

## **St. Johns County School District Student Assignment, Enrollment and Choice Plan**

The St. Johns County School District is dedicated to ensuring that all students will choose a learning path that leads to a well-rounded graduate who demonstrates good character and leadership. To that end, every school in the district offers high quality educational options for students. Students originally are assigned to the school in the attendance zone of their permanent residence, but the District also provides a number of opportunities for parents to select other options for their children in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Student Assignment, Enrollment and Choice Plan (“Plan”).

Options include:

- Programs of Choice/ Career Academies
- Controlled Open Enrollment Choice Options
- Hardship Transfers
- Family Empowerment Scholarship
- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship – Personalized Education Program
- The Opportunity Scholarship Program
- Virtual School Programs
- Home School
- Charter Schools

### **I. Attendance Zone Assignments**

The initial assignment of students to schools is based on established attendance zones and the permanent residence of the student, as determined in accordance with School Board Rule 5.03. All traditional District schools have a geographic area designated for attendance based on their established grade structure. These geographic boundaries are developed utilizing the following parameters and principles:

- Attendance zones should reflect the diversity of the district to the extent practical and consistent with constitutional requirements.
- Maximum utilization of school facilities by distributing students among the existing capacity as evenly as possible.
- School size commitments as recommended by the School Board to the extent practical.
- The plan includes target enrollments that allow for growth and anticipated changing demographics.
- The plan keeps neighborhood units in the same attendance zone to the extent practical.
- The plan assigns students to the closest school to the extent practical.
- The plan does not place a transportation burden on any identifiable diversity subgroup (socioeconomic, race/ethnicity, ESOL, or disability). Demographic/Socioeconomic balance.
- Maximize transportation efficiency costs.
- Minimize the disruption to students and families related to attendance zone changes to the extent practical.

Both overall District Attendance Zones for Elementary, Middle and High Schools, and the individual School Attendance Zone Maps are located on the School District website. In addition, an Attendance Zone Locator is available to determine the appropriate zoned school on an individual address basis. The following link provides access to all three: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zoning/>.

## **II. Residence**

A student's permanent residence is the permanent residence of the student, parents or legal guardian(s) as defined in this section.

"Permanent residence" is defined by Florida Statute 196.012(17) as follows:

[T]hat place where a person has his or her true, fixed and permanent home and principal establishment to which, whenever absent, he or she has the intention of returning. A person may have only one permanent residence at a time; and, once a permanent residence is established in a foreign state or country, it is presumed to continue until the person shows that a change has occurred.

An adult student's permanent residence is his or her current permanent residence. A minor student's permanent residence is the permanent residence of his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). If a minor student's parents or legal guardians live in separate residences while sharing physical custody under the terms of a court order or otherwise, the student may attend the school zoned for either residence with appropriate residency documentation.

### **Full and Complete Current Residence**

A person cannot have more than one permanent residence, and only the student's current permanent residence as defined above may be used for enrollment purposes.

### **Proof of Residence**

St. Johns County School District requires detailed proof of residence provided by a parent/guardian or adult student. Follow the requirements as included on the Student Services website at the following link: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/residency/>

### **Change of Residence**

The following items are evidence that a change of residence is full and complete:

- The former residence is not occupied for any purpose at any time by the student or any of the persons with whom the student has been living; and
- All personal belongings are moved from the former residence; and
- Mail is received at the new residence; and
- All utilities are transferred to the new residence.

If the student's permanent residence changes, notification and updated documentation must be provided to the school within 10 school days.

### **Residency Fraud**

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are committing residency fraud if they submit an address during the enrollment process that is not their true permanent residence.

If there is reasonable suspicion that the student is not residing at the claimed address, the following procedures may be implemented at the discretion of the Superintendent or his designee.

- A letter may be sent to parent(s) requesting that the parent verify and update enrollment information. This may be followed by a phone conversation or home visit.
- The school staff may examine the Property Appraiser's website to determine the parent's homestead (permanent residence) location. The homestead address of the parent will be a factor to determine the student's zoned school. A conflicting address indicates that further investigation is required.

