



# School District of Okeechobee County

863-462-5000

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Okeechobee, Florida 34974

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**Chairperson**  
Amanda Riedel  
**Vice Chairperson**  
Melisa Jahner  
**Members**  
Joe Arnold  
Jill Holcomb  
Malissa Morgan

Dear Parent:

As a parent/guardian, the state of Florida will allow you to educate your child(ren) by choosing one (1) of the following five (5) options:

1. A public school;
2. A parochial, religious or denominational school;
3. A private school;
4. A home education program;
5. A private tutoring program that meets the requirements of regular school attendance.

By enrolling your child in any one (1) of the five (5) above indicated schooling options, you will meet the compulsory and regular school attendance requirements for children between the ages of 6 and 18, according to section 1002.01, Florida Statutes.

**“According to section 1002.41 Florida Statutes, the definition of a home education program is sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian in order to satisfy the requirements for compulsory and regular attendance.”**

The Home Education Program applies only to student’s ages six through eighteen. Five-year-old kindergarten children who are being taught at home are not required to register for the Home Education Program. However, if you choose to register your five (5) year old in a home education program for kindergarten, grade placement will be based on the following:

1. To enter the Kindergarten Home Education Program the child must be 5 on or before September 1 of the school year of enrollment.
2. To enter first grade the child must be 6 years old by September 1 of the school year of enrollment in public school.
3. The school administrators according to district policies will determine placement of the child in first grade for the Okeechobee County Public School.

A child who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the child files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the child’s earning potential and must be signed by the child and the child’s parent or legal guardian. The school district must notify the child’s parent or legal guardian of receipt of the child’s declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. Please note that school districts are required to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles when a student under the age of 18 withdraws from school. Termination of enrollment will result in the suspension of the student’s driver’s license. If the child has not been issued a license, this notice will prevent his/her ability to gain one until he/she reaches the age of 18.

An annual evaluation is required of each student enrolled in Home Education. Your child’s evaluation is due each year on the anniversary of his/her enrollment date into the Home Education Program. Failure to comply with this requirement may, after notice to the parent, trigger the district’s policy regarding non-compliance with compulsory school attendance.

Read the following information regarding the requirements of maintaining a Home Education Program. If you have any additional question, call the Home Education Office at 462-5000, Ext. 1060.

Sincerely,

*Lonnie Steiert*

Lonnie Steiert  
Director of Student Services