

HOME EDUCATOR'S HANDBOOK

Compiled by
Brazos Valley Christian Home Educators Association
Board of Directors

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Brazos Valley Christian Home Educators Association

BRAZOS VALLEY CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

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What is home schooling?

Home schooling is the embodiment of the personal tutorial method of education in which the parents serve as the teachers and academic guides to personally oversee and direct the education of their children. Parents may use curriculum from a variety of publishers, which may come complete with teacher manuals, tests, and answer keys, or they may design their own curriculum. Children may be taught at home from kindergarten through the end of high school, or may enter public/private school any time the parents desire. Placement of home-schooled children into the public school is without state guidelines, however, so please understand that you may encounter some problems.

Contrary to the opinions of many, home schooling is not a new movement. It has existed since the beginning of man, through the majority of our country's history and has provided the educational foundation for what was once the most literate country in the world. Historical records indicate that even as late as 1923 more than 70% of the school age children in Texas were being home schooled.¹ Even as our government-run public schools grew in influence, home schooling never disappeared. Several curriculum suppliers have supported home-schooling families for many years.

There are an estimated 1.23 million home educated students throughout the United States.² They are in good company. Many of our great leaders and famous historical figures were schooled at home, including George Washington, John Quincy Adams, William Penn, Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, General George Patton, General Douglas MacArthur, Albert Einstein, C. S. Lewis, and Louisa May Alcott.

The reasons that families home school are as varied as the families involved. Though most choose home education for moral and religious reasons, a growing number are choosing it for academic reasons.³ Although public school professionals are, for the most part, dedicated, caring individuals with the students' best interests at heart, the myriad of problems caused by the breakdown of the family in our society and the growing bureaucratic control of public education has adversely affected the moral and academic climate of their classrooms.

Character Building Advantages

Parents concerned about the moral decline in the public school systems have noted that modern textbooks and teaching methods are grounded in humanism. Humanism, simply stated, is the belief that man's intelligence is the ultimate solution to society's problems, and that God's existence is irrelevant. Peer dependence is becoming a great concern to many parents. Drugs, sex, violence, and suicide are becoming more than just unpleasant news articles as the realities of these are fast approaching the individual home fronts. Many parents are also attuned to the more subtle dangers of peer pressure such as alienation from parents and siblings, compromising cheating, of dress, talk, entertainment, and behavior, laziness about school work, and preoccupation with self. These temptations can entice even the "straight" student who would not touch drugs or alcohol. "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Proverbs 13:20) "Do not be misled; bad company corrupts good character." (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Home education allows values of the parents' choosing to be instilled in their children instead of those of their peers and the society around them. The bond between parent and child is strengthened, rather than being eroded by the pressures of our busy society where most families only eat and sleep in the same house, often at different times! Home education provides the opportunity to mold character and prepare one's children to stand alone against pressures from the world. This is of particular importance to those who wish to instill Christian beliefs in their children.

Academic Advantages

Parents who home school for academic reasons experience the many advantages of one-on-one tutoring. Curriculum can be chosen and tailored to meet each individual child's needs based on his strengths, weaknesses, and particular learning style. Subject matter that comes easily to the child can be covered quickly, and he can go on to other subjects without having to wait for the rest of the class to finish. In more difficult subject areas, where the student needs more time, the parent can review material until the student has mastered the concept.⁴ The student will not feel pressured because the class is waiting for him to finish, nor will he be embarrassed in front of peers who might tease him for being slow. Instead, he will feel at ease asking questions, and will be free to explore new material at his own pace. Learning becomes a life-style, rather than something to be done only at set times within the four walls of the classroom. Positive character traits can be modeled and nurtured by the parent as the student learns to be self-motivated, responsible, and accountable for his work.

Despite the attempts of hard working school teachers, the average student in public school receives only between three and seven minutes of one-on-one attention per day. Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Education at Hartland College, states that as little as 18% of conventional school time is actually spent on academics.⁵ In 1990, the average scores for the Houston Independent School District students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test fell by 17 points, down for the third consecutive year. It is no surprise that home-schooling parents receive some of their most enthusiastic support from school teachers who are aware of the benefits of tutoring over mass education. Home education allows parents to teach their children to be good stewards of a precious commodity -- time! In the home, where there is a low teacher-to-student ratio, Mother gets instant feedback from her pupil. She knows her child better than anyone else and can teach and tailor the curriculum to the needs of that individual child. In most mass education environments, the classroom is crowded and full of distractions. The home environment, even with a baby crying, tends to be less confusing.

Home schooling allows more flexibility to visit places and businesses which reinforce what the student is learning in school. Many home-school families take advantage of vacationing during the off-season, thus avoiding the crowds and allowing more time to visit and learn about those places to which they have traveled. In those families where Dad's work schedule allows time at home during the day, he can participate in field trips as well as assist Mother with the schooling.

Social Advantages

More questions arise about socialization than any other issue concerning home schooling. Won't the children be too sheltered? Will they have normal childhood fun? What about preparing them for the "real" world? These questions frequently are based on false assumptions about both home education and socialization. One false assumption is that children will be too isolated and will not experience the normal fun of childhood social interactions if they are schooled at home.

Support group events, church meetings, clubs, sports, music lessons, and neighborhood activities all provide opportunities for socializing with a variety of age groups. Parents have the freedom to foster peer relationships that enhance positive character development and curtail contact with negative influences.

Parents or Peers?

The dictionary defines socialization as "to fit for companionship with others," Home-schooled children have many opportunities to socialize with adults and families in a variety of settings, including social events, civic projects, and charitable activities. Quality time spent with children their age, balanced with other social interactions, minimizes peer dependency and devastation to self-esteem and personal values that can result from unhealthy peer pressure. Home schoolers have the freedom to build family unity and loyalty in a society that is attacking the family on all sides. The student's self-esteem is easily built in the loving home environment. As a result, home-schooled young people are socialized not according to the whims, fads, and philosophies of the peer group, but under the loving guidance of parents. After all, the only time in life a person is exclusively with his chronological peers is in a mass education situation.

Preparation for the Real World

Another false assumption is that home-schooling parents want to protect their children from the realities of life. In fact, the motivation is preparation, not protection. Due to peer pressure in classrooms today, children have difficulty making healthy decisions based on what is right, instead of what peers may say. In the home environment, the child learns to have confidence in making a decision based on the positive influences of the parents. The child also can state good and logical reasoning for reaching that decision. In the work world, businessmen frequently complain about the increasing difficulty of finding young employees who know how to approach a task with initiative and enthusiasm and who respond to authority with respect.