If it is determined that the student is attending a school outside of their zone, the student shall be withdrawn by the school and must be registered and enrolled in the appropriate zoned school.

**In all cases the Superintendent or designee reserves the right to make an independent investigation and to make the final determination as to the residence of a student.**

### **III. Career Academies/Programs of Choice**

A Career Academy/Program of Choice provides an opportunity for a group of students to enroll in a specific set of courses associated with a designated career or focused educational program of study.

Each Career Academy has the following components:

- A recommended sequence of courses.
- A capstone project, a work site experience, a research project studying careers in the academy area, or some other experience in which students learn more about the career cluster with which the academy is affiliated.
- A demonstrated need for employees within the Career Cluster.
- An advisory board consisting of business leaders in the Career Cluster.
- Adherence to specific rules established by the school system.

Programs of Choice exist both in the middle and high school grades. At the middle school level, R.J. Murray Middle School hosts the Center for the Arts program. There are currently two acceleration academies in St. Johns County high schools: Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) and International Baccalaureate program (IB). Four high schools currently offer one of these two programs. In addition, three high schools employ a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. ROTC is a program of choice designed to focus on leadership development, problem solving, strategic planning, and professional ethics. The School District currently has programs that support the Air Force, Army and Navy.

#### **Eligibility**

The St. Johns County School District's career academies and programs of choice are open to all eligible high school students (with the exception of the middle school arts program) in the District and is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against or harassed in any educational program, services or activities, or employment conditions or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation. The district may assess each student's ability to benefit from specific programs through placement tests and counseling, and if necessary, will provide services or referrals to better prepare students for successful participation.

#### **IV. Controlled Open Enrollment Choice Options**

In addition to the established attendance zone, career academies and programs of choice, the St. Johns County School District will provide additional options for school assignment based on Controlled Open Enrollment in accordance with Florida Statute 1002.31. The following controlled choice options are permitted pursuant to School Board Rule 5.03 and will provide additional opportunities for students to attend a school other than their zoned school and will provide parents greater choice options. The Controlled Open Enrollment process and procedures are set forth in this Section IV.

##### **A. Determination of Capacity**

A determination of the schools with available capacity is updated every 12 weeks, and will be posted on the School District's website at the following link: [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice). Specifications, plans, elements and commitments contained in the School District's Educational Plant Survey, Five Year District Facilities Work Plan and long-range student projections are incorporated into the District's capacity determinations for Controlled Open Enrollment.

For the 2024-2025 school year, a school will be subject to Controlled Open Enrollment when it has been determined that the school's enrollment is less than 90% of permanent Florida Inventory of School House (FISH) capacity. This determination takes into account the enrollment growth in St. Johns County School District, which exceeds 17% over the past five years. The DOE Capital Outlay Full-Time Equivalent (COFTE) Projections also show the District enrollment growing by an additional 10% over the next five years. Schools with enrollment less than 90% will be evaluated for available capacity by grade. This analysis will occur every 12 weeks with student transfers/enrollment occurring at the start of a new grading period. The most recent Twenty-Day Count will be used to measure enrollment for purposes of making the capacity determination. The most recent Twenty-Day Enrollment will be compared with the school's permanent capacity based on the current FISH database at the time of the enrollment count. Available capacity will be the difference between the number of then-currently enrolled students and 90% of FISH capacity. In order to allow the District to plan for future growth and establish efficient attendance zones, a new school will not be subject to Controlled Open Enrollment until it has been in operation for three (3) years. Upon completion of the school's third full year of operation, it will be included in the annual calculation of available school capacity. For schools whose enrollment has not reached 90% of their permanent capacity, a per grade capacity will be calculated based on the number of general education teachers in the grade as compared to the enrollment by grade. Please note that no grade will be allowed to exceed the total number of seats available by grade, even if the total 90% COE capacity has not yet been utilized.

