

FLORIDA HOMESCHOOL EVALUATION STARTER GUIDE



What it is. What's required. What actually happens.

If you're new to homeschooling in Florida, the annual evaluation can feel confusing fast.

Good news: it's more straightforward than it sounds once you understand the structure.

This guide breaks it down in so you know exactly what's required and what's not.

What is a Florida homeschool annual evaluation?



Florida law requires parents who homeschool under a Home Education Program to submit an annual evaluation showing that the child is making educational progress.

This is not a test the student has make a certain score on in order to pass.

You choose how that progress is shown.

Who needs an evaluation?



You need an annual evaluation if:

- You filed a Notice of Intent to homeschool with your county school district
- You are homeschooling under Florida's Home Education Program
- Students who use the SUFS-UA scholarship

Most homeschool families in Florida fall under this requirement.



Timeline: When it happens

Your evaluation is due:

👉 Once per year on the anniversary of the date you filed your Notice of Intent

Example:

- Filed Intent: August 10
- Evaluation due: every year by August 10

There is no universal statewide deadline, your timeline is based on your start date.



How you can complete the evaluation (you choose 1)

Florida law gives you five legal options:

1. Certified teacher evaluation (portfolio review)
2. Standardized test
3. State assessment (district testing where available)
4. Licensed psychologist evaluation
5. Mutually agreed method with your district

Most families choose either a certified teacher portfolio review or a standardized test.

Evaluators are generally looking for:

- Evidence of learning over time
- Work samples or portfolio pieces
- Progress appropriate for your child's individual level

Florida's standard is individual progress, not grade-level comparison.



What "counts" as progress?



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Common myths (let's clear these up)

-  **Myth #1:** You must follow a set curriculum
No, Florida does not require a specific curriculum.
-  **Myth #2:** Your child must be at grade level
No, the focus is progress, not comparison.
-  **Myth #3:** The school district grades your child
No, they simply review your chosen evaluation method.
-  **Myth #4:** Homeschool has to look like school at home
Also no, your learning environment is flexible.



What to keep during the year

Nothing complicated is required.

Just keep:

- 3 Dated work samples from 3 subject areas (ie- reading, math, science, etc)
- A simple log of learning activities, books, or experiences

That's it.

Anything else is extra, but not required (photos, grades, test scores, projects, samples from all subjects, extracurricular activities, etc).



Next steps

If you're just starting:

1. File your Notice of Intent with your county
2. Choose your evaluation method early
3. Keep simple records throughout the year
4. Schedule your evaluation before your anniversary date sneaks up



When you're ready

You can book your Florida homeschool evaluation here:



This keeps you compliant without stress, scrambling, or last-minute confusion.

Want support while homeschooling in Florida?



Join our private Facebook group:



Homeschooling Kids with Big Behaviors & Emotions

Get clarity, support, and real-life guidance from parents who get what this actually feels like day to day.