Home schooled children have the opportunity to be exposed to people of all ages and backgrounds and can, in many ways, transition to life in the "real world" easier than public school children. Mass-educated children, even if academically prepared, are sometimes exposed to culture shock in the career world. They are leaving behind a classroom of a peer-dominated environment, where boredom is fashionable and rebellion against authority is considered normal. Home education, on the other hand, nurtures self-motivated, responsible individuals who are at ease in an adult environment and can respond appropriately to authority.

Dr. J. Gary Knowles was the first to focus on adults who were home educated. He collected extensive data from a group who were home educated an average of about 6 years before they were 17 years old. He found that they are involved in occupations that are entrepreneurial and professional, and that they are fiercely independent and strongly emphasized the importance of family. Furthermore, they were glad they had been home educated, would recommend it to others, and had no grossly negative perceptions of living in a pluralistic society.⁶

RESEARCH WEBSITES IN SUPPORT OF HOMESCHOOLING

<http://www.holtqws.com/RESEARCH.HTM>

Another view:

http://www.home-ed-magazine.com/INF/FREE/free_rsrch.html

Teacher Qualifications

There is substantial evidence from research indicating that parents are very qualified to teach their children. State departments of education's group summary scores for home schoolers grades K-12 for several states such as Alaska, Tennessee, and Oregon are consistently higher than those of students in public schools in math, reading, language, and science. These scores are from composites of the California Achievement Test, the Stanford Achievement Test, and other similar state standardized tests. In all studies, home-educated students scored higher than the public schools' average of the 50th percentile, and most were above the 70th percentile. This study also showed "no support for the idea that parents must be teacher certified to assure successful academics."⁷ Here are some specific examples:

- * The educational background of the parents is a high interest area. In three separate studies, Dr. Havens, Dr. Rakestraw, and Dr. Ray found no relationship between parents' educational attainment and the academic achievement scores of their home-educated children in Texas, Alabama, and Oklahoma.⁸
- * This most in-depth nationwide study examined, among other things, the achievement of home-educated students. Dr. Brian Ray's 1997 study included a variety of families from all over the U.S. Standardized achievement tests were administered under controlled conditions to 5,402 home schoolers ranging from grades K-12.⁹
- * All test administrators were screened, trained, and approved pursuant to the publisher's requirements. All tests were machine scored by The Psychological Corporation. The 5,402 home schoolers' composite scores on the basic battery of tests in reading, science, math, and the language arts ranked in the 80th percentile or higher in all areas.¹⁰
- * Research conducted by Imperial Tutoring and Educational Services over a fifteen-year period involving more than 2,000 home-tutored students from various socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds indicate that the majority of students experience significant academic progress and improvement in attitude and motivation.¹¹

Legal Requirements

In 1915, the Texas legislature passed the first compulsory attendance law, which is now a part of Section 21.033(a)(1) of the Texas Education Code establishing that a school-aged child who was being educated in or through the child's home, and in a bona fide manner by the parents...was considered a private school student.... In 1987, as a result of the *Leeper v. Arlington I.S.D.* case, Texas became one of the most favorable states for home schoolers from a legal standpoint. There are few legal hurdles and those are usually easy to clear. On November 27, 1991, the Court of Appeals of Texas completely affirmed the *Leeper* case.¹² On June 15, 1994, the Texas Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's decision.

Compulsory Attendance Requirements

The THSC website (www.thsc.org) gives portions of the Texas Education Code which deal with compulsory attendance. Home schools are exempt from compulsory attendance according to Section 25.086(a)(1) because they have been determined by the Texas courts to be private schools. Included are the portions of greatest interest to Texas home educators. The complete Texas Education Code can be found on the Internet at www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/edtoc.html.

Sec. 25.085. Compulsory School Attendance.

(a) A child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided.

(b) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not completed the academic year in which the child's 18th birthday occurred shall attend school.

(c) On enrollment in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school.

Sec. 25.086. Exemptions.

(a) A child is exempt from the requirements of compulsory school attendance if the child:

- (1) attends a private or parochial school that includes in its course a study of good citizenship, math, reading, spelling, and grammar
- (2) is at least 17 years of age and:
 - (A) is attending a course of instruction to prepare for the high school equivalency examination; or
 - (B) has received a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate...

Questions are often raised regarding "Good Citizenship". THSC recently mailed a new brochure outlining how one fulfills this requirement. In addition, they are also offering Good Citizenship certificates by volunteering for at least forty hours in one or more of the following areas: Voter Registration, Political Party Process, Campaign Process, and Legislative Process. Students who receive certificates will then be eligible to compete for the Platinum (voter registration), the Diamond (campaigns), the Gold (political party), and the Silver (legislative) Awards. If you missed the brochure that THSC sent out describing the program, contact the THSC office.

Highlights from the Leeper Case

- Home schools can legally operate as a private school in Texas.
- Article 7, section 2 of the Texas Constitution only authorizes the legislature to establish and maintain public schools, not private or parochial education.
- Home school must be conducted in a bona fide manner (not a sham or subterfuge)
- Parents must cooperate with any reasonable inquiry from an attendance officer concerning curricula and standardized test scores.
- The court permanently prohibited further prosecution of bona fide home schoolers in Texas.
- Teacher Qualifications: None
- Standardized Test: None. The court in **Leeper** specifically stated that the school district could not mandate standardized testing.
- State Monitoring: None

If you would like more information about the **Leeper** case, please contact <http://www.hsllda.org/hs/state/TX/default.asp>

Considering National, State and Local Legal Associations

In recent years, Home School Legal Defense Association was the primary organization for home schoolers to obtain legal assistance. Now, Texas Home School Coalition also offers legal help for its members. We recommend that both organizations be considered, since each has its own merits. Many are members of both, but some only choose one. The bottom line is membership to either organization is highly recommended.

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

The Home School Legal Defense Association is a non-profit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms. Through annual memberships, HSLDA is tens of thousands of families united in service together, providing a strong voice when and where needed. HSLDA advocates on the legal front by fully representing member families at every stage of proceedings. HSLDA

advocates on Capitol Hill, state legislatures, and are advocates in the media by presenting articulate and knowledgeable spokesmen to the press. The attorneys' fees will be paid in full by the HSLDA. For further information, write to HSLDA at P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134 or call (540) 338-5600. (www.HSLDA.org.) You may obtain an application from BVCH EA and receive our group discount.

