

# **Frequently Asked Questions: Home Education Student Eligibility for Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities with Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA)**

## **1. Are home education students eligible for interscholastic extracurricular activities?**

Yes. Home education students who meet the standards for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities (s.1006.15 F.S.) and the requirements of the Home Education Program (s.1002.41 F.S.) are eligible.

## **2. Is a student taught at home through a Florida private school a home education student?**

No. According to Florida Statute a parent must choose one way to comply with regular attendance under the compulsory attendance law.

F.S.1003.01 (13) "Regular school attendance" means the actual attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance within the intent of s. 1003.21 F.S. may be achieved by attendance in:

- (a) A public school supported by public funds;
- (b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
- (c) A private school supported in whole or in part by tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;
- (d) A home education program that meets the requirements of chapter 1002; OR
- (e) A private tutoring program that meets the requirements of chapter 1002.

Notice the OR between (d) and (e). It is not an AND. Although many organizations tell parents that they can "home school" their children three ways, Florida law provides only one way.

Therefore, a student is only eligible for extracurricular activities (s.1006.15 F.S.) by registering with the school district in a Home Education Program and meeting the requirements of s. 1002.41 F.S.

A student cannot be enrolled/registered as a full-time student, working toward high school completion or a diploma with a Florida private school, at the same time he/she is registered in a home education program.

## **3. Does Florida law distinguish between the various kinds of private schools?**

No. A private school by any name is a Florida private school if it has a Florida Department of Education school number. Private or religious schools in Florida are not required to have a physical location nor have certified teachers. Although there are many names for private schools or religious schools, such as umbrella school, correspondence school, non-traditional private school or a "600" school, the Florida

Statutes do not recognize those names for schools. Those are descriptive names which have circulated for years. Parents who teach their children at home through one of these schools are actually teachers in a private school and must keep the attendance records required by s. 1003.23 F.S. Home education programs are specifically exempted from these requirements.

#### **4. How does a student meet the conditions of “regular attendance?”**

There are two different measures of “regular attendance.”

A private school or religious school student must “attend” school a certain number of hours or days as designated by s. 1003.23 F.S. and the Florida Administrative Code 6A-1.09512.

A home education student under s. 1002.41 F.S. must submit an annual evaluation to the Superintendent or the home education designee in the county in which the student resides.

#### **5. Can a student be registered in a Florida private school, for record keeping purposes only, and be eligible for extracurricular activities?**

No. A student registered or enrolled in a Florida private school is a private school student, regardless of the name or terminology used for that school. According to s. 1002.42 F.S. private schools in Florida are required to register with the Florida Department of Education and are assigned a school number. Private school students must qualify for Bright Futures Scholarships by documenting certain courses and having a specified GPA. Teachers must keep attendance records and follow the curriculum specified by the private school. The school maintains the transcripts and issues a diploma.

#### **6. Can a student be enrolled in an out-of-state private school and be eligible for extracurricular activities?**

Yes. Out-of-state correspondence schools, such as Bob Jones, Calvert or the American School, generally do not have a Florida private school number. Therefore, students registered in a school or program without a Florida school number do not meet the requirements of s. 1003.01(13) F.S. for attendance purposes and **must be registered** in a home education program in the county in which the student resides.

#### **7. Does home education have to take place solely in the home?**

No. A home education program as defined in s. 1002.01(1) must be directed by the parent. The parent must maintain the portfolio and submit the annual evaluation to the superintendent’s/ designee’s office. However, parents have many educational options from which to choose.

Some of those options are correspondence courses, video courses, online courses, the Florida Virtual School, dual enrollment, early admission, part-time enrollment in a public school or private school, cooperatives formed by parents, and tutors.

Home education students do not receive school district diplomas. There are other avenues for diplomas, including those issued by the parent or the student can take the GED and receive a State of Florida diploma. Home education students may also earn an AA or AS diploma at a community college through dual enrollment, early admission or after completion of a home education program. A home education student may earn a diploma from an **out-of-state** correspondence school, such as the American School and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A list of regionally accredited correspondence programs can be found on the Florida Department of Education website at: [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/home\\_education/regionac.asp](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/home_education/regionac.asp).

