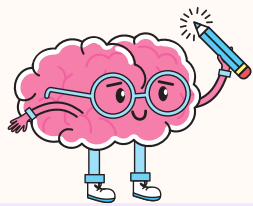


First-Year Florida Homeschool Survival Guide

Your roadmap for starting homeschooling in Florida with confidence

Starting your homeschool journey can feel exciting... and a little overwhelming. Between paperwork, portfolios, evaluations, curriculum decisions, and understanding Florida requirements, it's easy to wonder: ***"Am I missing something important?"***

This guide walks you through the key steps you need to know during your first year homeschooling in Florida, so you can spend less time worrying about paperwork and more time enjoying learning with your child.



CHOOSE YOUR HOMESCHOOL PATH

01

Florida families have different options for educating their children.

Many families homeschool through a Home Education Program, which requires parents to:

- ✓ File a Notice of Intent with their county school district
- ✓ Maintain a portfolio
- ✓ Complete an annual evaluation

Other families may choose options such as private school enrollment or scholarship programs, which can have different requirements.

Make sure you understand which path applies to your family.

02

FILE YOUR NOTICE OF INTENT



If you are homeschooling under Florida's Home Education Program, your first step is submitting a Notice of Intent to your county school district superintendent.

Your Notice of Intent should include:

- ☐ Parent/guardian information
- ☐ Student information
- ☐ Date instruction will begin
- ☐ Parent signature

Note: Your annual evaluation due date is the same as your dated Notice of Intent. Keep a copy of your submitted notice for your records.

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KEEP YOUR HOMESCHOOL PORTFOLIO

03

Florida requires Home Education Program families to maintain a portfolio throughout the year.

Required by Florida law:

- ☐ **A log of educational activities** (kept as you homeschool) that includes the titles of reading materials used.
- ☐ **Samples of your child's work**, such as writings, worksheets, workbook pages, or creative projects.

Recommended for a smooth portfolio evaluation:

- ☐ A log of educational activities.
- ☐ A list of books and curriculum used.
- ☐ **3 dated work samples from 3 subjects:**
 - Beginning of the year
 - Middle of the year
 - End of the year

(Example: 3 math samples, 3 language arts samples, and 3 science samples = 9 total work samples.)

Optional additions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Photos | ☐ Projects |
| ☐ Artwork | ☐ Extracurricular activities |
| ☐ Field trips | ☐ Grades, scores, awards |
| ☐ Science experiments | |

Remember: your portfolio is meant to show your child's learning journey, not to compare them against their public school peers.

04

UNDERSTAND ATTENDANCE & YOUR SCHOOL YEAR



Florida does not require homeschool families to follow the same calendar as public schools.

Instead, families should maintain records of educational activities and complete their annual requirements based on their own homeschool timeline.

Your evaluation deadline is connected to the anniversary of your Notice of Intent.

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COMPLETE YOUR ANNUAL EVALUATION

05

Florida Home Education Program families must complete an annual evaluation. Your options include:

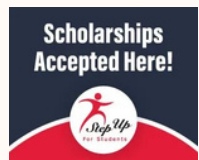
- ☐ Certified teacher portfolio review
- ☐ Nationally normed standardized test
- ☐ State assessment option (where applicable)
- ☐ Licensed psychologist evaluation
- ☐ Another method agreed upon with the district

Many families choose a certified teacher portfolio review because it is simple and personalized.

Note: After your evaluation is completed, most evaluators will provide you with a signed evaluation form that you are responsible for submitting to your school district by your annual deadline. At **The Empowered Parent**, we take care of that final district submission for you, giving you one less thing to remember during your homeschool year.

06

UNDERSTAND YOUR STEP UP FOR STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS (PEP & UA)



If your child receives a Step Up for Students scholarship, your end-of-year requirements may be different from families registered under a traditional Florida Home Education Program.

Before the end of your school year, make sure you know:

- What documentation you must keep
- Which annual assessment you will choose
- When your assessment or documentation is due

PEP Scholarship

If your child participates in the Personalized Education Program (PEP):

- You are not registered as a Home Education Program with your school district.
- You do not submit an annual homeschool evaluation to your county school district.
- Instead, you must complete an eligible norm-referenced standardized assessment and upload the results to your student's EMA account through Step Up for Students each year.

First-Year Florida Homeschool Survival Guide

Your roadmap for starting homeschooling in Florida with confidence

Unique Abilities (UA) Scholarship

If your child receives the Unique Abilities (UA) scholarship and is registered as a Home Education Program, you must continue to follow Florida's homeschool law, including:

- **Completing an annual educational evaluation** (or another assessment option allowed under Florida law).
- **Submitting your annual evaluation to your county school district** by your homeschool anniversary date.

Remember: At The Empowered Parent, we take care of that final district submission for you, so you aren't scrambling to stay in compliance.

For the most current scholarship requirements, deadlines, and annual assessment information, refer to the appropriate Step Up for Students Family Handbook for your scholarship program. Requirements can change from year to year.

Check your SUFS parent handbook here: <https://www.sufs.org/handbooks/>

First-Year Homeschool Checklist



Notice of Intent submitted



Learning records maintained



Portfolio organized



Evaluation scheduled



Evaluation completed



Required documentation submitted (if applicable)

Need your Florida homeschool evaluation completed?

When you're ready:



**Book My Homeschool
Evaluation**