Texas Home School Coalition

The Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) is a non-profit state organization that is politically motivated to work for the rights of home schoolers across the state. Often, harmful legislation is introduced to the legislature and numerous lawsuits are filed against home schoolers. THSC researches and supports pro-home-school political candidates and fights legislative attempts to restrict or regulate home education in Texas. THSC is responsible for the dissemination of information about home schooling to home educators and for meeting the needs of individual home educators as well as local support groups. You may write to THSC for more information about their organization at P.O. Box 6982, Lubbock, TX 79493, call at (806) 797-4927, fax at (806) 797-4629 or go to www.thsc.org. You may obtain an application from BVCH EA and receive our group discount.

Brazos Valley Christian Home Educators

The mission of the Brazos Valley Christian Home Educators Association (BVCH EA) is to promote and defend home schooling, and to encourage, support, and minister to home schooling families in the Brazos Valley area of central Texas. By facilitating communications across the home schooling community, providing information and support to new and current home schooling families, and by facilitating community wide events, the BVCH EA encourages parents to raise and educate their children to become productive and faithful members of God's family and church. Visit www.bvchea.org for more information.

Support Groups

A support group is simply a local organization of home-schooling families who have the desire to share ideas and plan activities together. Some groups have a small annual membership fee and some groups have restricted membership. Each group is different and may be centered around a certain teaching philosophy or because of mutual interests. The support group may plan field trips, allowing parents to reinforce lessons in civics, science, and history. Some support groups have organized classes in Spanish, art, music, sign language, sports, and other subjects so that teaching skills can be shared. These may also be called "Coops". Monthly social activities, such as park days, skate days, or bowling days may also be planned. Watch for these to be announced on BCS-HEARTnetwork or through The Home Front. BVCH EA encourages all support groups to share their group meeting information with us to be listed in the newsletter and website.

The local support group is vital for encouraging one another, providing social contact, and planning educational group activities. Your involvement will be beneficial to both you and your children. A support group map is enclosed in this packet of information.

The greatest success in home schooling is achieved when the family is regularly receiving support and encouragement from others who are experienced and are excited about home schooling. (The new ideas, enthusiasm, and excitement of the new home schoolers are a breath of fresh air for the veteran home schooler.) Membership in a local support group is highly recommended for all home-schooling families.

Curriculum

Legally, curriculum is the only thing required to start a valid home school in Texas. Although choosing the curriculum that is right for you is one of your most important decisions, it's not a permanent decision, and most families change curriculum after a year or two of experience. Allow yourself plenty of time (three to six weeks) to choose a good curriculum. In choosing a curriculum you may want to consider looking through several years of textbooks to get a better grasp of topics to be covered and the philosophies of the publisher.

Most curricula is purchased through the mail at reasonable prices: Grades K - 3 \$250.00 & up, grades 4- 6 \$325.00 & up, grades 7- 12 \$375.00 & up. If time is a consideration for your family, you may want to choose curriculum that may be purchased locally. For a list of curriculum suppliers from whom you can request a catalog, see the listings in the back of this handbook. If you have plenty of time for research, start by talking to other home-schooling families for their opinions on materials they use.

It's also possible to homeschool with a very minimal investment by using books from the public library and/or the internet. There are now many free, on-line courses available on every subject imaginable.

It is also very helpful for new home-schooling families to obtain their entire curriculum from a single source until they have time to do a thorough investigation of the many curricula options available. To further simplify the process, especially for the new home schooler, we recommend that you consider purchasing the teacher's manuals/curriculum guides. These teacher's editions and curriculum guides vary in their content but usually give helpful teaching tips. Teacher's manuals vary from publisher to publisher, as well as from grade to grade. Some contain only the test answers while others have both teaching tips and test answers. Since most curricula publishers have a toll-free telephone number, call and ask about the content of their teacher curriculum guides.

Invaluable resources that are now widely available are free email groups that focus on a particular curriculum or learning style. For example, there are groups for people using KONOS, Miquon math, Charlotte Mason approach, etc. Many of these groups can be found by searching Yahoo.com

Valuable home school resource guides, which critique different curricula, are also available to help you choose material and methods that are best for each child and family situation. Mary Pride's **Big Books** of Home Learning, supply thorough review and evaluation of all types of curricula, covering subjects from the basics to the very unusual. The **Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual**, by Cathy Duffy, provides specific recommendations for each grade level based on identification of individual learning styles. Goal setting, planning, and organizational helps are also included in this manual. Look for these titles and other home school books at the local or church libraries.

Setting Up Your School

While some home-school families have beautiful schoolrooms, fully equipped with desks, computers, microscopes, and an impressive array of resource material, most home-schooling families set up their school in the kitchen. You need to decide where the most suitable location will be, based on your home environment. Then, you will want to purchase a marker board or chalkboard, maps, paper, pencils, and grading books. Other supplies such as encyclopedias or science equipment can be purchased as you need them.

Withdrawing From Public School

It is more convenient to transfer your student before the beginning of the school year or at the semester break, rather than trying to remove him in the middle of a term. If circumstances indicate a need to make an immediate change, a family can begin home schooling as soon as they obtain curriculum. We suggest that you do not withdraw your child from school before you have your curriculum in hand and you have set a course and plan of study. To withdraw your child from school before having curriculum could lead to charges of truancy.

The Social Worker at Your Door - 10 Helpful Hints

More and more frequently, home schoolers are reported on child abuse hotlines to social service agencies. People who do not approve of home schooling can make an anonymous phone call to the child abuse hotline and fabricate abuse stories about home schoolers. The social worker then has a legal obligation to investigate the situation. Each state has a different policy for social workers, but generally they want to come into the family's home and speak with the children separately. To allow either of these to occur involves great risk to the family.

The home school parent should be very cautious when an individual identifies himself as a social worker. In fact, there are several tips that a family should follow:

1. Always get the business card of the social worker. This way, when you call the Home School Legal Defense Association or Texas Home School Coalition, the attorney will be able to contact the social worker on your behalf. If the situation is hostile, immediately call HSLDA/THSC and hand the phone out the door so a lawyer can talk to the social worker. They have a 24-hour emergency number.
2. Find out the allegations. Do not be deceived by the frequently used tactic of the social worker telling the unsuspecting victim that they can only give allegations after they have come into your home and spoken to your children separately. You generally have the right to know the allegations without allowing them in your home.
3. Never let the social worker into your home without a warrant, not even if the social worker is accompanied by a police officer. The publicized cases where the children are snatched from the home usually involve families waiving their Fourth Amendment right to be

free from such searches and seizures by allowing the social worker to enter the home. A warrant requires probable cause, which does not include an anonymous tip or a mere suspicion. This is guaranteed under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as interpreted by the courts.