Each charter school governing board shall determine capacity based upon its charter contract. A charter school may provide preferential treatment in its Controlled Open Enrollment participation

process in accordance with Florida Statute 1002.33(10), if such special purposes are identified in the charter contract.

Since Pre-Kindergarten (PK) programs are not mandatory, Controlled Open Enrollment options are not available for PK students.

ESE students are eligible to apply to all programs and eligible schools including Controlled Open Enrollment. If accepted to the school, an IEP team will convene to determine whether the student's needs can be adequately addressed and to ensure the IEP can be implemented at the chosen school. If not, the student will not be enrolled, but placed at the appropriate school based on attendance zone or appropriate placement for services if they are a resident of St. Johns County. Students residing in another county, whom the District is not able to serve, will be expected to enroll in their home county.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the following schools have available capacity for the specified number of seats. No K-8 Schools or High Schools currently meet the Controlled Open Enrollment criteria.

	2024-2025 Permanent Student Stations	2024-2025 Permanent Capacity	2024-2025 6th 20-Day Enrollment	Available Seats for 2024-2025 based on 90% Permanent Student Stations
<b>Elementary Schools</b>				
Crookshank Elementary	839	839	654	101
Hartley Elementary	729	729	583	73
Hickory Creek Elementary	760	760	666	18
Ketterlinus Elementary	485	485	391	46
Ocean Palms Elementary	667	667	382	218
Osceola Elementary	748	748	594	79
PVPV/Rawlings Elementary	1333	1333	938	262
Timberlin Creek Elementary	760	760	621	63
Webster School, The	959	959	536	327
<b>Total</b>				<b>1187</b>
<b>Middle Schools</b>				
Murray Middle	1108	997	733	164
Landrum Middle*	1090	981	809	74
Sebastian Middle	969	872	674	111
<b>Total</b>				<b>349</b>
* Available Seats by projection based on 2025-2026 Attendance Zone Changes and 90% of Permanent Student Stations				

## B. Application Process and Lottery Selection

Applications are available on the School District's website during an open enrollment period as listed in the updated schedule for each year, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Multiple application windows will occur in concert with the twelve-week capacity reviews. Paper copies of the application are also available for those without access to a computer. One application is required for each school to which the student would request consideration. (For example, if the student would be willing to attend two Controlled Open Enrollment elementary schools, two separate applications would be required.)

Students subject to a current expulsion or suspension will not be permitted to take advantage of a Controlled Open Enrollment choice.

For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a student who enrolls or transfers under Controlled Open Enrollment may remain at the Controlled Open Enrollment school until the student completes the highest grade level at the school. After completion of the terminal grade of that school, the student must return to their zoned school or apply for and be granted another lottery selection through Controlled Open Enrollment. Students residing in another county must return to their school district in the absence of another lottery selection entitling them to enroll in another District school.

Applications for Controlled Open Enrollment will only be accepted during an open application window. Once the window has closed, all applications will be randomly numbered with the assistance of a computer program. Available seats will then be assigned to the applicants for that school starting at 1 and ending at the total number of seats available.

The application window will run simultaneously for both St. Johns County residents and out-of-county residents. There will be two separate lotteries, with in-county and out-of-county students being numbered separately. The out-of-county applications will only be considered if there are still remaining open seats after the completion of the in-county lottery.

Once notified of a lottery selection of an available seat, the parent/guardian must accept and enroll the student in the specified school for the designated start date as listed on Exhibit A. If a student happens to receive a lottery selection for more than one school, the parent/guardian must select one and decline the other. If seats re-open due to a declined selection, the student with the next number in the lottery will be notified and offered the seat. Once notified, the parent/guardian will have ten working days to respond. No response will be considered a decline of the selection. A waitlist will be maintained between application windows, however a new application must be filed with the start of each new window.

There is no appeal process for Controlled Open Enrollment as it is based strictly on a lottery procedure.

