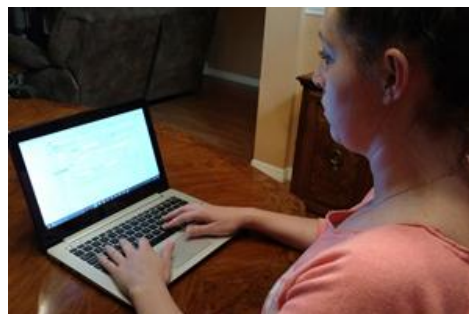


District unveiling new online family engagement system

The online system that for several years has allowed Alachua County Public School families to keep tabs on their students' grades, absences and other school-related issues will be replaced over the next few months with a newer, upgraded program.



The district is updating its current student data system and as part of the process will be switching from the existing Parent Portal to a new program called Family Access. Like Parent Portal, the new program will allow parents to access test scores, grades, classroom assignments, and other items posted by their child's teachers. It will also provide information on absences, tardies, disciplinary referrals and other information provided by the school their child attends.

Family Access will be accessible from electronic devices including phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers, and parents have the option of customizing the system to receive email notifications when new information is posted. They will be able to submit changes to their email addresses and phone numbers without visiting their child's school. The new system will also be available in Spanish and several other languages.

Family Access will be rolled out in stages over the next few months. Parents who have provided their child's school with an email address are receiving a message with information about the system and instructions on how to sign up online. Parents who do not have an email address or have not provided one to their child's school will need to visit the school in person with a photo ID in order to receive a user ID and password allowing them to sign up for Family Access. A parent does NOT have to have an email address to access the system.

A 'Skyward' app is also available for Family Access.

At first parents will be able to see basic information on their child, such as home address, parent/guardian names and contact information. By the afternoon of August 11, which is the Friday before school starts, parents will be able to see their child's tentative schedule or teacher assignment for the upcoming school year.

After Labor Day, parents will start seeing more detailed information, including attendance and discipline records from the school and any grades, test scores, class assignments and other information that their child's teacher may post.

Each student's academic history for the last five years will be posted on Family Access in August. Information going back 20 years will be added to the site in November.

Parents are encouraged to call their child's school if they have any questions.

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