



FREE PARENT RESOURCE

Florida Homeschool Quick-Start Checklist

A calm, source-based path from 'Where do I begin?' to your first confident homeschool week.

Inside this resource

- ☐ Choose the correct Florida pathway
- ☐ Complete the first 30 days in order
- ☐ Set up a simple portfolio
- ☐ Build a realistic first-week rhythm
- ☐ Save current official links

Created by a homeschool parent. Built for Florida families.

Updated October 2026



FIRST, CHOOSE

Four pathways that are easy to confuse

Your paperwork and accountability depend on the pathway—not simply on learning at home.

Pathway	What it generally means	Your first verification
Home education	Parent-directed program registered with the district for attendance compliance.	Read §1002.41 and contact the district home education office.
PEP scholarship	Education savings account pathway for an eligible student not enrolled full time in a public or private school.	Use Step Up's current PEP handbook and purchasing guide.
Private umbrella school	Student is enrolled in a private school; that school's record and attendance procedures apply.	Ask the school what it files and what you must maintain.
Public virtual/district	Public-school enrollment delivered online; the program controls attendance, testing, and course rules.	Confirm enrollment type and program handbook.

Accuracy note

This checklist is educational information, not legal or scholarship-eligibility advice. Procedures can change. Confirm before filing or purchasing.



DAYS 1–3

Make the legal and administrative decisions

- ☐ Write down the exact pathway you are choosing for each child.
- ☐ If using a home education program, find your county's official home education office and its current submission method.
- ☐ Prepare the written notice of intent. Florida law says it is filed within 30 days after establishing the program and includes each child's full legal name, address, and birthdate, signed by the parent.
- ☐ Save proof of submission and the district's acknowledgment.
- ☐ Do not include a Social Security number unless you voluntarily choose a district program or service that requires additional information.
- ☐ If leaving a school, complete its withdrawal steps separately; the notice of intent and school withdrawal are not always the same transaction.

My district contact

County

Office/webpage

Email/phone

Submission date

Confirmation saved



Create a simple recordkeeping system

For a Florida home education program, the portfolio must include a contemporaneous log of educational activities that identifies reading materials by title, plus samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials. The portfolio is preserved for two years and must be made available after 15 days' written notice from the superintendent or designee.

Keep it simple

A dated weekly log, a reading-title list, and representative samples organized by month can satisfy the structure without turning your home into a school office.

- ☐ Create one folder or binder per child.
- ☐ Start a dated learning log.
- ☐ Start a reading-materials list with titles.
- ☐ Save representative work samples—not every page.
- ☐ Add a calendar reminder for annual evaluation planning.
- ☐ Back up digital records in a second location.

Portfolio setup

Child

Program start

Storage location

Backup location

Evaluation target date



Build a routine you can actually sustain

Decision	My first version
Core learning priorities	
Daily anchor time	
Independent work	
Read-aloud/reading	
Movement/outdoors	
Community/co-op	
Weekly planning reset	

First-week reflection

What worked

What felt heavy

What the child asked for

One change for next week



KEEP CLOSE

Official sources and update check

[2026 Florida Statute 1002.41 — Home education programs](#)

[Florida Department of Education — Home Education](#)

[Florida Department of Education — Parent Resources](#)

[Step Up For Students — 2026–27 PEP Resources](#)

[Step Up For Students — Current Purchasing Guides](#)

[Florida Virtual School — FLVS Flex Homeschool](#)

[Florida Department of Education — Dual Enrollment](#)

[Florida Student Financial Aid — Bright Futures Handbook](#)

Last checked

Official links and high-level requirements were reviewed October 2, 2026. Always use the current version at the linked source.

My next three actions
