

## Dual Enrollment: Non-traditional Private School Students

From time to time, an individual student from a non-traditional private school will seek to enroll in dual enrollment at your community college. These students fall into a small subset of private schools. Community colleges may not be familiar with these schools and may not know what information to require of their students for admission to dual enrollment programs. Sometimes these students are unsure of their legal status, as they have been taught at home by their parents and consider themselves to be home-educated. It is important for the community college to determine if the student is enrolled with a private school, which has a Florida Department of Education school number, or if the student is registered with the school district in the county in which they reside pursuant to s. 1002.41(1)(a) F.S. If the student is enrolled in a non-traditional private school, they should be admitted in the same way as students from traditional private schools that have a physical location in your service area.

Florida law makes no distinction between students enrolled in nontraditional or traditional private schools. While it may seem unusual for students to live in one county and be enrolled in a private school in another part of the state, it is permissible under Florida statutes. This situation is no different than students taking classes through the Florida Virtual School, correspondence or private virtual schools. Students in these distance learning programs are not in actual physical attendance at those schools either.

Florida statutes do not require private schools to have a building in which students attend. However, the private school must comply with all statutes pertaining to private schools. The school maintains student attendance records, transcripts, GPAs, and graduation requirements. Students enrolled in these schools do not report to the Superintendent and are not required to maintain a portfolio as do home education students (pursuant to s. 1002.41 F.S.). The laws pertaining to private schools, and the students in those schools, are found in part in s. 1002.42 F.S.

A summary of the statutes that pertain to private schools can be found on the FLDOE website at: [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private\\_Schools/general\\_requirements.asp](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private_Schools/general_requirements.asp)  
A detailed list of laws relating to the health and safety of the child, sanitation and safety of the facilities, as well as the number of instructional hours can be seen at: [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private\\_Schools/detailed\\_requirements.asp](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private_Schools/detailed_requirements.asp)  
Private schools registered with The Florida Department of Education are listed at: <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/PrivateSchoolDirectory/>

Students in these non-traditional private schools should not be treated any differently than students in those private schools located in your service area. Any private school listed on the FLDOE website is eligible to establish an inter-institutional articulation agreement on behalf of the students living in the service area of each community college pursuant to s. 1007.271 F.S. regardless of where the school administration is located. The private school should submit the documentation required in the inter-institutional articulation agreement (s.1007.271(3) F.S.) for each student, and the student must obtain the designated score on the common placement test established by the community college. These students are not home education students, are not required to provide a portfolio, and do not comply with s. 1007.271(10) F.S.

Once a student, who is enrolled in a private school outside the service area, is enrolled in a dual enrollment, early admission, or vocational dual enrollment program, that student will qualify for FTE, just as any other student living in the service area.