**8. Can a student take the majority of his/her courses in a Florida private or public school while registered in a home education program?**

No. The issue is where the student is registered for attendance purposes. If the child takes more than half of his/her courses, reports attendance or earns enough credits to receive a diploma at a single Florida private or public school, then the student becomes a student of that school and is not a home education student. A student registered with the school district's Home Education Office, however, may take most or all courses through Florida Virtual School, which does not report attendance or issue diplomas (also see 12B).

As noted in question #2, s. 1003.01(13) F.S. regular attendance requires a choice. A student cannot be enrolled in two options. Either the parent maintains the records in a home education program or the Florida private school maintains the records and the student is eligible to receive a diploma from the private school.

**9. What are the consequences for a student being enrolled in a home education program and a private school at the same time?**

Athletics are very competitive and the stakes are high. Winning a state championship is what drives many coaches and parents. A student who is registered in both a home education program and a Florida private school during the same school year could be reported to the FHSAA and found ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

If a school has an ineligible player on the team, regardless of the reason, the entire team could be disqualified for the state play-off series and required to forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated. This happened in 2004 to a home education cooperative which had reached the state baseball play-off series. The team was disqualified and all the students on the team lost their chance to play for a state title.

Parents need to carefully consider the consequences for not only their child, but other students who have worked so hard to participate in extracurricular activities.

**10. Are home education students required to declare a grade level to participate in extracurricular activities?**

Yes. To be eligible for extracurricular activities a home education student must declare a grade level when submitting the FHSAA EL7 form Registration Form for Home Education Students to Participate in Athletic Program at Member School [http://www.fhsaa.org/forms/pdf/EL07\\_home\\_reg.pdf](http://www.fhsaa.org/forms/pdf/EL07_home_reg.pdf). Students are also required to provide proof of immunizations, home address, and GPA.

**11. Can home education be used as a means to “red shirt” a student?**

No. Home education is defined as sequentially progressive instruction s.1002.01 F.S. and may not be used as a means for “red shirting” a student. There is no “red shirting” in high school. If a student successfully completes eighth grade, through promotion documented by a public or private school or registration in a home education, then the student is a ninth grader. If the student does not successfully complete eighth grade, then that student, by virtue of grades, may not be eligible for ninth grade athletics and may lose a year of eligibility until the student achieves the required GPA. The FHSAA bylaws only allow 4 years of eligibility in high school athletics beginning in the ninth grade and students are ineligible to participate in athletics upon reaching 19 years and 9 months of age.

Registering a public or private school student in a home education program does not erase the student’s previous documentation of a grade level. Once the student is enrolled in either a public or private school, the time clock begins to run. If a student passes the eighth grade in a public or private school and enrolls in a home education program the next year, the student will be considered, by the FHSAA, as a ninth grade home education student. The annual evaluation needs to show educational progress commensurate with the child’s ability or the student will be put on probation by the school superintendent in accordance with s.1002.41((2) and the student would be ineligible for participation in athletics based on grades.

**12. Can a student participate in extracurricular activities if enrolled in a virtual school?**

It depends on which virtual school the student is enrolled in.

**A) School District Virtual Schools**

If the student is enrolled in a virtual school through the school district for 50% or more of their courses, then he/she is a public school student. That student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school to which he/she is assigned by the school district.

A student who is enrolled full-time in a K-8 virtual school through the school district in the sixth through eighth grade is a public school student. If that student lives in the attendance area of a middle school, which is a member of the FHSAA, the student is eligible to participate in athletics, if he/she meets all the other requirements of s.1006.15 F.S.

If the student is registered with the school district as a home education student and takes less than 50% of the courses through a district virtual school, then the student is eligible to participate as a home education student at the zoned public school or at a private school.

#### B) Florida Virtual School

If the student is registered with the school district as a home education student and takes part-time or full-time classes through the Florida Virtual School, the student is eligible to participate as a home education student. Participation would be at the public school to which the student would be normally assigned according to the district school board attendance area policies or the public school the student could choose to attend pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment provision, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school.