### **C. Preferential Placement**

Preferential placement will be provided to the following through the Controlled Open Enrollment process:

1. Students residing in the School District.
2. Dependent children of active-duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.
3. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.
4. Children who have been moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.
5. Siblings: A parent may declare their school preference of an Applicant with respect to the placement of sibling students within the same school. There are two forms of sibling preference for an Applicant:

- a. The Sibling of the applicant is a currently enrolled COE student in the school requested.
- b. The applicant has a sibling in the current COE cycle making simultaneous application.

Applicants who are the sibling of a currently enrolled COE student will receive priority preference for placement appropriate to their lottery group (in-county and out-of-county). Sibling preference only applies if the school of enrollment is designated for COE for the school year of application.

Applications with a verified sibling applicant shall be noted and maintained in a separate sibling list. These applications will be given a lottery number along with all other applications. However, when one sibling is selected, the remaining sibling(s) will be given a priority to attend the same school by allowing them to take the next number or to be placed on the waitlist only behind other siblings. If siblings cannot be placed at the same school, a hardship request may be submitted for in-county residents only.

Siblings are defined as a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother or stepsister, living in the same household. Verification will be required.

#### **D. Availability of Transportation**

District transportation options are not available to any choice option in St. Johns County. Transportation must be arranged and provided by the parent/guardian.

The school district is responsible for providing transportation to another public school under the Opportunity Scholarship and the in-district public school option of the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA).

Students attending a public school other than their zoned public school may be eligible to receive a transportation stipend of \$750 per household. Parents or guardians may apply through scholarship funding organizations (SFO), Step Up for Students or AAA (see section IV for SFO contact information).

#### **E. Student-Athlete Transfers**

Student-Athletes who transfer to another school must comply with the FHSAA Rules of Athletic Eligibility in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.

- A student participating in Controlled Open Enrollment or a choice program is immediately eligible upon enrollment to participate in interscholastic athletics and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.
- A student who has not started a sport may seek to immediately join an existing team if the roster for the specific interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity has not reached that activity's identified maximum size, provided the coach for the activity determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate.



- A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one of the following criteria:
  1. Dependent children of active-duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.
  2. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.
  3. Children who have been moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.
  4. Good cause for participation exists under District or charter school policy.

#### **F. Voluntary Return to Assigned School or District**

Upon request, a student shall be permitted to return to the student's zoned school; however, it is recommended that the student return at the end of the marking period or semester, unless extenuating circumstances are present.

#### **G. Rescinding of Placement**

Controlled Open Enrollment placement may be rescinded if:

- Incorrect or false information was provided in the application;
- Attendance, tardiness or discipline/behavior problems develop at the receiving school.

#### **H. Class Size Compliance**

Availability of seats at a school designated as having capacity under the Controlled Open Enrollment process is subject to the maximum class size pursuant to Florida Statute 1003.03 and Section 1, Article IX of the State Constitution.

#### **I. Extension of Application Window for Military**

Applications for dependent children of active-duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders may continue to be filed after the application deadline if seats remain unfilled for the school year.

### **V. Hardship Transfers**

A student may be granted a "hardship" transfer when a condition or situation exists that implies an adverse or compelling circumstance or a state of misfortune unique to that student's life or a family's life situation. The situation could impact the student's ability to achieve success at their zoned school. Relevant documentation must be attached to the Out of Zone Transfer Request.

#### **A. Preferential Placement**

Preferential placement will be provided to the following through the Hardship Transfer process:

- Dependent children of active-duty military personnel whose move to St. Johns County resulted from military orders.
- Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.
- Children who have been moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.

### **B. Grandfathered Requests for St. Johns County Residents**

Fifth, Eighth and Twelfth grade students may remain at his or her previous school, if the parent/guardian chooses to submit a Hardship Out of Zone Application. Siblings, however, must attend their zoned school, unless they, too, have an approved Hardship Transfer.

