

## **Home Education and Dual Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this FAQ is to provide postsecondary institutions and home educators with guidance and clarification related to Florida's dual enrollment program for home education students.

This document includes a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) and responses related to dual enrollment programs for home education students. The information addresses the specific nature and needs of home education students in dual enrollment. Institutions are encouraged to involve parents in the development of articulation agreements.

### **Background**

Dual Enrollment is one of several accelerated programs for secondary students. Dual enrollment reduces the time necessary to complete high school requirements and a postsecondary degree, broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, and increase the depth of study. Dual enrollment courses must be creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate, associate degree, or baccalaureate degree. Pursuant to Section 1007.27(4), Florida Statutes, the legislative intent is to provide articulated acceleration mechanisms for students in home education programs that are consistent with those available to public and private secondary school students. Eligible home education secondary students may participate in dual enrollment, career dual enrollment, early admission, and credit-by-examination. Pursuant to Section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, students eligible for dual enrollment are exempt from payment of registration, tuition, and lab fees. Credit earned through dual enrollment shall apply toward the completion of a home education program that meets the requirements of Section 1002.41, Florida Statutes.

Many institutions have developed home education agreements that effectively communicate eligibility criteria, the process for applying for admission and registering for courses, documentation required for available courses, and costs. Statute requires an articulation agreement if home education students wish to participate in dual enrollment at a postsecondary institution. There is no common format for home education articulation agreements, but certain elements are required.

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **1. What is the definition of a home education student?**

A home education student is enrolled in a "home education program" defined by Section 1002.01(1) Florida Statutes, as the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of Sections 1002.41, 1003.01(4), and 1003.21(1), Florida Statutes.

#### **2. Does a home education student need permission from the school district to participate in dual enrollment on the postsecondary campus?**

No. However, a home education student must provide annual proof of enrollment in a home education program. Upon request, the school district must provide parents with annual verification of student enrollment in a home education program or provide that information directly to the postsecondary institution.

#### **3. Does a home education student have to provide a transcript or an annual evaluation to the postsecondary institution in order to participate in dual enrollment?**

No. Home education students are not required to provide a transcript or annual evaluations to the postsecondary institution to be eligible to participate in dual enrollment. Home education students do not receive a high school diploma from the state upon completion of a home education program. Students demonstrate college readiness by passing college placement tests and meeting requirements that do not exceed those required of public school students. Many students simultaneously work toward completion of their home education program and an associate degree. The parent and the postsecondary institution work together to determine the courses needed.

**4. Are home education students and postsecondary institutions required to develop an articulation agreement?**

Yes. Postsecondary institutions must provide an articulation agreement for home education students to, at a minimum: delineate courses and programs available to dually enrolled home education students; identify the initial and continued eligibility criteria for home education student participation, not to exceed those required of other dually enrolled students; outline the student's responsibilities for providing his or her own instructional materials and transportation; and, include a copy of the statement on transfer guarantees developed by the Department of Education pursuant to Section 1007.271(15), Florida Statutes. Courses and programs may be added, revised, or deleted at any time by the postsecondary institution. An effective agreement can provide important information and promote a positive relationship with the home education community.

**5. Does the District Interinstitutional Articulation Agreement apply to home education students?**

No. Home education students are not subject to the provisions set forth by the district agreement.

**6. Is there a minimum age or grade level required for a home education student to be eligible for participation in dual enrollment?**

Pursuant to Section 1007.271 (13), Florida Statutes, each career center, community college and state university shall identify eligibility criteria. Therefore, postsecondary institutions are authorized to establish additional criteria for dual enrollment to ensure college readiness, not to exceed those required of other dually enrolled students.

**7. Is a home education student limited to the same course options as a public school student?**

No. Section 1007.271 (13), Florida Statutes, states that postsecondary institutions shall delineate courses and programs for home education students. Courses may be added, revised, or deleted at any time.

**8. Does a postsecondary institution have to provide instructional materials or textbooks for home education students?**

No. Section 1007.271(17), Florida Statutes, specifically states that home education students are responsible for providing their own instructional materials and transportation unless provided for otherwise. However, this section of statute does not prohibit a postsecondary institution from providing dual enrollment materials and books.

**9. May home education students participate in the dual enrollment program through the school district?**

Yes. Districts may have a part-time enrollment policy which would allow them to enroll home education students, receive FTE, and funding for instructional materials. This is a local decision specified in the district's Student Progression Plan. The District Home Education Coordinator can provide information about district policy, registration timelines, and dual enrollment eligibility requirements. If the home education student enrolls in the district's dual enrollment program, the district interinstitutional articulation agreement applies.

**10. Where can I find Florida Department of Education information on home education?**

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice provides Home Education information at this link, <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/home-edu/>

**Additional Information and Resources**

The Florida Department of Education:

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice: <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>

Office of Articulation: <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/>