

## LEGAL STATUS OF HOME SCHOOLING IN FLORIDA

These are the three most popular methods that home schooling families in Florida use to legally teach their children at home: (Option 3 is the most used in Clay Homeschoolers and is explained in detail below)

1. Nonpublic Schools (FS 1003.23): "607/617/623" Most of these schools are incorporated, and found in Chapter 600 of the Florida Statutes and are often referred to as "600" schools. There are guidelines that must be followed.

2. Private Tutoring Program (FS 1002.43)

3. Home Education Program (FS 1002.41): Parents choose to teach and direct the education of their own children at home and must notify their district school superintendent and meet the following requirements of this law.

### **STEPS TO COMPLY WITH HOME EDUCATION ENACTMENT STATUTE 1002.41:**

These are stipulations that must be followed to comply with the law as a home educator not required to be a certified teacher:

A. Send a notice of intent to your district school superintendent.

Your written notice of intent must include each of the following: Name of each child; Birth date of each child named; Address; and a parents/guardian's signature. Send 30 days before beginning your home-education program. (see sample below)

B. Maintain a portfolio of records that consists of two parts:

1. Your document records {log of educational activities and by title any reading materials used}

2. Your sample materials {samples of writings, worksheets, workbook or creative materials used or developed by the student}

Keep your portfolio for 2 years and make available for inspection by the superintendent, upon a 15-day written notice.

C. Submit an annual evaluation for each child: which documents the pupil's educational progress at a level commensurate with his/her ability. There are five options to choose from:

1. An individual evaluation: A teacher selected by the parent shall evaluate the pupil's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the pupil. Such teacher shall hold a valid regular FL certificate.

2. Any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher. {SAT, CAT, ITBS}

3. A State Student assessment test.

4. A psychological evaluation.

5. An evaluation using any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the parent and superintendent. {Brigance}

D. Submit a letter of determination upon completion of your home-education program, upon enrollment in a public or private school, or upon moving from the county. (letter must be sent within 30 days of the time you terminate)

### **SAMPLE LETTER OF INTENT:**

Clay County District Schools  
Student Services  
23 S. Green Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

**Re:** Notice of Intent to Establish a Home Education Program

Date:

Dear Superintendent;

In compliance with Florida Statute 1002.41, this letter is to inform you of our intent to, as parents, establish and maintain a home education program. Please refer to the following information:

Child(ren's) Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Date of Birth

Sincerely,

**Note:** This letter is not sent every year, only when you begin your home education program or when you add more children. You do not need to inform the county of any children until they are 6 years of age by February of that school year.