# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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# FACT SHEET
## OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION & PARENTAL CHOICE

## Home Education Program

## Home Education in Florida

Florida is a long-time supporter of home education, and the number of families choosing this education option shows steady growth. Established by the Legislature as a school choice option in 1985, home education is defined as "the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent."
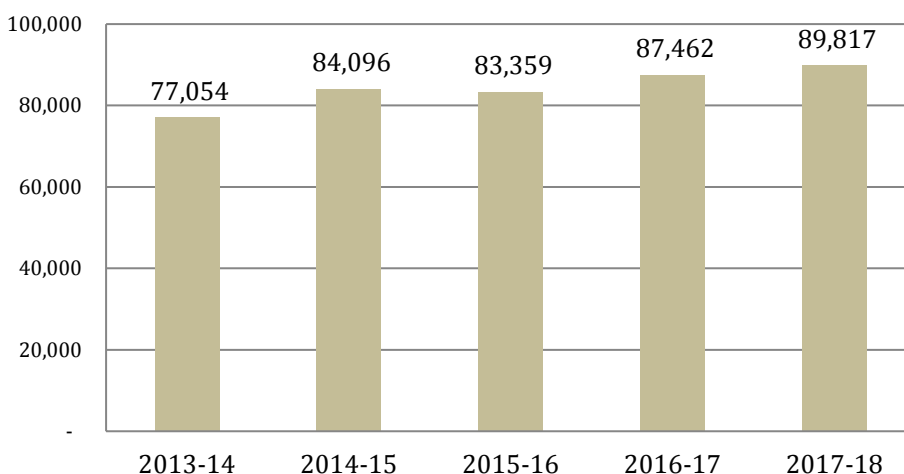
Each year, the Florida Department of Education surveys all school districts to determine the number of students and families who have registered their intent to establish home education programs. For the 2017-18 school year, the numbers provided by the districts indicated that 64,515 families and 89,817 students participated in home education programs.

### Statutory Authority

Sections 1002.01 and 1002.41, F.S., set up the definition and requirements for home education in Florida.

Section 1006.15, F.S., sets participation standards regarding interscholastic extracurricular activities for home education students.

### Enrollment in Home Education Programs

| Year | Enrollment |
|------|-----------|
| 2013-14 | 77,054 |
| 2014-15 | 84,096 |
| 2015-16 | 83,359 |
| 2016-17 | 87,462 |
| 2017-18 | 89,817 |

## Establishing a Home Education Program

Florida's home education law does not require a particular educational background for parents or standard curricula for students; however, parents must maintain a portfolio of records and materials showing student work and make it available to the school district if requested in writing. Students in home education programs must annually undergo one of five academic evaluation options and submit the results to the district school superintendent. Parents register their home education program with the school district, providing the name, address, and birth date of each student participating. Home education students may participate in dual enrollment and may be eligible for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships.

# Home Education Students and Families by District, 2017-18

| DISTRICT ID | DISTRICT NAME | STUDENTS | FAMILIES |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Alachua | 1,227 | 535 |
| 2 | Baker | 263 | 183 |
| 3 | Bay | 1,279 | 740 |
| 4 | Bradford | 228 | 174 |
| 5 | Brevard | 3,708 | 2,614 |
| 6 | Broward | 4,146 | 3,342 |
| 7 | Calhoun | 89 | 56 |
| 8 | Charlotte | 571 | 502 |
| 9 | Citrus | 713 | 552 |
| 10 | Clay | 1,443 | 1,350 |
| 11 | Collier | 1,548 | 1,075 |
| 12 | Columbia | 609 | 459 |
| 13 | Dade | 3,336 | 3,247 |
| 14 | DeSoto | 194 | 128 |
| 15 | Dixie | 145 | 111 |
| 16 | Duval | 6,859 | 5,723 |
| 17 | Escambia | 1,438 | 1,029 |
| 18 | Flagler | 744 | 505 |
| 19 | Franklin | 15 | |
| 20 | Gadsden | 110 | 78 |
| 21 | Gilchrest | 219 | 154 |
| 22 | Glades | 65 | 50 |
| 23 | Gulf | 117 | 86 |
| 24 | Hamilton | 75 | 48 |
| 25 | Hardee | 193 | 141 |
| 26 | Hendry | 140 | 99 |
| 27 | Hernando | 1,378 | 1,112 |
| 28 | Highlands | 512 | 402 |
| 29 | Hillsborough | 6,150 | 2,903 |
| 30 | Holmes | 56 | 49 |
| 31 | Indian River | 919 | 754 |
| 32 | Jackson | 311 | 206 |
| 33 | Jefferson | 183 | 113 |
| 34 | Lafayette | 65 | 42 |
| 35 | Lake | 3,310 | 2,325 |
| 36 | Lee | 1,850 | 1,321 |
| 37 | Leon | 2,026 | 1,141 |
| 38 | Levy | 420 | 322 |
| 39 | Liberty | 55 | 47 |
| 40 | Madison | 112 | 82 |
| 41 | Manatee | 1,720 | 1,329 |
| 42 | Marion | 2,559 | 1,972 |
| 43 | Martin | 900 | 651 |
| 44 | Monroe | 153 | 130 |
| 45 | Nassau | 732 | 497 |
| 46 | Okaloosa | 1,140 | 778 |
| 47 | Okeechobee | 448 | 329 |
| 48 | Orange | 5,662 | 4,872 |
| 49 | Osceola | 1,707 | 1,211 |
| 50 | Palm Beach | 5,428 | 3,988 |
| 51 | Pasco | 3,264 | 2,259 |
| 52 | Pinellas | 3,063 | 2,182 |
| 53 | Polk | 3,330 | 1,969 |
| 54 | Putnam | 402 | 276 |
| 55 | St. Johns | 1,745 | 840 |
| 56 | St. Lucie | 1,414 | 1,027 |
| 57 | Santa Rosa | 1,138 | 500 |
| 58 | Sarasota | 1,485 | 985 |
| 59 | Seminole | 1,906 | 1,414 |
| 60 | Sumter | 393 | 278 |
| 61 | Suwannee | 311 | 235 |
| 62 | Taylor | 205 | 163 |
| 63 | Union | 132 | 118 |
| 64 | Volusia | 2,921 | 2,000 |
| 65 | Wakulla | 171 | 117 |
| 66 | Walton | 488 | 448 |
| 67 | Washington | 179 | 147 |
| | **State Total** | **89,817** | **64,515** |