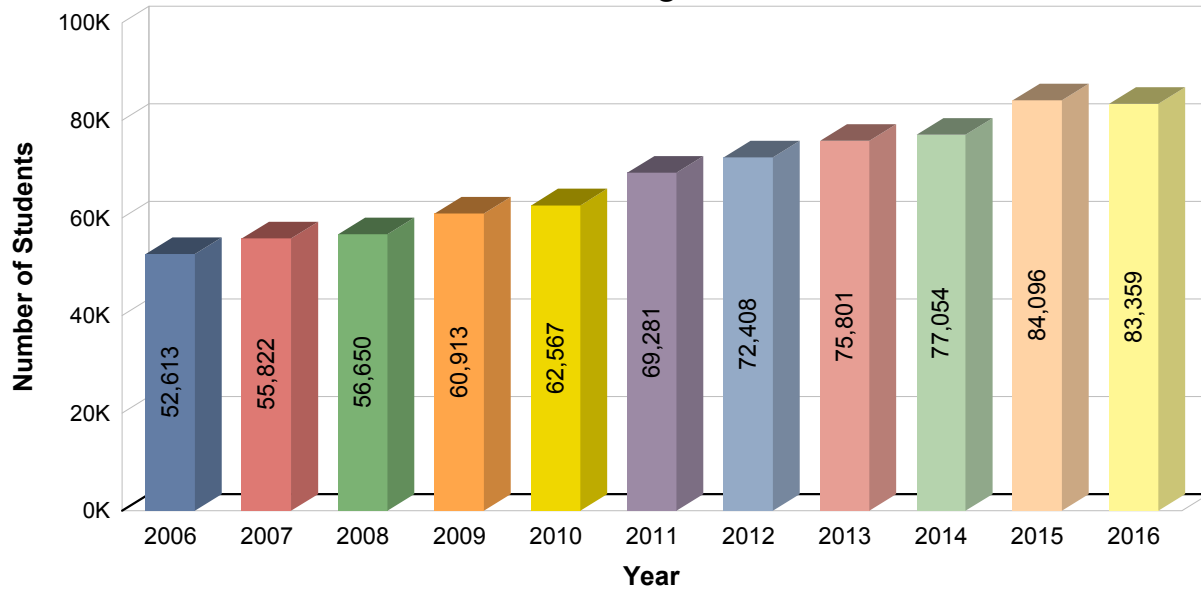

For more information on home education in Florida, please visit the Web site of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at:
http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/home-edu/.

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

HOME EDUCATION STATISTICS BY DISTRICT, 2015-16

DISTRICT ID	DISTRICT NAME	STUDENTS	FAMILIES
1	Alachua	1,343	863
2	Baker	208	136
3	Bay	1,069	752
4	Bradford	188	157
5	Brevard	4,156	3,093
6	Broward	3,726	2,749
7	Calhoun	72	43
8	Charlotte	594	556
9	Citrus	682	514
10	Clay	1,139	741
11	Collier	1,420	983
12	Columbia	531	179
13	Dade	3,460	1,730
14	DeSoto	214	159
15	Dixie	100	80
16	Duval	5,888	4,276
17	Escambia	1,300	550
18	Flagler	617	443
19	Franklin	25	20
20	Gadsden	349	227
21	Gilchrest	231	161
22	Glades	63	58
23	Gulf	77	62
24	Hamilton	95	77
25	Hardee	174	123
26	Hendry	95	67
27	Hernando	1,104	802
28	Highlands	386	314
29	Hillsborough	5,495	3,749
30	Holmes	186	141
31	Indian River	856	690
32	Jackson	354	230
33	Jefferson	166	95
34	Lafayette	65	44
35	Lake	2,775	1,901
36	Lee	2,010	1,486
37	Leon	1,406	1,043
38	Levy	324	259
39	Liberty	21	18
40	Madison	172	139
41	Manatee	1,412	1,018
42	Marion	2,483	1,094
43	Martin	756	537
44	Monroe	245	172
45	Nassau	566	361
46	Okaloosa	1,103	719
47	Okeechobee	533	455
48	Orange	4,785	3,675
49	Osceola	1,425	1,101
50	Palm Beach	5,995	4,437
51	Pasco	3,083	2,147
52	Pinellas	2,900	2,046
53	Polk	3,279	2,524
54	Putnam	308	195
55	St. Johns	1,500	1,034
56	St. Lucie	1,689	1,249
57	Santa Rosa	909	505
58	Sarasota	1,298	925
59	Seminole	1,672	1,221
60	Sumter	453	283
61	Suwannee	513	368
62	Taylor	105	82
63	Union	124	89
64	Volusia	2,276	1,694
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

Chart: Number of Students by Year

Year	Number of Students
2006	52,613
2007	55,822
2008	56,650
2009	60,913
2010	62,567
2011	69,281
2012	72,408
2013	75,801
2014	77,054
2015	84,096
2016	83,359

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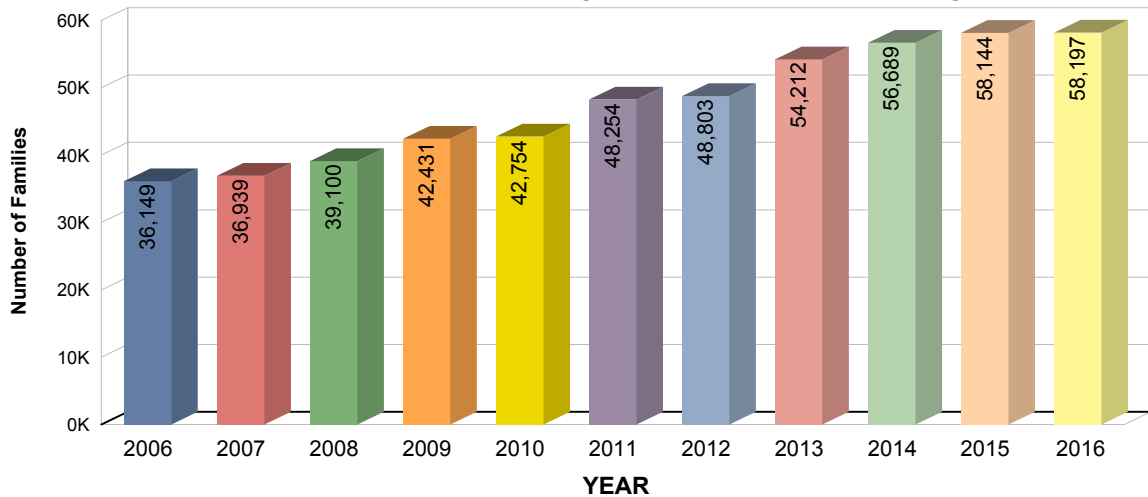
Year	Families	% Increase
2015-16	58,197	0.1%
2014-15	58,144	2.6%
2013-14	56,689	4.6%
2012-13	54,212	11.1%
2011-12	48,803	1.1%
2010-11	48,254	12.9%
2009-10	42,754	0.8%
2008-09	42,431	8.5%
2007-08	39,100	5.9%
2006-07	36,939	2.2%
2005-06	36,149	