#### C) Out-of-State Virtual Schools

If a student is taking classes through an out-of-state virtual school or distance learning program, then the student must register as a home education student with the superintendent in the school district in which the student resides to be in compliance with the attendance requirements. The student would then be eligible to participate under the same options as described above in 12 B.



Florida High School Athletic Association  
**Registration Form for Home Education Student**

**EL7**

2016-17 Edition  
 (Page 1 of 2)

The student and parent/guardian must complete, sign in the presence of notary public and submit this form to the school at which the student wishes to participate **by the deadline established on the FHSA Calendar** for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate and only needs to be submitted one time per school. **Address questions to eligibility@fhxaa.org.**

**SECTION A:**

- Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date {mm/dd/yy} \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade in school \_\_\_\_th  
 Home address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
- Student resides in and is legally registered as a home education student in the \_\_\_\_\_ County School District
- Student wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics at {name of school} \_\_\_\_\_  
 This is the public school the student is zoned to attend [ \_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_ No]  
 Student wishes to participate in the following sport(s) at this school \_\_\_\_\_  
 (list all)
- Student was enrolled in the \_\_\_\_th grade during the previous school year at {check and complete the one that applies}:  
 \_\_\_\_ {name of school} \_\_\_\_\_ in {city} \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ A home education program in the \_\_\_\_\_ County School District
- Student first entered the 9th grade on, if applicable {mm/dd/yy} \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 This student has maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 unweighted scale since entering 9th grade **OR**  
 the previous semester for (for grade 6 – 8) [ \_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_ No]

**Transcript or Record of Grades Must be Attached.** Transcripts or records must include all schools attended whether public, private, online, home education or other. Grades must be calculated using the “alpha” system (A, B, C, D and F). In determining the cumulative grade point average (GPA) for purposes of academic eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition, the following grading scale as mandated by s. 1003.437, Florida Statutes, must be used: grade “A” is 90 to 100 percent and has a GPA value of 4; grade “B” is 80 to 89 percent and has a GPA value of 3; grade “C” is 70 to 79 percent and has a GPA value of 2; grade “D” is 60 to 69 percent and has a GPA value of 1; and grade “F” is 0 to 59 percent and has a GPA value of 0. If the student has not yet entered the 9th grade, attach a copy of the previous semester transcript or record of grades.

**SECTION B:**

The above student is enrolled in the following courses for the [ \_\_\_ ] first semester of the current school year (**for fall and winter sports**) **OR** for the [ \_\_\_ ] second semester of the current school year (**for spring sports**):

Subject (list each)	Location where each course is taken
1. _____ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school _____ [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment _____ [ ] other _____ <small>(identify college/university) (identify)</small>	<small>(identify school)</small>
2. _____ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school _____ [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment _____ [ ] other _____ <small>(identify college/university) (identify)</small>	<small>(identify school)</small>
3. _____ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school _____ [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment _____ [ ] other _____ <small>(identify college/university) (identify)</small>	<small>(identify school)</small>
4. _____ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school _____ [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment _____ [ ] other _____ <small>(identify college/university) (identify)</small>	<small>(identify school)</small>
5. _____ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school _____ [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment _____ [ ] other _____ <small>(identify college/university) (identify)</small>	<small>(identify school)</small>



Florida High School Athletic Association  
**Verification of Student Registration with  
 Public School District Home Education Office**

**EL7V**

2016-17 Edition

**Section A** of this form must be completed by student's parent/legal guardian. **Section B** must be completed by the School District Home Education Office Coordinator and the completed form must be presented to the school at which the student wishes to participate. **This form must be completed each year. Address questions to [eligibility@fhsaa.org](mailto:eligibility@fhsaa.org).**

**Section A: To Be Completed By the Parent/Legal Guardian** (please print)

TO: Florida High School Athletic Association Office of Eligibility and Compliance Services

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ County School District Home Education Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

RE: Student {student's full name} \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Date of Birth {mm/dd/yy} \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

City

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Student wishes to participate at {name of school} \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B: To Be Completed By the School District Home Education Office Staff**

Our records reflect that this student has been registered with the Home Education Office in this school district since:

{original date of registration} \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