4. Never let the social worker talk to your children alone without a court order. On nearly every incident, HSLDA has been able to keep the social worker away from the children. On a few occasions, social workers have been allowed to talk with the children, particularly where severe allegations are involved. In these instances, an attorney chosen by the parent, has been present. At other times, HSLDA had children stand by the door and greet the social worker, but not be subject to any questioning.
5. Tell the official that you will call back after you speak with your attorney. Call your attorney or HSLDA/THSC, if you are a member. In nearly 30 percent of the cases, the problem is solved that day by lawyers.
6. Ignore intimidations. Normally, social workers are trained to bluff. They will routinely threaten to acquire a court order, knowing full well that there is no evidence on which to secure an order. In 99 percent of the contacts that HSLDA handles, the threats turn out to be bluffs. However, it is always important to secure an attorney or HSLDA/THSC in these matters, since there are occasions where social workers are able to obtain a court order with flimsy evidence.
7. Offer to give the officials the following supporting evidence: 1) a statement from your doctor, after he has examined your children, if the allegations involve some type of physical abuse; 2) references from individuals who can vouch for your being good parents; 3) evidence of the legality of your home-school program. If your home school is an issue, HSLDA/THSC attorneys routinely convince social workers of this aspect of an investigation.
8. Bring a tape recorder and/or witnesses to any subsequent meeting. Often, HSLDA/THSC will arrange a meeting between the social worker and the parents after preparing the parents about which topics to discuss and which to avoid. The discussion at the meeting should be limited to the specific allegations and you should avoid telling them about past events beyond what they know. Usually, anonymous tips are all they have, and that is not sufficient to take someone to court. What you give them can and will be used against you.
9. Inform your church, and put the investigation on your prayer chain. Repeatedly, HSLDA has seen God deliver home schoolers from this frightening scenario.
10. Avoid potential situations that could lead to a child welfare investigation: 1) do public relations with your immediate neighbors and acquaintances regarding the legality and success of home schooling; 2) do not spank your children in public; 3) do not spank someone else's child; 4) avoid leaving young children at home alone.

In order for a social worker to get a warrant to enter a home and interview children separately, both statutes and the U.S. Constitution normally require him to prove that there is some cause. This is a term that is synonymous with the term "probable cause." Probable cause, or cause shown, is reliable evidence which must be corroborated by other evidence if the tip is anonymous. In other words, an anonymous tip alone and mere suspicion is not enough for a social worker to obtain a warrant. For further information on how to deal with social workers, HSLDA recommends *The Right Choice: The Incredible Failure of Public Education and the Rising Hope of Home Schooling*, which was written with the intention of informing home-school parents of their rights in order to prevent them from becoming a statistic. Federal statistics have shown that up to 60 percent of children removed from homes, upon later review, should never have been removed.

Record Keeping

More important than your physical environment is your method of organization. Keep a record book that contains grades and activities, such as Scouts, choir, band, field trips, etc. Your record book will help you review what you have covered and plan for the future. It will become a permanent record of the year's accomplishments.

Preparing a written statement of your school's objectives, methods, curriculum, and support materials will help you keep to your original objectives. Curriculum guides may be purchased from most publishers and may be helpful in setting up your school year and schedule. Many families keep scrapbooks of field trips and write reports on special projects. Tests, standardized test results, and health records should also be kept on file. Records need not be elaborate, but they should be current and orderly so you can reply confidently to any public official who may question the validity of your home school. These records also will be helpful when preparing your child's high school transcripts. Many books on the reading list in this handbook have excellent suggestions for handling the logistics of home education. Some families choose a name for their school and have letterhead printed. This sometimes makes it easy when corresponding with secular publishers or businesses. Some families may choose to register their school as a business by filing a D.B.A. (Doing Business As) form at the county courthouse for a nominal fee. Some may even open a separate checking account. Although neither of these are required, it may make you feel a bit more "official." Report cards and transcripts may have their school name on them. It is also a very good idea to keep records of any extracurricular activities that your child is involved in, such as gymnastics, a CPR course, soccer, etc. Many families will ask the

instructors to periodically write a report on the students' progress. These reports will then become a very valuable contribution to the students' transcripts. Another method of record keeping is enrolling in an umbrella school. An umbrella school is usually a functioning Christian school which, for a small fee, aids home schoolers by keeping records, issuing report cards, and administering achievement tests. Home schoolers' credibility is augmented when their children's permanent school files show that the parents are accountable to an outside institution that oversees their students' progress on a regular basis. Although Texas law does not require this type of relationship for families to legally home school, it can be beneficial to some families, particularly new home-schooling families who want the regular, formal support.

Record-keeping materials such as report cards, permanent records, lesson plans, grade books, transcripts, and business cards, all personalized for your school can be purchased through the Educational Support Foundation. Personalized diplomas in display binders are also available. For pricing and other information contact: Educational Support Foundation, 1523 Moritz, Houston, TX 77055.

Testing

Some choose to have their child evaluated before ordering curriculum. A standardized test (see the list of testing sources at the end of this handbook) will show the specific subject areas that your child has mastered and also will point out his weak areas. Many families have found that their children coming from public school have not truly mastered the required material for their grade. Under these circumstances, parents need to order curriculum that will start the child out on a strong foundation at his current academic level, not where his age or grade level indicates. This initial test also provides a basis of measurement for how well the home schooler has progressed when compared to subsequent testing results.

Standardized achievement tests should continue to be taken periodically, preferably annually, since they provide a basis for evaluating the success of your schooling, as well as being valuable indicators that school is actually taking place in a bona fide and successful manner. If your child has never taken this type of test, Southwest Teacher Supply and The Teacher's Store have practice tests that you can administer. Locally, H.E.I.R.S. is another business which offers testing and evaluation.

