

Introduction to Home Education Outline

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Home Education

- What is it?
- How did it develop?
- Is it legal?
- Why do people homeschool?
- Who homeschools?
- What about socialization?
- Does it work?
- Why is it successful?

What is homeschooling?

- Not just school at home, but...
 - ◆ A return to parent controlled education
 - ◆ A return to the traditional tutorial instruction
 - ◆ Home-based & parent-led education

History and Development

- Predominate form of education until 1900s
- Approximately 13,000 in 1970s
- Resurgence in the 1980s
- Since 1982, 34 states have enacted laws

- Legal in all states

How many?

- 50 million public/private students nationwide
- 400,000 attending charter schools
- U.S. Dept. of Education Statistics (2008):
 - ◆ 1.5 million homeschoolers
 - ◆ 8% increase per year
- Possible 1.5-2.4 million students homeschooled (2008)
- Virginia DOE (2008-09): approximately 29,569 homeschoolers
- 27% increase in VA in last five years

Why do parents homeschool?

- Transmit family values, morals, and beliefs
- Concern over safety issues
- Academic reasons
- Enhance family relationships
- Guided social relationships

Who homeschools?

- 95% married couples
- 25,000+ single-parent families
- 3.0 to 3.3 children
- Half have attended college or have degree
- Income \$52,000

- 75% attend religious services
- Broad range of families: mainstream except for attitude toward education
- Families with special needs children to talented & gifted children

What about socialization?

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.”

– Mark Twain

- Socialization:
 - ◆ fit for companionship with others;
 - ◆ how to get along with age mates;
 - ◆ the development of self-worth;
 - ◆ *the adoption of a set of values or beliefs*
– American Heritage Dict.

Socialization will take place, but . . .

- By whom?
- In what way?
- What kind of values?
- What kind of behavior?
- What kind of self-worth?
 - ◆ QUALITY v. QUANTITY

Does it work?

- Standardized achievement tests
 - ◆ National average: 50th percentile
 - ◆ Homeschoolers: 70th-80th percentiles
 - ◆ Homeschoolers: average 15-30 percentile points above national norm

- ◆ 24.5% of elementary homeschooled students perform one or more grade levels above age-level peers in public & private school
- ◆ By grade 8, average homeschoolers perform four grade levels above the national average.

Does it work for college?

- SAT scores (2001)
 - ◆ Homeschool average: 1093
 - ◆ National average: 1020
- ACT scores (2004) 36 Total
 - ◆ Homeschool average: 22.6
 - ◆ National average: 20.9
- Stanford University:
 - ◆ Key ingredient: “intellectual vitality”
- Dartmouth:
 - ◆ “Distinct advantage because of individualized instruction...”

What about college?

- Colleges actively recruit homeschoolers because of:
 - ◆ Greater maturity
 - ◆ Self-direction
 - ◆ Leadership qualities
 - ◆ Independent thinking skills
 - ◆ Creativity
 - ◆ Community involvement
 - ◆ Responsibility for education
 - ◆ Extensive academic preparation
 - ◆ Good study habits
 - ◆ Higher degree of college readiness

Educational advantages

- ◆ Dual enrollment at community college

- ◆ Special scholarships & grants
- ◆ Four-year college credit at home prior to graduation
- ◆ Special website links for homeschoolers

Educational attainment

- Attend college
 - ◆ 50% homeschoolers
 - ◆ 34% general population
- Attain associates degree
 - ◆ 8% homeschoolers
 - ◆ 4% general population
- Attain four year degree
 - ◆ 11% homeschoolers
 - ◆ 7% general population

Why does it work?

- **Spending** per student?
- Teacher **certification**?
- Family **income**?
- Parent's **education** level?
- Government **regulation**?

Why is homeschooling successful?

- Tutorial approach
- Individualized curriculum
- Developmentally ready
- No learning gaps

- Pursue personal interests
- Develop good character

Sources

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- Home Educated and Now Adults, Dr. Brian Ray, 2004
- Homeschooled Students Excel in College, Christopher Klicka, 2004
- Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling, Dr. Brian Ray, 2005
- Home Education Across the United States, HSLDA, 1997
- Homeschooling on the Threshold, Dr. Brian Ray, 1999

Home Educators Association of Virginia

...providing information, legislation, and resources since 1983.

- Support and encourage parents who homeschool
- Provide resources and counseling for homeschooling families
- Protect rights of homeschoolers in Virginia General Assembly
- Network with local Virginia support groups
- Provide an annual state convention in Richmond
- Provide information for interested parents, the general public, legislators, and the media
- Work closely with the Virginia Department of Education
- Network with national homeschool organizations and other state organizations
- www.heav.org