### **C. Home Purchase Requests**

Hardship transfers based on future home purchases shall not be granted. Students shall be assigned to a school based on their current residence.

### **D. Out-of-County Residents**

Out-of-County Residents may only apply to attend St. Johns County Schools on a Hardship Transfer as a current employee.

### **E. Controlled Open Enrollment as a Hardship**

Not being selected by the lottery for Controlled Open Enrollment shall not constitute a hardship.

### **F. Hardship Transfer Application Process**

- Applications must be submitted by the assigned deadline, attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- Transportation must be provided by the parent.
- Requested school must be compliant with the Class Size Amendment.
- Parent agrees that at any time during the school year, a transfer may be revoked due to poor attendance, tardiness, or discipline issues.
- Parent understands that falsification of residency shall result in the revocation of the transfer waiver. The student will return to his or her zoned school at a time determined by the Superintendent or designee.
- Parent must receive an APPROVED Hardship Transfer from the St Johns County School District's Department for School Services.
- Parent must complete a separate application for each child seeking to transfer.

The application process for Hardships will be divided into two separate applications:

- District Employee Transfers
- Hardship - Out of Zone Transfers

Each of these groups will apply during the application window included in the schedule attached to this plan (Exhibit A) and posted on the School District Website at the following link: [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice). Each group will complete the application specifically designed for their circumstance.

Hardship transfers are valid for **one school year only**. Students currently on a hardship waiver are not automatically guaranteed acceptance for the next school year. A new application must be submitted annually.

A committee will review the hardship request for an out of zone transfer. A decision will be made based on the information provided in the application and any additional documentation.

School District employees may request, as a privilege of employment, to bring their children to either the school in which they work or the closest school in proximity to their place of employment within the appropriate grade structure. Employees will complete the appropriate application and receive approval from the School Services Department.

If the conditions of employment or placement should change, the employee transfer will be null and void. If the employee is no longer employed by the district, the privilege is revoked. If the place of employment has changed, a new application must be submitted.

### **G. Hardship Appeals Process**

If an application for a Hardship is denied, a parent/guardian may request an appeal in writing to the Office for School Services. Once the denial is provided to the parent, however, the parent must enroll the student in the attendance zone in which they reside, even if appealing the decision to the next level. The Superintendent will appoint a Transfer Appeals Committee. If requested, the Superintendent or his designee shall review the Committee's decision. All decisions by the Superintendent are final.

## **VI. Family Empowerment Scholarship**

The Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) Program was established during the 2019 legislative session to enhance Florida's menu of education options. In 2023 program eligibility was expanded to all students in Florida. The scholarship program contains two branches, one serving students attending participating private schools, and another serving students with disabilities.

### **A. Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES EO):**

This branch of the scholarship provides funding for students to attend participating private schools. Families apply and annually renew through one of the approved scholarship funding organizations (SFO), which are responsible for determining and distributing funding.

### **B. Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES UA):**

This branch of the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program is designed to offer families of students with disabilities, as young as 3 years of age, access to additional education options. Families may choose to enroll their student in another public school, or they may choose to take the opportunity to receive a personal education savings account (ESA) for their student. With an ESA, instead of having their child attend a public school, parents receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. An ESA can be used to fund not only items such as private school tuition and fees, but also online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials. Families apply and annually renew for participation in FES UA through one of the approved SFOs, which are responsible for determining eligibility, awarding and distributing funding to eligible student accounts, and approving eligible expenditures.

