



## The Home Education Foundation

"Home Educators' Voice at the Capitol"

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### **Dual Enrollment Book Policy**

The question has arisen as to why home education students are required to pay for their own books during dual enrollment. Here is some background:

The Home Education Foundation, which is the voice of home educators in Florida, worked for the passage of dual enrollment for home education students for three legislative sessions. Dual enrollment has been available to public and private school students for many years, but it was not open to home education students until 1996.

It is important to understand the funding for education. The State of Florida pays part of the cost of tuition at state universities and community colleges, and the student pays the remaining portion. Regular college students have to pay for books in addition to tuition. Some scholarships provide money for books, but no money is allocated from state funds for college books. For dual enrollment, and other articulated acceleration programs, the state pays the university and community college portion of tuition with your tax dollars, and the college waives the student portion. Dual enrollment costs these colleges money. As you may know, even state universities and community colleges have to raise millions of dollars from private sources to pay for all the expenses of education. There are not enough tax dollars to pay 100% of the cost of education in Florida.

The reason that public school students have their books paid for is that the state pays the public school district (K-12) a specified amount of money each year for each class a student registers for in a public school. When a student at a public high school is allowed to take dual enrollment courses, those courses double as one of his/her required courses for graduation. The school district can then use the students' state allocated funds for the purchase of his books. The public school district does not receive tax dollars for students enrolled in private schools or home education. Therefore the public school has no money to purchase books for students outside its system. If a private school provides the books for dual enrollment courses, those funds come from the student's parents either directly or through the tuition paid to the private school.

Additionally, home education students are not required to meet the same standards as public and private school students in order to enroll in dual enrollment. Home education students have to make the minimum score on the college level placement test to obtain admission to dual enrollment courses, but are not required to verify courses or a GPA. If

home education parents demand that the school district pay for dual enrollment books, then the school district is going to want more oversight of home education programs and may demand that we meet the same requirements as their students. The proof of home education's success is in how the student performs in the dual enrollment classes, and the state has agreed through legislation to allow us that opportunity. But know that the more money home educators demand from the state, the more oversight the state will require. Most home educators believe that the trade off of not having to deal with the school district is worth the price of books. If you choose to enroll your child in the public high school, and he or she qualifies in the public school system for dual enrollment, then all of your expenses will be covered for dual enrollment. It is a matter of choice. Most home educators would rather have the freedom to choose their own curriculum, methods of instruction, and set their own schedule than to have the financial benefits that come with free public education.