Obtaining a Driver's License

As of April 1997, parents may obtain a form to request a parent-taught driver education packet at their local D.P.S. licensing office. This form must be mailed to Austin with a \$20.00 processing fee. The necessary packet and instructions will be mailed to the parents from the DPS office in Austin. Upon receiving these, parents must purchase an approved course from those listed. Upon receipt of the course and after six hours of classroom instruction, the student may go to the local DPS licensing office to take the written driving exam and receive a driver's permit. The parent must then give the balance of the 32 hours of classroom instruction, seven hours of instruction behind the wheel, and seven hours of supervised practice. Once the parents determine that the student has met these minimum requirements (they may require more), they fill out the enclosed form and the LIPS office issues a driver's license. Students may take a defensive driving course, which generally costs \$25.00 and takes six hours. Completion of this course enables all drivers to receive a 10% discount on their insurance for three years.

Department of Public Safety -- Drivers License Office

1003 N. Earl Rudder Frwy. Bryan
776-3110

An additional discount of 5% may be earned by taking a six-hour course from Texas Drug and Alcohol Driving Awareness Program. Information on the program is available through the Center for Alcohol and Drug Education Studies at Texas A&M University. Submitted by Texas Home School Coalition.

High School Graduation

Just as many families may elect to choose a school class ring and other high school memorabilia, a high school diploma is important to most students. BVCHEA sponsors a graduation ceremony held in May. A graduation committee is composed of parents and senior students. Planning for graduation involves many decisions, therefore meetings begin in the Fall. To participate in this graduation ceremony, please contact the BVCHEA. Some families choose to hold their own private graduation festivities, while others may elect to get a GED (General Educational Development). This test is available through your local college.

College Preparation

Studies have shown that the longer a child is home schooled, the more his performance tends to accelerate, and the better he tends to do on standardized achievement tests.²¹ Many home-schooled students have attended or are attending, major colleges and universities across the nation. Home-schooled students enter college in the same manner as the mass educated child. SAT or ACT test scores are just as important as good records of academic performances and outside activities. According to the 1999 Brian Ray survey, ACT scores for home schoolers were an average of 1.5 points higher than those of public school students.

Most colleges and universities require a good SAT or ACT score as well as a copy of the student's transcript from the student's high school. The transcript should list the courses completed, the number grade received for each of them, any outside service activities he was involved in, any awards he received, and any jobs held outside the home. Most colleges are eager to accept home school graduates. The following links will list current rankings of colleges and universities and their policies concerning acceptance of home schooled students.

http://learninfreedom.org/colleges_4_hmsc.html

<http://www.hslda.org/docs/nche/Issues/C/College.asp>

Dealing with the More Difficult Subjects

Home educating the high schooler can be a challenge. Courses are usually available for home educated high school students who desire instruction outside the home. Foreign languages or sciences (including lab) and higher math are often the most popular. If you are unable to find a particular class being offered, A Beka Books Video School, Bob Jones Interactive University, and the School of Tomorrow offer individual courses on the high school level. Many, such as Chalk Dust Video math offer videotaped instruction. You should also check with Blinn College for information on the dual enrollment program for high schoolers.

Preparing a High School Transcript

Home educated students are asked by colleges and universities to produce some record of the classes they have taken. This information gives the institution an overview of the academic accomplishments and begins the process of being accepted to study with that college or university. Historically, home educated students have been very successful in higher education endeavors. However, they do not have a public or private school transcript from an accredited institution to submit for review. Transcripts and SAT scores usually are the main sources of information required with an application. Additionally, each school can require a student to take an entrance exam. Sometimes a portfolio of the student's work is requested to provide the admissions office with a sampling of the quality of work that has been achieved. It is to the advantage of each home-educated graduate to present his classroom achievements in the most positive manner. A well-designed, informative transcript is an essential part of the application process. Below are some general suggestions that will assist in creating an informative transcript.

The entire transcript should be limited to one page. Begin by developing a student information section at the top of the transcript. This biographical data should include the student's name, address, social security number, date of birth, parents' names, home phone number, business phone number, total years of home education, date of graduation, grades attended public or private school, place of birth, and GPA. It is wise to have a space where the transcript can be stamped and signed a notary verifying your signature as the primary instructor.

Next, list all the classes and grades that your student has completed while being educated at home, typically grades 9 - 12. In Texas, your child will be finished when 21-24 credits are received. The transcript must have a professional appearance. If using a word processing program, save your work to update and make changes as needed. Prior to printing, review the document for spelling and clarity. When printing your transcript, a laser printer creates a more appealing look, but any clean, neat printer is also acceptable.

You may want to print the completed transcript at an office supply store or similar store for the best results. There are a few transcript templates and kits for purchase on the market.

Barbara Sheldon offers products, including transcript forms, for high school students:

http://www.homeschooloasis.com/high_school_helps_main.htm

College Entrance Tests

Colleges and universities look for good SAT and/or ACT scores. Sample copies of the ACT (American College Test) and the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) tests for college bound students are available at any local bookstore. You may want your ninth or tenth grader to take the Pre-SAT test. The Pre-SAT or PSAT is the means by which students may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT now has a code for home schoolers in Texas. The Texas Home School code is 994499.

Contact your local high school, Blinn College or Texas A&M University for times and dates of the Pre-SAT, the SAT, and the ACT tests. They are normally given in October, January, and May. Apply well in advance. Most colleges require a score of 950 on the SAT and a 23 on the ACT. The more selective colleges may require an 1100 on the SAT. Some colleges may request that the student take the GED (General Educational Development) test (must be 18 years of age or older to qualify) while other colleges look for a grade point average of 3.4 (13±) or better. The State of Texas requires that all students pass the TASP Test for entrance into any state educational institution. This includes trade schools, junior or community colleges, and state universities. You can request an application for this 4.5 hour test from most community colleges. Application must be made one month prior to the test date. When filling out the required application form, the code for private school (home school code) is 9000. If you would like additional information, please contact the TASP headquarters at (512) 926-0743.

Non-College Options

After high school, some students may wish to enter the military. Due to extensive work by HSLDA, the military now recruits home schoolers on the same level as any public school student. Many recruiters are not aware of these new laws. If any home-school graduate has trouble enrolling in the military, we encourage them to call THSC or HSLDA for assistance and more information.

Employment after graduation from home school should not be difficult as many employers look upon the individual motivation and commitment it takes to home school as signs of a committed and effective employee.

Each Home School is Unique

Remember that home schooling provides a unique educational environment. It will vary from family to family because the needs, goals, and values of each family differ. Its very uniqueness is one of the greatest stumbling blocks for home-schooling families. The reality is that almost all parents home schooling today are products of public education classrooms. The sad effect is that many families try to make their home school a miniature copy of the public school classes they are familiar with and, as a result, build unnecessary barriers to success. At best, many families struggle with restrictive time schedules that preclude joyous unrestrained exploration. At worst, many families burn-out because they feel inadequate to copy the "professionals." Keep in mind the true goals for your children are beyond academic excellence.

