



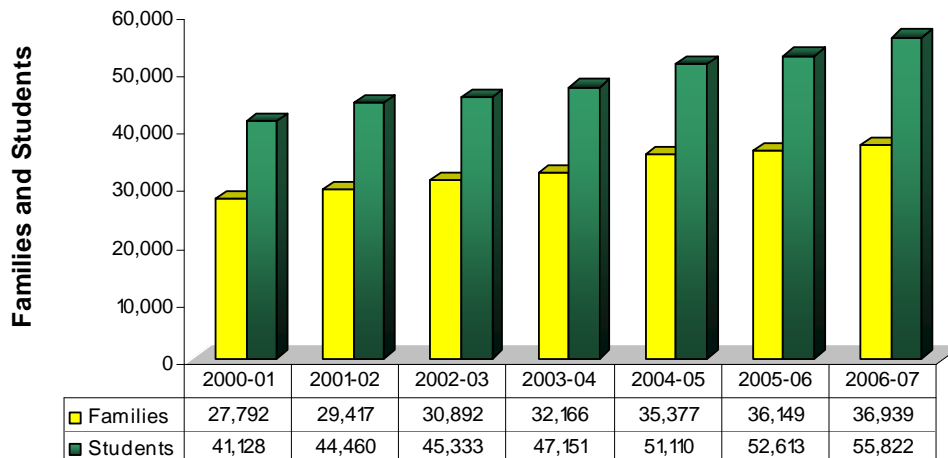
Florida Department of Education | Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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Home Education

Florida is a long-time supporter of home education, and the number of families choosing this education option shows steady growth. Established as an educational choice by the Legislature in 1985, Florida's home education program gives parents the freedom to determine their child's educational path and allows students to learn and explore at their own pace, in any location or at any time of the day. More than 55,000 students in approximately 37,000 Florida families were registered in home education programs in 2006-2007.

Growth in Home Education Programs



Establishing a Home Education Program

Florida law does not require a particular educational background for parents or standard curricula for home educated students. However, a portfolio of records and materials showing student work must be maintained, retained for two years, and made available to the school district if requested in writing by the superintendent. There is no attendance requirement for home education students, as the learning environment is not restricted to a regular classroom setting. An annual evaluation of the educational progress of each child is required, and the law provides five evaluation methods for parents to choose from, enabling them to select the best measure of learning for each student.

Parents register a home education program with their school district, providing names, addresses and birthdates of all children to be included in their home education program. Home education students may participate in dual enrollment and are eligible for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. Children of all ages are home educated across the state, and some enter college directly following their courses of study at home.

Home Education Program Statistics

Comparison of 2005-06 and 2006-07

District Name	Year 2005-06		Year 2006-07		Percent Growth	
	# Students	# Families	# Students	# Families	Students	Families
ALACHUA	919	671	964	619	4.9%	-7.7%
BAKER	90	62	127	86	41.1%	38.7%
BAY	636	460	670	471	5.3%	2.4%
BRADFORD	135	89	108	84	-20.0%	-5.6%
BREVARD	2,380	1,664	2,731	1,914	14.7%	15.0%
BROWARD	2,752	2,016	2,975	2,179	8.1%	8.1%
CALHOUN	67	43	52	37	-22.4%	-14.0%
CHARLOTTE	309	215	343	226	11.0%	5.1%
CITRUS	634	432	629	450	-0.8%	4.2%
CLAY	841	270	858	222	2.0%	-17.8%
COLLIER	749	471	864	550	15.4%	16.8%
COLUMBIA	547	287	614	435	12.2%	51.6%
DADE	2,524	1,829	2,504	968	-0.8%	-47.1%
DESOTO	189	133	208	52	10.1%	-60.9%
DIXIE	106	77	106	82	0.0%	6.5%
DUVAL	3,116	2,071	3,326	2,092	6.7%	1.0%
ESCAMBIA	1,273	988	1,398	1,100	9.8%	11.3%
FLAGLER	395	260	430	312	8.9%	20.0%
FRANKLIN	37	25	50	37	35.1%	48.0%
GADSDEN	361	233	375	266	3.9%	14.2%
GILCHRIST	144	105	146	88	1.4%	-16.2%
GLADES	43	35	19	16	-55.8%	-54.3%
GULF	27	21	23	18	-14.8%	-14.3%
HAMILTON	80	47	93	55	16.3%	17.0%
HARDEE	45	31	49	39	8.9%	25.8%
HENDRY	106	72	102	81	-3.8%	12.5%
HERNANDO	695	514	749	400	7.8%	-22.2%
HIGHLANDS	286	172	266	160	-7.0%	-7.0%
HILLSBOROUGH	3,179	1,973	3,337	2,144	5.0%	8.7%
HOLMES	84	60	111	78	32.1%	30.0%
INDIAN RIVER	493	337	538	381	9.1%	13.1%
JACKSON	195	137	232	162	19.0%	18.2%
JEFFERSON	112	66	111	71	-0.9%	7.6%
LAFAYETTE	37	25	45	31	21.6%	24.0%
LAKE	1,081	763	1,297	900	20.0%	18.0%
LEE	1,763	1,189	1,625	1,121	-7.8%	-5.7%
LEON	1,046	649	983	636	-6.0%	-2.0%
LEVY	204	146	211	154	3.4%	5.5%
LIBERTY	7	7	9	9	28.6%	28.6%
MADISON	81	58	73	54	-9.9%	-6.9%
MANATEE	641	423	731	510	14.0%	20.6%
MARION	1,531	913	1,803	1,050	17.8%	15.0%
MARTIN	463	351	418	309	-9.7%	-12.0%
MONROE	194	142	161	113	-17.0%	-20.4%
NASSAU	208	165	394	313	89.4%	89.7%
OKALOOSA	608	411	757	618	24.5%	50.4%
OKEECHOBEE	226	170	253	86	11.9%	-49.4%
ORANGE	2,607	1,774	2,736	1,893	4.9%	6.7%
OSCEOLA	870	660	1,186	911	36.3%	38.0%
PALM BEACH	3,737	2,675	4,070	2,966	8.9%	10.9%
PASCO	1,599	1,089	1,664	1,051	4.1%	-3.5%
PINELLAS	2,504	1,673	2,231	1,483	-10.9%	-11.4%
POLK	2,572	1,937	2,159	1,508	-16.1%	-22.1%
PUTNAM	234	195	310	206	32.5%	5.6%
ST JOHNS	667	520	900	702	34.9%	35.0%
ST LUCIE	729	504	883	632	21.1%	25.4%
SANTA ROSA	720	481	748	484	3.9%	0.6%
SARASOTA	783	550	860	612	9.8%	11.3%
SEMINOLE	1,155	746	1,167	775	1.0%	3.9%
SUMTER	204	136	205	144	0.5%	5.9%
SUWANNEE	421	288	349	111	-17.1%	-61.5%
TAYLOR	205	112	214	146	4.4%	30.4%
UNION	51	39	70	43	37.3%	10.3%
VOLUSIA	1,409	1,204	1,569	1,042	11.4%	-13.5%
WAKULLA	95	74	109	84	14.7%	13.5%
WALTON	248	107	349	236	40.7%	120.6%
WASHINGTON	164	107	175	131	6.7%	22.4%
STATE TOTALS	52,613	36,149	55,822	36,939	6.1%	2.2%