Interested applicants for either branch of the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program should contact one of the two scholarship funding organizations that administers these programs and are listed below:

A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation- FL, LLC  
P.O. Box 15719, Tampa, FL 33684  
Phone/Fax: 888-707-2465  
[info@aaascholarships.org](mailto:info@aaascholarships.org)

Step Up For Students  
P.O. Box 54367  
Jacksonville, FL 32245-4367  
877-735-7837  
[info@stepupforstudents.org](mailto:info@stepupforstudents.org)

**C. Public School Transfers for students with an IEP:**

Families interested in public school choice in-district, must contact the ESE Department. Family Empowerment Unique Abilities zone transfers will be accepted during the following time periods:

For semester 1 – request must be submitted by **August 1**

For semester 2 – request must be submitted by **December 1**

It is important to note that a Section 504 plan alone, is not sufficient to establish eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with Unique Abilities for private school participation nor for public school zone transfers

To submit a request for a student to be transferred to another public school in-district, please complete the FES Public School Choice Form found on the School District website at the following link: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ease/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2024/06/FES-School-Choice-Fillable-Form-24-25.pdf> . The form should be returned to the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department. Requests can be sent via US Mail, fax to (904) 547-6074 or by email to the department. For any questions or concerns, please call the ESE Department at our office at (904) 547-6074.

**VII. Florida Tax Credit Scholarship – Personalized Education Program (PEP)**

The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship provides an education savings account (ESA) to fund a personalized education plan for eligible students. The program can serve up to 60,000 Florida students during the 2024-2025 school year with first priority given to families with a household income of less than 185% of poverty level, students renewing the PEP scholarship, and children in foster care or out-of-home care. Second priority is given to families with a household income of less than 400% of the poverty level.

To be eligible for the PEP scholarship, a student must be at least 5 years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year and may not be enrolled full time in a public or private school. Current students must withdraw as full-time student from their private or public school or terminate their enrollment in a district home education program to participate in the PEP scholarship program. The St. Johns County School District does not provide an option for PEP students to enroll and pay for individual classes.

Interested families should contact a Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) for more information or to initiate an application. Contact information SFOs, Step Up for Students and AAA, is found in section VI of this document.

### **VIII. Opportunity Scholarship Program**

The Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) was created as a Florida school choice option in 1999. As originally implemented, the program offered students who attended or who were assigned to attend failing public schools the option to choose a higher performing public school or a participating private school.

On January 5, 2006, the Florida Supreme Court issued a ruling declaring the private school option of the Opportunity Scholarship Program unconstitutional. Students assigned to a failing school are no longer offered the opportunity to transfer and enroll in a participating private school. The option to attend a higher performing public school remains in effect.

#### **OSP Eligibility Requirements**

A public school student's parent may request and receive from the state an Opportunity Scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend a higher performing public school if:

- By assigned school attendance area or by special assignment, the student spent the prior school year in attendance at a public school that has been designated as earning a grade "F" or three consecutive "Ds" as based on the statewide assessments conducted pursuant to Section. 1008.22, Florida Statutes.
- The student has been in attendance elsewhere in the public school system and has been assigned to such school for the next school year.

Opportunity Scholarship transfers are subject to available space/capacity at the higher-performing school they are seeking to attend.

An eligible student may use the Opportunity Scholarship to continue attending in the higher-performing public school district until the student graduates from high school.

Transportation is dependent on the option chosen by the parent or guardian of the eligible student.

- If a parent chooses a higher-performing public school within the district, the school district is responsible for providing transportation.
- If a parent chooses a higher-performing public school in any other district, the parent or guardian is responsible for providing transportation.

### **IX. Charter Schools**

Charter Schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract or “charter” established between the school district or “Sponsor” and a Florida not-for-profit organization.

Florida Statute 1002.33 defines the rules, requirements and regulations under which a charter may be authorized. Charter contracts must meet the standards established by statute, however, other local provisions may be included as part of the contract negotiating process.

St. Johns County is currently home to three charter schools, which can viewed on the school district's website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/charter/>.

Parents interested in sending their child to a charter school may contact the charter school directly for information on their application process or contact the school district's Director for Guidance and Programs of Choice at 904-547-7752.

## **X. Home School**

Florida Statute 1002.01 defines home education as the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian in order to satisfy Florida's compulsory education requirements.