The long-term purpose of education is to teach children how to learn, not just to teach facts. Focus your efforts on developing the skills that will make your child, a successful homemaker, a successful parent, a successful business person, a successful teacher of others, and a successful lifetime student. Expand your vision. Don't make success in academic subjects the final goal and you will find home schooling rewarding beyond measure.

Many people find that their first year of home school is not what they anticipated. There are many key factors that cause this. Organization and discipline will have a significant bearing on its success. Use your first home schooling year as a "practice" year as your family learns together what it takes to make home schooling a success.

Mom must organize her day in order to use time to its fullest potential and Dad should take an even more active roll in helping with the household chores. Just as it is advisable to cover the more difficult subjects in the morning, it is also a good idea to do the least enjoyable household chores early in the week. Many moms will lay out their child's curriculum during the summer in order to have a thorough grasp of the topics their child will be studying throughout the following school year. This is very helpful for parents who have a child in the higher grades, giving Mom plenty of time to review those areas in which she may be unsure of teaching, avoiding being put on the spot in the middle of a school day. Mom can also look for hands-on and extracurricular activities to support the texts. Make sure that you are flexible in your planning, allowing for disruptions due to illness, teacher workday, field trips, etc. Discipline is a key factor in home schooling and the lack of it is one of the main reasons for burnout. Mom must be disciplined enough to stay on top of what her child is studying and to conduct school in a "bona fide" manner

Children must respect and obey the guidelines and the instruction of their parents to make the home school a success. While organization and discipline are key factors in successful home schooling, deciding which curriculum to use is the cause of consternation in many first time home school parents. Therefore, research different curricula before choosing the one that you think most suits the needs of your child. Again, you may want to choose just one publisher during the first year. Then, after the first year, you will have more confidence and knowledge as to what a publisher offers, and a better understanding of the home school process for your family. Keep in mind that the odd numbered school years will be more difficult for the student and will introduce more concepts than the even numbered school years. You also will find that many of the curricula publishers change the style of their books in third grade and again in seventh grade.

Enrolling in a video school is a curriculum alternative for those parents who have a desire or need to home school their teenager but feel very unknowledgeable about subjects taught in high school. Video school gives Mom the opportunity to teach the subjects she feels confident in while enrolling the student in a video program for the areas in which she is unsure. Look for Coops and/or support groups to offer elective courses such as Spanish, drama, etc., taught by home-school parents.

Learning Styles

In today's public school system, there is an increasing number of children who are being told that they are Learning Disabled (ED), have Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), or are dyslexic. In many cases, the parents have discovered that their child simply does not learn like the majority of the other children, or they have found that the teacher's teaching method is not consistent with their student's learning style. So, instead of allowing their child to be labeled, the parents desire to teach him or her children at home. There are three major types of learning styles, which, when studied and understood, will benefit students and teachers alike. They are the visual learner, the auditory learner and the kinesthetic learner. Remember, each person has a different syntax (recipe) for learning, so the styles need to be applied in different ways. Consider the following analogy: If you and your neighbor make a chocolate cake, you each may add ingredients at different times, yet the end result of both is a chocolate cake.

You must learn how your student needs to have ingredients put together, in other words, how best to present the course of study so that your child masters what is being taught. Many teachers in mass education teach in their own learning styles, thus making it impossible to meet each of their students' individual learning styles.

When you teach more than one child, you will find they each have their own learning style, just as your method of learning/teaching differs from your spouse's.

It is important that you discover your student's particular learning style and then tailor your teaching to that child. It is also important to note that the more types of learning styles you incorporate into your teaching, the better any child will master the concept. An excellent resource to determine your child's learning style is *The Way They Learn* by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias

Lesson Plans

A written curriculum is one of the legal requirements for home schooling in Texas and preparing one can be quite overwhelming during the first few years. The lesson plan is also helpful should an attendance officer visit you, since they will want to see that you have a "game plan" for the school year, with general goals and accomplishments laid out.

One of the simplest solutions for lesson plan preparation is to purchase the teachers' curriculum manuals for the textbooks being used. The manuals will tell you which pages should be covered during any given day and may also suggest homework assignments,

Many publishers are now rewriting their teachers' manuals for home educators, although many of them are still written for teachers who have a classroom full of students. Do not try to do all of the activities indicated as this may result in a case of burnout. Many home educators have been successful in doing two days in a given subject in one day and doing this every other day. For example: Teach two days of language arts (English, Reading, writing, and spelling) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, along with your good citizenship (history, social studies, civics, etc.). Thus, you have completed six days of lessons in one week. Then on the other two days, Tuesday and Thursday, cover math and sciences. This helps the child to avoid changing subjects several times a day, allowing them to better focus on the subjects covered. This saves Mom set-up time and allows her to prepare the material to teach just a few subjects daily, versus preparing to teach each subject daily.

Another way of organizing your lesson plans is to divide the number of pages in a given book by the number of days you plan to school (allow some time for sick days, field trips, and urgent happenings). As a guideline, you can use the number of days that is used by your public school.

Example: Say there are 360 pgs. in the history text, plus 12 tests and 180 days of school:

180 days of school (4 -9 week sessions)

12 allowing class period for testing time

168 days available to finish the history text

So now you would take:

360 pages in the history text

± 168 days to finish the history text

This equals 2.14 pages per day; 2-3 pages of course material per day for history.

When Home Schooling May Not Be Appropriate

With the recent popularity of homeschooling, many have the idea that it is a new and exciting concept and that it will allow for all types of new freedoms. Some are turning to home schooling because public school officials are recommending it to the parents of students with disciplinary problems or emotionally troubled children.

Of course, home schooling for these reasons may not make it the best alternative for the family. It may place an undue amount of stress on the student, as well as on the parents and the siblings.

Homeschooling should not be taken lightly; it requires a very serious commitment from the entire family. Just as your first year of marriage and your first year as parents were somewhat stressful, so can be the first year or two of home schooling. Although this stress is quite normal, as parents you must look through your first year of home school before it takes place, in order to minimize those areas that could cause additional stress.

For the career-oriented parent, single parents, or parents who are already experiencing stress in their marriage or with family members, you should seriously consider the time commitment of home schooling. However, there have been many successfully home-educated children who are from these types of environments. It takes special effort on both the teacher's and the student's parts, with an abundance of support and encouragement from others. Again, the decision to home school should not be taken lightly; it is a total family commitment.