This student's annual evaluations have been submitted in accordance with applicable statutes and guidelines and he/she remains on active status:

[ \_\_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_\_ No] Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

This student is a new Home Education student, the date of his/her annual evaluation will be: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

If you have questions or need additional information concerning this matter, please call the School District Home Education Office at:

{telephone number} (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR DISTRICT OFFICE USE ONLY**

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of District Home Education Coordinator Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name of District Home Education Coordinator



Florida High School Athletic Association

# Home Education Student Academic Progress Report

This form is necessary if the student is a 9th – 12th grade who was approved by the FHSAA office and participated in interscholastic athletics as a home education student during the first semester of this school year and wishes to continue to participate during the second semester or any 6th – 8th grade student. Complete and file this form with the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director of the school the student is going to represent no later than the sixth (6th) school day of the semester, pursuant to Bylaw 9.4.4.

**--- DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE FHSAA OFFICE ---**

My child {full name}, \_\_\_\_\_, is registered with the District School Board as being properly enrolled in a Home Education Program pursuant to s. 1002.41, Florida Statutes, and has met the academic eligibility requirements (achieved a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 unweighted scale for all subjects taken for credit toward high school graduation for grades 9 – 12 or the previous semester for grades 6 – 8) of the Florida High School Athletic Association in order to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at {name of school} \_\_\_\_\_.

Sport/sports in which the student wishes to participate: \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below is his/her academic record for the first semester of the current school year. The grade point average shown is based on a 4.0 unweighted academic scale (A = 4, B = 3, C =2, D =1).

SUBJECT	SCHOOL WHERE COURSE WAS TAKEN (school, online, home, etc.)	GRADE	QUALITY POINTS	GPA
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**CUMULATIVE GPA FOR FIRST SEMESTER OF CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR** \_\_\_\_\_

**CUMULATIVE GPA** \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above information is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

This form must be completed and filed with the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director of the school the student is to represent no later than the sixth (6th) school day of the semester, pursuant to Bylaw 9.4.4.





Florida High School Athletic Association  
**Registration Form for Home Education Student**

**EL7**

2016-17 Edition  
 (Page 2 of 2)

The student and parent/guardian must complete, sign in the presence of notary public and submit this form to the school at which the student wishes to participate **by the deadline established on the FHSAA Calendar** for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate and only needs to be submitted one time per school. **Address questions to eligibility@fhsaa.org.**

6. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school \_\_\_\_\_ (identify school)  
 [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ (identify college/university) [ ] other \_\_\_\_\_ (identify)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school \_\_\_\_\_ (identify school)  
 [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ (identify college/university) [ ] other \_\_\_\_\_ (identify)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] solely by parent [ ] public or private school \_\_\_\_\_ (identify school)  
 [ ] FLVS or Dist. Virtual School [ ] dual enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ (identify college/university) [ ] other \_\_\_\_\_ (identify)

Is the student receiving any form of educational services from any other school (i.e. a correspondence school, “umbrella school”, other online school, etc.) other than home education as defined in s. 1002.41, Florida Statutes? [ \_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_ No]

If yes, answer the following (*use reverse side if more than one school*):

(a) Name, address and phone number of the school providing the student with these services:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) Are attendance records kept for this student? [ \_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_ No]  
 (c) Are transcripts kept for this student? [ \_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_ No]  
 (d) Will this student be awarded a diploma? [ \_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_ No]

**Section C:**

I/we understand that through this document that I/we are registering our intent to participate in interscholastic athletics only in the sport(s) listed above for this member school of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). I/we, therefore, agree that this student will be subject to and abide by all FHSAA rules, as well as the regulations of the school, pertaining to interscholastic athletic participation. I/we understand that if this student attends one school and participates in the interscholastic athletic program sponsored by another school, the student may be ineligible and may cause the team of which he/she is a member to forfeit contests and honors won. I/we understand that a student is considered to represent a team in competition if the student is dressed in uniform and available to participate in a contest. **I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the information provided and statements made on this form and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.**

