

Frequently Asked Home School Questions

What Districts Provide

- Question:** Are school districts required to provide home schooled students with instructional textbooks and materials?
- Answer:** State law does not require districts to provide home-schooled students with textbooks and instructional materials. The local school district may, however, provide home-schooled students with materials such as books.
- Question:** Are home-schooled students allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities such as team sports, football, or school clubs?
- Answer:** Yes. Act 203, the Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act, permits home-schooled students to participate in extra-curricular and interscholastic activities after statutorily-required conditions are met.

State Testing for Home-Schooled Students

- Question:** Are home-schooled students required to participate in the statewide testing programs approved by the State Board of Education for their appropriate grade levels?
- Answer:** Students who are home schooled under Option One must participate in the annual statewide testing program. The tests must be administered by a certified school district employee either with public school students or by special arrangement at the student's place of instruction, at the parent's option. Students who are not home schooled in district approved programs are not eligible to take those assessments.

Credit for Courses

- Question:** Do home-schooled students in grades 7–12 receive high school credit for any courses that they pass?
- Answer:** Home-schooled students in grades 7–12 receive credits from their home school program. These credits would show on the transcript that is maintained by the parent or the association. **Those credits, however, are not automatically accepted by other public or private schools.**
- Question:** Can home-schooled students earn and receive credit for courses taken through the South Carolina Virtual School Program?
- Answer:** Home schooled students may earn credit through the South Carolina Virtual School Program if they meet the guidelines of that program.

High School Diplomas

- Question:** Do students that are home schooled and who complete high school receive a South Carolina High School Diploma?
- Answer:** No, only accredited public South Carolina high schools issue a South Carolina high school diploma.

- Question:** Do students that are home schooled and complete high school receive a “South Carolina Home-Schooled Diploma”?
- Answer:** There is no “official” home school diploma. Home school “diplomas” are issued by the parent or in some cases the home school association.

Home-Schooled Student Returns to Public School

- Question:** If home-schooled students return to public school, will they automatically start in the classes or at grade levels the home school teacher/parents say that they have completed?
- Answer:** If home-schooled students return to a South Carolina public school district, the district has the right to place the students in classes/grade levels which the district/school deems is instructionally appropriate for the students. In other words, because parents tell the district that the students have completed certain grade levels, does not mean the students will be placed into the next grade level. (*District instructional placement of returning home-schooled students is usually based on some type of test results that the district determines.*)

Other Questions

- Question:** Does the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) accredit any of the home schools listed on the SCDE’s Web site?
- Answer:** No. The SCDE does not accredit any home school association.
- Question:** Does the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) **recommend** or **endorse** any of the home schools listed on the SCDE’s Web site?
- Answer:** No. *The SCDE does not have the authority to approve or endorse any of the home school associations listed on the department’s Web site.* Each home school association on the Web site has submitted the Annual Standards Assurance form ensuring, at a minimum, that the association has met the requirements stated in S.C. Code Ann. *S. C. Code Ann. 59-65-45 and § 59-65-47.*
- Question:** Does the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) monitor home schooling?
- Answer:** No. However, the SCDE requests that home school associations contact Geri Martin in the Office of Federal and State Accountability at 803-734-8320 to complete the Annual Standards Assurance form required under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-47 and 59-65-45.

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