

# Florida Homeschool Portfolio Requirements

A Parent's Guide to Compliance Under Florida Statute §1002.41

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Welcome! If you are a Florida parent considering or currently running a home education program, this guide is for you. Understanding what the law requires can feel overwhelming at first, but the good news is that Florida's homeschool requirements are straightforward and manageable. This document walks you through everything you need to know about building, maintaining, and preserving your homeschool portfolio under Florida Statute §1002.41—in plain, parent-friendly language.

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## Understanding the Law: Florida Statute §1002.41


Florida law provides a clear framework for home education programs. Here is what you need to know, written in everyday language:

-  **Definition:** Florida defines a “home education program” as sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by a parent or guardian in the home. This is distinct from any school district program.
-  **Notice of Intent:** You must file a written Notice of Intent with the district school superintendent within **30 days** of beginning your home education program. The notice must include the full legal names, addresses, and birthdates of all children enrolled.


-  **No Teaching Certificate Required:** Florida law does *not* require the parent to hold a valid Florida teaching certificate to operate a home education program.
-  **Portfolio Requirement:** Parents must maintain a portfolio of records and materials that documents the student's educational progress.
-  **Portfolio Preservation:** The portfolio must be preserved for a minimum of **2 years**.
-  **Inspection:** The portfolio must be made available for inspection by the superintendent upon **15 days' written notice**. However, the superintendent is not required to inspect it.
-  **Annual Evaluation:** An annual evaluation of the student's educational progress is required each year.
-  **Termination Notice:** If you end your home education program, you must file a written notice of termination with the superintendent within **30 days**, along with your final annual evaluation.
-  **Privacy Protections:** The district may not require additional information from you unless your student participates in a school district program or service.
-  **No Grade Level Assignment:** The district may not assign a grade level to your homeschool student or include personal student information in school district databases unless the student participates in district programs.

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
### **At a Glance**

 **Who:**


Any Florida parent (no teaching certificate needed)

 **What:**


Maintain a portfolio of educational records and materials

 When:

File Notice of Intent within 30 days; preserve portfolio for 2 years; submit annual evaluation each year

 Where:

File with your county's district school superintendent

 How:

Keep an activity log, collect writing samples and student work, complete an annual evaluation

 Key Deadline:

Notice of Intent due within 30 days of starting; termination notice within 30 days of ending

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## What Goes in Your Portfolio?

Your portfolio is the heart of your homeschool documentation. Think of it as a curated collection that tells the story of your child's learning throughout the year. Here is what to include:

### Activity Log

A contemporaneous log of educational activities, created as instruction occurs—not recreated later. Your log should designate by title any reading materials used during instruction.

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### Writing Samples

Samples of your student's writing that demonstrate progress and skill development throughout the year. Collect pieces from different points in the year to show growth.

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### **Worksheets & Workbooks**

Completed worksheets, workbook pages, or printed curriculum materials the student has worked through. These provide tangible evidence of daily learning.

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### **Creative Materials**

Art projects, science experiments, presentations, or any other creative work developed by the student. These items showcase hands-on learning and creative thinking.

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### **Annual Evaluation**

Required yearly. You may choose from the following options:

1. An evaluation by a Florida-certified teacher selected by the parent
  2. A composite score at or above the 15th percentile on a nationally normed student achievement test, administered by a certified teacher
  3. An evaluation by a psychologist holding a valid, active license pursuant to Florida law
  4. An evaluation using any other valid measurement tool mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent
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### **Portfolio Preservation**

Keep all materials for a minimum of **2 years**. Be prepared to make your portfolio available for inspection upon 15 days' written notice from the superintendent.

### **! Important Reminder**

Your activity log must be written at the time of instruction—it cannot be created retroactively. Make logging a daily or weekly habit to stay compliant and stress-free.

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## **? Frequently Asked Questions**

### **🎓 Q: Do I need a teaching degree or certificate to homeschool in Florida?**

A: No. Florida law does not require parents to hold a valid teaching certificate to establish and maintain a home education program. Any parent or guardian may direct their child's education at home.

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### **🚀 Q: How do I officially start homeschooling?**

A: File a written Notice of Intent with your county's district school superintendent within 30 days of beginning your home education program. The notice must include your children's full legal names, addresses, and birthdates.

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### **📁 Q: What must be included in my portfolio?**

A: Your portfolio must include (1) a log of educational activities made at the time of instruction, listing reading material titles, and (2) samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by your student.

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### **🕒 Q: How long do I need to keep my portfolio?**

A: You must preserve your portfolio for a minimum of 2 years.

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### **🔍 Q: Can the school district inspect my portfolio?**

A: The superintendent may request to inspect your portfolio with 15 days' written notice. However, the law does not require the superintendent to conduct an inspection.

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 **Q: What are my options for the annual evaluation?**

A: You have several options: a review by a Florida-certified teacher, a standardized test (composite score at or above the 15th percentile), an evaluation by a licensed psychologist, or another valid measurement tool agreed upon by you and the superintendent.

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 **Q: What happens if I decide to stop homeschooling?**

A: File a written notice of termination with the superintendent within 30 days, along with your final annual evaluation.

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 **Q: Will my child be assigned a grade level?**

A: No. The district may not assign a grade level to your homeschool student or include personal information in school district databases unless the student participates in a district program or service.

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 **Q: Can my homeschooled child participate in school district programs?**

A: Yes. Florida law allows homeschool students to participate in school district programs and services, though additional information may be required in that case.

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 **Legal Reference**

This guide is based on **Florida Statute §1002.41 — Home Education Programs.**

For the full text of the law, visit:

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?>

[App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.41.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.41.html)

**⚠ Disclaimer**

This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For specific legal questions about your homeschool program, please consult a qualified attorney.