<p>_____/_____          Signature of Student Date</p> <p>_____          Printed Name of Student</p> <p>_____/_____          Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian Date</p> <p>_____          Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian</p>	<p>STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF _____</p> <p>Sworn to or affirmed before me on {date} _____.          [Notary Seal:]</p> <p>_____          Signature of Notary</p> <p>_____          Printed Name of Notary</p> <p>NOTARY PUBLIC          My commission expires: _____, 20____.</p> <p>Personally known to me _____</p> <p>OR Produced Identification _____</p> <p>Type of Identification Produced _____</p>
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**Signatures of student and parent/legal guardian must be notarized. Student transcripts or records of grades must be attached.**



# Verification of Student Registration with Public School District Home Education Office

Section A of this form must be completed by student’s parent/legal guardian. Section B must be completed by the School District Home Education Office Coordinator and the completed form must be presented to the school at which the student wishes to participate. **This form must be completed each year.** Address questions to [eligibility@fhxaa.org](mailto:eligibility@fhxaa.org).

### Section A: To Be Completed By the Parent/Legal Guardian (please print)

TO: Florida High School Athletic Association Office of Eligibility and Compliance Services

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ County School District Home Education Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

RE: Student {student’s full name} \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Date of Birth {mm/dd/yy} \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

City

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Student wishes to participate at {name of school} \_\_\_\_\_

### Section B: To Be Completed By the School District Home Education Office Staff

Our records reflect that this student has been registered with the Home Education Office in this school district since:

{original date of registration} \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

This student’s annual evaluations have been submitted in accordance with applicable statutes and guidelines and he/she remains on active status:

[ \_\_\_\_ Yes][ \_\_\_\_ No] Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

This student is a new Home Education student, the date of his/her annual evaluation will be: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

If you have questions or need additional information concerning this matter, please call the School District Home Education Office at:

{telephone number} ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FOR DISTRICT OFFICE USE ONLY</b>

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of District Home Education Coordinator Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of District Home Education Coordinator

## Explanation of the FHSAA EL7 Form

**1. The FHSAA is an enforcement/governing organization.** Its job is to create a “level playing field” for all high school athletes, so that every student has an opportunity to play high school sports in a fair and competitive environment. If there were no Bylaws governing eligibility, recruiting would be rampant and there would be little opportunity for relatively good players to develop their skills on a high school athletic team. Schools that recruit players are penalized and fined for breaking the Bylaws.

The FHSAA Bylaws and the enforcement of them protect home education students and their teams. Having a level playing field allows students to develop their talents and have the opportunity to compete for state championships. Enforcement is difficult, and often misunderstood, but is necessary to protect the integrity of high school athletics.

**2. The FHSAA is trying to lessen the number of hours it takes to determine eligibility for each individual home education student.** The FHSAA asks for additional information to make those determinations easier. Some of the educational services or vendors that have been reviewed are listed in this document. It takes time to make these determinations on a fair and equitable basis. The EL7 form is not designed to require additional information from home education students, rather to simplify the process and obtain enough information to verify their compliance with state statute and the FHSAA Bylaws.

**3. Participation in FHSAA athletics is a privilege, not a right, as determined by the courts.** Home education students are given the opportunity to participate, but they must meet the same eligibility requirements as other students in public and private schools. As an example, any public, private or home education student who does not have the required GPA is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities. All students have to comply with the Florida Statutes and the FHSAA Bylaws to be eligible to participate.

**Guide for Completing the FHSAA EL7 Form** *{Address questions to [eligibility@fhsaa.org](mailto:eligibility@fhsaa.org)}*

**Please read this information very carefully and in its entirety. This is very important and needs to be done correctly for your child to participate in any FHSAA sport program even if they are in a Home Education Cooperative. All forms must be completed and submitted to the Athletic Director, along with any applicable transcript or record of grades. The “Registration Form” is one of the forms used for registering the intent to participate in interscholastic athletics at an FHSAA member school. The forms must be submitted to the school before your child can participate in ANY official practice session.**

**It is highly recommended that the student begin participating on the first day of practice, to be conditioned, trained and ready to play. You can locate the date of the first practice and first week of regular season competition on the FHSAA Calendar for each sport. However, all information must be submitted to the school BY THE DEADLINE ESTABLISHED ON THE FHSAA CALENDAR for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate.**

You will need one form for each child who is participating and the form only needs to be submitted one time per school at which the student participates.

