

# 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.
- 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 Section 59-65-40, Option One, in district approved programs are required to take statewide assessments. Students who are home schooled under Options 2 and 3 in are not eligible to participate in statewide 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. Information about VirtualSC can be found at <https://virtualsc.org/>

## 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. State regulation 43-273 states if a student transfers from a school, which is not accredited, he or she shall be given tests to evaluate prior academic work and/or given a tentative assignment in classes for a probationary period.**

### **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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