Florida Statute 1002.41 specifies the responsibilities of parents who establish a home education program. They must:

- Send a written notice of intent to the school district superintendent. The notice must be filed within 30 days of beginning the home education program and must include the following information:
  1. Name of the home education student(s)
  2. Birthdate(s)
  3. Address
  4. Parent's signature
- Maintain a portfolio of educational records. Statute defines a portfolio as: a log of educational activities which is made contemporaneously with the instruction and which designates by title any reading materials used, and samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student.
- Make the portfolio available for inspection by the superintendent upon 15-day written notice (The statute does not require the superintendent to inspect all portfolios).
- Provide an annual educational evaluation of the student's educational progress to the superintendent. The evaluation must consist of one of the following:
  1. A Florida certified teacher chosen by the parent may evaluate the child's progress based on a review of the portfolio and discussion with the student.
  2. The student may take any nationally-normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.
  3. The student may take a state student assessment test at a location and under testing conditions approved by the school district.
  4. The student may be evaluated by a psychologist holding a valid, active license pursuant to Florida Statutes 490.003 (7) or (8).
  5. The student may be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent.
- Preserve each student's portfolio for two years.
- Submit a letter of termination to the school district superintendent upon completion of the home education program, enrollment in a public or private school or moving from the district.

## **XI.Virtual School**

St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) offers high quality, online K-12 curriculum taught by local St. Johns County teachers. Students are able to take individual courses while they attend their traditional school or apply to become a Full Time St. Johns Virtual School student. SJVS Full Time students who earn the necessary credits, receive a St. Johns County diploma.

### **A. Part Time Options**

Students are able to take SJVS courses during the school day in a lab at their school of attendance or after school as an additional course. If you are looking to have your child take a SJVS course during the school day, please work with your child's school counselor for placement.

### **B. Full Time Options**

St. Johns Virtual School is a district school of choice meaning students must apply and be accepted. Acceptance is based on prior student grades, test scores, and student attendance.

The rationale for our selective process is based on the premise that if a student is not successful in the Full-Time program or chooses to withdraw, a student can severely disrupt their graduation timeline.

Enrollment windows will open in April of each year. A second enrollment window, for second semester, will open in late November/early December. More information on how to register for a part time course or to apply for Full Time SJVS is available at the following website: [stjohnsvirtual.com](http://stjohnsvirtual.com).

## Exhibit A

### Schedule for Controlled Open Enrollment Choice Options

#### **CAREER ACADEMIES/PROGRAMS OF CHOICE**

##### **New Student Registration**

Career Academies/Programs of Choice	January 6 – 24, 2025
RJ Murray Middle School Arts Program	January 6 – 24, 2025 Auditions – January 18, 2025
St. Johns County Center for the Arts	January 6 – 24, 2025 Auditions – January 15, 2025

##### **Returning Students**

Career Academies/Programs of Choice	No Action Necessary
RJ Murray Middle School Arts Program	No Action Necessary
St. Johns County Center for the Arts	No Action Necessary

#### **CONTROLLED OPEN ENROLLMENT**

##### **New Student Applications**

##### **In-County Residents/Out-of-County Residents**

<b>Application Window 1:</b>	<b>November 1 – 22, 2024</b>
Lottery and Notification:	December 2 – 6, 2024
Start Date:	January 6, 2025
<b>Application Window 2:</b>	<b>February 3 - 21, 2025</b>
Lottery and Notification:	February 24 – 28, 2025
Start Date:	March 24, 2025
<b>Application Window 3:</b>	<b>April 28 - May 15, 2025</b>
Lottery and Notification:	May 19 – 23, 2025
Start Date:	August 11, 2025

##### **Returning COE Students**

In-County Residents/Out-of-County-Residents	No Action Necessary
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**HARDSHIP OUT OF ZONE TRANSFERS**

Hardship Out of Zone Transfer Applications

Beginning March 1

St. Johns County School District Employee Applications

Beginning March 1