Re-Entry into Mass Education

It after having home educated a child, the need arises to place the child into a mass-education environment, the following points may be helpful to you. There is no law in Texas stating the proper way to place your child into a mass-education system. For elementary school grades, children are commonly placed in the grade level that corresponds to their age. Some elementary schools require the student to take an academic test to help determine the child's appropriate grade. This testing is at the discretion of the school authority. Entry into junior high and high school normally has more red tape than elementary school. The admissions clerk may want to see transcripts and report cards. As we stated earlier, it is important to give your school a name and to keep neat, accurate records. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommends testing of junior high and high school students who come from non-accredited private school systems. (Please note that all home schools and some traditional private schools are non-accredited.) It is also important to note that some of the home-educated student's courses may not be transferable into the public education system, and thus he may not receive credit for them (this also holds true for many of the traditional private schools). Some schools treat home educators quite fairly, while others make entrance very difficult, and may even require your student to re-take a course or two. It really depends on both the admissions clerk and the quality of your records.

Remember, home education is not intended to be a temporary solution for a problem encountered with public or private school systems. Any use of home schooling for a short term solution will result in extra difficulties in re-enrolling your child, specifically if home schooling is used to circumvent attendance requirements during a school year. In addition, switching your child between schooling alternatives does not provide a stable environment for the student. The choice of an educational system is a very serious decision and should not be undertaken lightly.

Educational Philosophies

Charlotte Mason

According to British educator Charlotte Mason, we become educated through "communication with great minds". She believed that children should be brought up in an atmosphere that exposes them to great literature, great art, and great music and thereby encourages the child's ability to know and love these original works on their own terms. Reading, both individually and aloud, from great literature and history provides this framework. In the Charlotte Mason tradition, books that are worth reading are termed "living" books: ones that capture the imagination and speak to the heart. They make history come alive, and enlighten the child's mind with ideas.

"Living" books also provide excellent material for learning language skills in a natural way. A child practices both memory work and comprehension skills through the practice of narration, for example, and develops fine writing and communication skills through copywork and transcription (taking dictation). Again, through the process of narration and copywork, the child is learning directly from the great masters.

According to *CM*, science in the early years is best limited to nature study, or the study of natural philosophy. Though science becomes more rigorous in the teenage years, a full curriculum of nature study will develop the habit of careful observation, the ability to accurately record data, classification skills, and reasoning capabilities. The maintenance of a nature notebook is an integral part of the nature study, and keeping the notebook also provides an opportunity to practice drawing and language skills.

The Charlotte Mason method is characterized by both brief daily lessons and large blocks of uninterrupted free time, during which the student pursues individual, discovery-based learning activities.

Adapted from:

<http://home.att.net/~bandcparker/methods.html>

Unschooling

Unschoolers believe that the natural curiosity of a healthy child, given access to a rich environment, will lead the child to learn what he needs to know. When learning comes about as a result of the child's desires, it is absorbed easily, enthusiastically, openly. The child works harder because he is doing what he thinks is important, rather than what someone else has told him is important.

Unschoolers vary in degrees. Unschooling families do not set up miniature classrooms, with time set aside for studying, a parent playing the role of teacher, formal lesson plans and imposed curricula. "Radical" unschoolers impose little or no structure, though books and such are available to act as guides. Others allow children to learn what they wish, but provide strong organizational assistance to help the children reach their goals. Some use curricula for a few (often math) but are freer with others. Most try to squeeze learning out of the activities of everyday life. The common bond is acknowledging that the enthusiastic participation of the child is the most important factor in the child's education.

Adapted from:

www.midnightbeach.com/hs/FAQ's.other.f.html

Eclectic

An eclectic homeschooler uses bits and pieces of the various methods, forming her own unique philosophy. Eclectic homeschoolers use a variety of different curriculums that they adjust to fit the needs of their families.

Principal Approach

Rooted in the knowledge and insights of *The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States of America* by Verna M. Hall, and *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History* by Rosalie J. Slater, the Principle Approach reveals the Providential view of history (the view of the Bible and of our Founding Fathers).

Each subject is based on God's Biblical principles and students are taught to think and reason from principles and leading ideas using The Notebook Approach to Research, Reason, Relate, and Record. The Principle Approach has been called "reflective teaching and learning." It is America's historic method of Biblical reasoning that places the Truths (or principles) of God's Word at the heart of education.

Seven Principles of America's Christian History and Government are: God's Principle of Individuality, The Christian Principle of Self-Government, America's Heritage of Christian Character, "Conscience Is the Most Sacred of All Property" (James Madison), The Christian Form of Our Government, How the Seed of Local Self-Government Is Planted and The Christian Principle of American Political Union.

Adapted from:

<http://members.aol.com/usteach/styles/principal.html>

<http://www.face.net/Principle.html>

Unit Studies

A unit study is a topical and integrated approach to learning. An in-depth study that integrates many disciplines, such as science, math, geography, art, music, history, language, literature, movement, etc, they are often called "multi-disciplinary", "thematic" or "integrated" studies. Unit studies take the "big picture" approach to learning. A student studies the chosen subject exhaustively rather than fragmented bits and pieces throughout their years of schooling. Unit Studies typically incorporate hands-on activities and projects. Writing assignments, themed literature, science experiments, field trips and other creative options round out this topical approach.

Traditional/Textbook

This approach utilizes instructional and learning methods employed in the school system, but on a one-to-one scale. Most textbooks were originally designed for schools, particularly Christian schools, but have been adapted to the home setting, with each subject having its text and workbook.

Local Resources That you Might Find Helpful

Universities and Colleges

Information on admission and field trip opportunities

Blinn College

2423 Villa Maria

Bryan, TX

Information: 821-0200

Admissions and Records: 821-0223

<http://www.blinncol.edu/Brazos/index.htm>

Texas A&M University

Directory Assistance: 845-3211

Admissions: 845-1060

<http://www.tamu.edu/>

Libraries

Bryan Public Library

201 E. 26th St.

209-5600

Using the web site, you may view available books, place them on hold and pick them up at your convenience. The website serves both the Bryan and College Station Libraries.

http://www.ci.bryan.tx.us/div_libraryservices/

College Station Public Library (Part of the Bryan Public Library System)

1818 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. South

764-3416

Navasota Public Library

1411 E. Washington Ave.

Navasota, TX 77868

936-825-6744

Be sure to check out your church library! Some carry impressive homeschool collections.