### **“Registration Form”**

#### **Section A:**

1. Give correct information including your child’s school grade level for the school year in which he/she is going to participate.
2. Provide the name of the county in which the student resides and is registered with as a home education student.

Attach the completed “Verification of Student Registration with Public School District Home Education Office” form (EL7V Form), and if applicable, the “Verification of Student Controlled Open Enrollment Option with Public School District School” form (EL14 Form).

Note: Controlled Open Enrollment is an option whereby any student can choose to attend a different public school without having to obtain a waiver and provided a seat would be available for the student. Home education students must meet the same criteria as a traditional student would to take advantage of this option. Not every county has such an option. Each county that does provide this option must file a plan with the Florida Department of Education each year.

3. Provide the public or private school name or home school cooperative name for which your child will be participating.

List the sport(s) that your child is interested in participating in this year. Make sure to consider all of the sports your child might consider participating in as once this form is completed and notarized the sport(s) listed is/are the only sport(s) your child can participate in without having to re-do this form at a later date.

4. Provide the school grade level for the previous school year.
  - a. If your child attended a public or private school last year, select the first choice and give the requested information.
  - b. If your child was registered in a home education program last year, select the second choice and provide the name of the county (or state if different from Florida)
5. Enter the date he/she started 9th grade for the first time. If student is a middle/junior high school student, leave this blank.

**A high school student has only 4 years of eligibility. The FHSAA Bylaws do not allow a student to be retained for any reason after 6th grade. And since no student is eligible for high school athletics upon becoming 19 years 9 months of age\*, retention most certainly will jeopardize the student’s eligibility at the end of his school career.**

\* for students entering 9th grade for the first time in 2014-15, the student must not turn 19 before September 1st of that school year.

Answer “Yes” or “No” about maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above in all their subjects since entering 9th grade or earning a 2.0 or higher the previous semester for middle/junior high school students.

**Section B:**

Indicate whether the courses being listed are for the first semester (for the fall and winter sports) or the second semester (for the spring sports).

List each subject the student will be taking and check where the courses/services are originating from.

- a. solely by the parent (i.e. the parent/legal guardian is doing all of the teaching)
- b. from a public or private school (identify the school)
- c. through Florida Virtual School (FLVS) or a District Virtual School (this is not the Florida Virtual School-Full Time Public Program)
- d. through Dual Enrollment with a college or university (identify the college or university; the student must be registered as a home education student with the college or university)
- e. or other (i.e. out of state correspondence schools, out of state online schools, etc. and identify)

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!!**

If the student must register with a school in order to be able to take a course at a school then that school becomes the only school that student can represent (this school may not meet the requirements of the statute and might render the student ineligible). Additionally, a student cannot be registered at more than one school at a time; this would render the student ineligible. If your child is taking 50% or more of their courses at a single school, public or private, or an online service other than Florida Virtual School, or if your records are being kept by any other type school, umbrella school, etc., that has a Florida DOE school number, then your child is may not be a home education student. The child is a student of that school and may not be eligible to participate in any FHSAA activities. It is not based on whether the school supplies curriculum, but on whether they are keeping your records for attendance, transcripts, diplomas, and have a Florida DOE school number as private school.

Some families have made the decision to withdraw their students from programs that are “600, umbrella schools,” or schools that provide other services in order for their children to be able to continue in athletics.

If you are receiving Educational Services (not just curriculum) from any of the following programs, please answer ‘yes’ and provide the information requested for (a).

- A Beka Academy (home education option, only);
- Any out-of-state correspondence schools (e.g., American School, Calvert, Alpha Omega Academy, Bob Jones Academy)

For all schools or programs listed above, the answer to (b) will be ‘no’ and (c) will be ‘yes’; and (d) will be ‘yes’ if you will be receiving a diploma from them.

