



RESEARCH FACTS ON HOMESCHOOLING

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Homeschooling—that is, parent-led home-based education—is an age-old traditional educational practice that a decade ago appeared to be cutting-edge and “alternative” but is now bordering on “mainstream” in the United States. There are about 2.2 million home-educated students in the United States, and it appears the homeschool population is continuing to grow (at an estimated 2% to 8% per annum over the past few years). (Ray, 2011) It may be the fastest-growing form of education in the United States.

Reasons for Home Educating

- Most parents and youth decide to homeschool for more than one reason.
- The most common reasons given for choosing home-based education are the following:
 - customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child,
 - accomplish more academically than in schools,
 - use pedagogical approaches other than those typical in institutional schools,
 - enhance family relationships between children and parents and among siblings,
 - provide guided and reasoned social interactions with youthful peers and adults,
 - provide a safer environment for children and youth, because of physical violence, drugs and alcohol, psychological abuse, and improper and unhealthy sexuality associated with institutional schools, and
 - teach and impart a particular set of values, beliefs, and worldview to children and youth.

Academic Performance

- The home-educated score, on average, 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests. (The public school average is the 50th percentile.)
- Homeschool students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents’ level of education, their family’s household income or whether their parents were ever certified teachers.
- Degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement.
- Some educators think there is sound reason to believe homeschooling is a cause of this relatively high academic achievement.
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the SAT and ACT tests and are increasingly being actively recruited by colleges.

Social, Emotional, and Psychological Development

- The home-educated are doing well, typically above average, on measures of social, emotional, and psychological development. Research measures include peer interaction, self-concept, leadership skills, family cohesion, participation in community service, and self-esteem.
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in social and educational activities outside their homes and with people other than their nuclear-family members. They are commonly involved in activities such as field trips, scouting, 4-H, political drives, church ministry, sports teams, and community volunteer work

Homeschooling in Connecticut

- **CT General Statute 10-184** mandates that parents have the *primary responsibility* to care for and instruct their children, unless they arrange to provide for such instruction elsewhere (school).
- **The C-14 Guidelines** were developed in 1990 by the State Board of Education to provide suggested procedures for homeschooling. However, since these procedures are not law, compliance is voluntary.
- **Homeschooled in CT** – There were an estimated 14,000 to 19,000* K-12 homeschool students in Connecticut during the spring 2010 (based on Ray, 2011 and USDE, 2013).

Note: The number of homeschooled children in any state represents roughly 2.5%-3% of the school age (5-17 yrs.) population. The numbers for CT were based on most recent available statistics.

*Ray, Brian D. (2011). 2.04 Million Homeschool Students in the United States in 2010. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute. Retrieved 2/18/2013 online <http://www.nheri.org/research/nheri-news/homeschool-population-report-2010.html>.

*US Dept. of Education, NCES, 2013. Retrieved March 9, 2015 from http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d13/tables/dt13_101.40.asp

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(continued)



Success in the “Real World” of Adulthood

The research base of adults who were home educated is growing; thus far it indicates that they:

- participate in local community service more frequently than does the general population,
 - vote and attend public meetings more frequently than the general population, and
 - go to and succeed at college at an equal or higher rate than the general population.
- by adulthood, internalize the values and beliefs of their parents at a high rate.

Need More Information About Homeschooling?

In Connecticut:

The Education Association of Christian Homeschoolers in CT (TEACH-CT)

158 Conklin Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Phone: (860) 938-6765 / Fax: (860) 653-6263

Email: teachct@teachct.org (General Inquiries)

Web: www.teachct.org

Connecticut Homeschool Network (CHN)

Web: www.ethomeschoolnetwork.org

National Home Education Legal Defense (NHELD)

Attorney Deborah G. Stevenson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 704, Southbury, CT 06488

Phone: (860) 354-3590

Email: Stevenson@dgsllawfirm.com

Web: www.nheld.com

Nationally:

Home School Legal Defense Association

P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134

Phone: (540) 338-5600

National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)

PO Box 13939, Salem, OR 97309 USA

Phone: (503) 364-1490

E-mail: mail@nheri.org

Web: www.nheri.org