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.

Question: How can a home-schooled student take an AP Exam?  
Answer: Home-schooled students may be able to arrange to test a participating school by following the directions listed on the Website listed below: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/takingtheexam/registering-for-exams>

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 in grades 9-12 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 the Web site listed below and a complete course description and syllabus can be viewed online in the VirtualSC course catalog at the web address listed below. [https://virtualsc.org/       https://virtualsc.org/courses/](https://virtualsc.org/%20https:/virtualsc.org/courses/)

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 HomeSchooled 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.

Accreditation and Monitoring of Home School Associations

Question: Does the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) accredit any home school associations that submit annual assurance forms?  
Answer: No. The SCDE does not accredit any home school associations.

Question: Does the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) monitor home schooling or home school associations?  
Answer: No. However, the SCDE requests that all home school associations contact Geri Martin in the Office of Federal and State Accountability at 803-734-8320 or by e-mail at gmartin@ed.sc.gov to complete the Annual Standards Assurance form required under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-47 and 59-65-45.