**Section C:**

**Notarized Signatures: Both student and a parent/legal guardian must have their signatures on the EL7 Form notarized.** Read this section carefully. Notice that when you sign, you are swearing that the information you are providing is accurate. Please read and correctly fill out everything on this form. **YOU MUST SIGN THIS FORM IN THE PRESENCE OF THE NOTARY.**

**Documentation from school district: The official FHSAA “Verification of Student Registration with Public School District Home Education Office” form (EL7V Form) and the “Verification of Student Controlled Open Enrollment Option with Public School District” (EL14 Form) can be downloaded from the FHSAA website along with the EL7 form. These forms should be printed out by the parent/legal guardian and authorized by the school district. Contact your school district to find out the quickest way to get this form authorized (e.g., deliver it in person or fax it to them along with your request). However, you may need to send your request and the form by mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope for them to return the authorized form to you. Be sure you get this form to them as soon as you know your child wants to participate in FHSAA athletics, so that you can meet the deadline for submission of the required forms.**

### **Transcripts or Records of Grades:**

A transcript, record or grade report must contain a list of courses taken at a specific school, or through home education, at certain grade levels, and the grade the students earned in that course.

Florida Statute 1006.15(3)(a)(1) does require a 2.0 GPA for all students participating in extracurricular activities. The cumulative GPA in grades 9 – 12 is tied to the requirements for high school graduation in s. 1003.4282 for public school students. A GPA is calculated by converting all grades to a numerical system. The grading scale is set by s.1003.437, F.S., and the FHSAA is required to follow that statute.

For the purpose of athletic participation the regular grading **unweighted** system must be used (bonus points for honors, AP or IB courses is not permitted). There is a sample “transcript” or “High School Record” at the end of this document for use for grade 9 – 12. Make it neat and easy to read. For students in grades 6 – 8 and for reporting grades for the 1st semester of grades 9 – 12, use the EL 9 Form (available from the FHSAA website).

Generally, the parent will give a grade in the subjects taught in a home education program, unless they use a curriculum or are taking classes through a public or private school, dual enrollment, a distant learning program or the FLVS, which provides grades. Most grading in traditional schools is subjective and comparative, except for math. To determine the standard for an “A,” the teacher generally has to read 5 to 10 papers or assignments. For an individual home educated student that is not possible. The parent usually knows whether the student is an A, B, or C student. If a student completes all assignments correctly and quickly, he is probably an “A” student. Students who get most of the assignment correct the first time are probably “B” students. If your child is struggling academically, perhaps he/she needs to spend their time on academics and not extracurricular activities. That is the legislative rationale behind requiring a 2.0 GPA for participation in high school athletics.

If your child is currently in high school, you will need to provide their high school subjects, grades, and GPA for each grade level since the student entered the 9th grade. A **cumulative** GPA of 2.0 is required for juniors and seniors according to s. 1006.15(3)(a)(3) F.S. A sample is provided at the end of this document. Students entering 9th grade for the first time need not submit any transcript or record of grades until the conclusion of the first semester; use the EL9 Form to report grades for the 1st semester.

If your child is currently in the 6th through 8th grades, you will need to provide their middle/junior high school subjects, grades, and GPA for the previous semester only. Students entering 6th grade for the first time need not submit any transcript or record of grades until the conclusion of the first semester. Use the EL 9 Form to report these grades.

At any time a student earns a grade through a source other than that solely by the parent/legal guardian, private tutor, or home education group, this must be documented from the issuing institution (i.e. public or private school, FLVS, college or university, correspondence school, etc.) and noted on the transcript or “High School Record”.

District documentation must match the institution providing the transcript. For example, if courses were taken in a home education program, then the district documentation must confirm registration in a home education program for those grade levels. Official transcripts from a private or public school will document enrollment in those schools.



# High School Record

**EL7**

2016-17 Edition

If subjects were taken at an institution which provides transcripts, those transcripts must be provided.

Student's full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date {mm/dd/yy}: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

Apt. #

City

Zip Code

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Year	Subject	Grade Earned	Point Value
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9th / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cum. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Where were subjects taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Year	Subject	Grade Earned	Point Value
------------	---------	--------------	-------------

10th / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cum. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Where were subjects taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Year	Subject	Grade Earned	Point Value
------------	---------	--------------	-------------

11th / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cum. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Where were subjects taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date {mm/dd/yy}: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian signature)