

Introduction to Home Education

What is homeschooling?

Not just school at home, but...

- Parent controlled education
- Traditional, tutorial instruction
- A family lifestyle
- A thriving, mainstream, educational alternative

How did homeschooling develop?

- Predominant form of education until 1900's
- Resurgence in the 1980's
- Legal in ALL states; 34 states have enacted specific laws since 1982
- Growing 7-15% yearly (VA 8%)

How many people homeschool?

- 50 million public/private students nationwide
- 400,000 attending charter schools
- National Center for Education Statistics (2007 survey): 1.5 million homeschoolers
- Possible 1.5-2.4 million students homeschooled (2007)
- Virginia DOE (2009-10): 30,310 homeschoolers in Virginia;
- 27% increase in VA in last five years

Who homeschools?

- 97.5% married couples
- 25,000+ single-parent families
- 3.5 children
- 23% minorities
- Half have attended college or have degree
- Income \$75,000-\$79,999
- 75% attend religious services
- Broad range of families: mainstream except for attitude toward education
- Families with special needs children to talented & gifted children

Why do parents homeschool?

- Transmit family values; provide religious and moral instruction

- Academic reasons
- Develop strong family relationships
- Safety issues and better learning environment
- Guided social relationships

What about socialization?

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 Dictionary

- By whom?
- In what way?
- What kind of values?
- What kind of behavior?
- What kind of self-worth?
- Quality v. Quantity myth

Does it work?

Based on results of nationally standardized achievement tests:

- National average: 50th percentile
- Homeschool average: 70th-80th percentiles
- Homeschoolers: average 20-30 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.

Why is homeschooling successful?

- Tutorial approach
- Individualized curriculum
- Developmental readiness
- No learning gaps
- Opportunity for remediation
- Pursue personal interests
- Opportunity for good character development