Information, Special Events and Classes

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

1000 George Bush Drive West

College Station, TX 77845

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/>

Dr. Shirley K. Hammond

Education Coordinator

979-260-9552 x227

Shirley.hammond@nara.gov

Texas Extension Cooperative

Offers information on housing, consumer information, textiles, food and nutrition, health and safety. Also agriculture topics ranging from wildlife management to gardening. Headquarters are located at Texas A&M University. There is a wealth of information and field trip opportunities through this service!
Local 4-H programs are coordinated through the Brazos County Extension Service (part of the Texas Extension Cooperative)

845-7800

<http://texasextension.tamu.edu/>

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Brazos County Office
2619 Highway 21 West
Bryan, TX 77803
979-823-0129

<http://brazos-tx.tamu.edu/>

City of College Station Parks and Recreation Dept.

Offer sports lessons, extra -education classes, special events.
1000 Krenek Tap Road
979-764-3486

<http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us/>

City of Bryan Youth Services Coordinator

979-209-5115

Home School Suppliers

Traditional Curriculum

A Beka Books

P.O. Box 1800
Pensacola, FL 32523
(877) 223-5226
All Subjects, Pre K - 12
www.abeka.com

Bob Jones University Press

Greenville, SC 29614-0062
(800) 845-5731
All subjects, Pre K - 12
www.bjup.com

Christian Liberty Press

502 W. Euclid Ave, Dept. G
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 259-4444
All subjects, K - 12
www.homeschools.org

Rod & Staff Publishers

P.O. Box 3
Crockett, KY 41413
(606) 522-4348
All subjects, Pre K - 8

Self-Paced Curriculum

Alpha Omega Publications

300 N. McKenny Ave.
Chandler, AZ 85226
(800) 622-3070
All subjects, PreK - 12
www.home-schooling.com

Christian Light Education

P.O. Box 1212
Harrisonburg, VA 22803
(504) 434-0768
Grades K - 12

School of Tomorrow /A.C.E.

P.O. Box 299000
Lewisville, TX 75029
(800) 925-7777
All subjects K - 12
www.schooloftomorrow.com

Robinson Curriculum

3321 Sesame Dr.
Howell, MI 48843
517-546-8780
K -12
www.robinsoncurriculum.com/

Unit Study/Classical Curriculum

Advanced Training Institute

P.O. Box 1
Oak Brook, IL 60522
(800) 544 1397
Excludes language arts / math
Unit Studies K-6th

Beautiful Feet

139 Main St.
Sandwich, MA 02563
(508) 833 - 8626
Classical Approach Unit Study
K - 8 History
www.bfbooks.com

Greenleaf Press

3761 Highway 109N, Unit D
Lebanon, TN 37087
(800) 311-1508
Classical Approach Unit History K - 12
www.greenleafpress.com

KONOS Character Curriculum

P.O. Box 250
Anna, TX 77509
(972)924-2712
Excludes math
Unit Study K-12
www.konos.com

Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd.

8042 South Grant Way
Littleton, CO 80122
(303) 730-6292
classical unit study
Pre K - 12
www.sonlight.com

Home School Suppliers

Learning Adventures

4 North Wood Lane
Casey, IL 62420
www.learning-adventures.org

Five in a Row

P.O. Box 707
Grandview, MO 64030
(816) 246-9252
ages 5-12
www.fiveinarow.com

The Weaver Curriculum

300 N McKinney Ave.
Chandler, AZ 85226
(800) 622-3070
unit study
K - 8

Trivium Pursuit

PMB 186
139 Colorado St.
Muscatine, IA 5273641
Classical Approach
www.triviumpursuit.com

Veritas Press

1250 Belle Mead Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17601
(800) 922-5082
Classical K - 9th
www.veritaspress.com

Vision Forum

www.visionforum.com

Classical Christian Homeschooling

www.classicalhomeschooling.org

Correspondence Schools

A Beka Video or Correspondence School

P.O. Box 18000
Pensacola, FL 32523
(800) 874-3592
All subjects PreK - 12
www.abeka.com

Bob Jones University Satellite Program

Greenville, SC 29614
All subjects Grade 9-12
(800) 845-5731
www.bjupress.com

Christian Liberty Academy

502 W. Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(800)348-0899
K-12
www.homeschools.org

Heritage Institute/ ACE

11530 122nd St.
Cologne, MN 55322
(952) 466-2414
K - 12

The Univ. of Texas at Austin

Continuing and Extended Education
P.O. Box 7700
Austin, Texas 78713
middle and high school
(888) 232-4756
www.utexas.edu/cec/dec

Texas Tech University

P.O. Box 42161
Lubbock, TX 79409
(806) 742-7200
All subjects grades 9-12
www.dce.ttu.edu

The University of Oklahoma

1600 South Jennings
Room 101
Norman, Ok 73072
(800) 942-5702
Grades 9-12
<http://isd.ou.edu>

Calvert School

PreK - 8th
888-487-4652
<http://home.calvertschool.org>

Home School Suppliers

Charlotte Mason Style Learning

Rushton Family Ministries
www.cindyrushton.com

Wholehearted Ministries
Clay and Sally Clarkson
<http://www.wholeheart.org/>

Dean and Karen Andreola
<http://www.charlottemason.com/>

David Quine Family
<http://www.cornerstonecurriculum.com/>

Lamplighter Publishing
<http://www.agospel.com/>

Mantle Ministries
Little Bear Wheeler
<http://www.mantleministries.com/>

Page of Charlotte Mason Internet Links
<http://home.att.net/~bandcparker/cmlinks.html>

Principal Approach

The NOAH Plan
F.A.C.E.
P.O. Box 9588
Chesapeake, VA 23321
800-352-3223
<http://www.face.net/>

Unschooling

<http://www.unschooling.org/index.htm>

<http://www.unschooling.com/>

Local Suppliers

Curriculum Connection
3811 Old College Road
Bryan, TX 77801
(979) 846-7887
beckman@txcyber.com

HEIRS

P.O. Box 10202
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 695-2665
www.heirsonline.com

Jacque's Toys
4301-A South Texas Ave.
Bryan, TX 77802
(979) 846-8660
www.jacques-toys.com

TOPS Office
100 E. 32nd St.
Bryan, TX 77802
(979) 823-2906

The Homeschool Store
1355 Judiway
Houston, TX 77018
(713) 683-8894
new and used curriculum
www.thehomeschoolstore.com

Other Suppliers

The Elijah Company
1053 Eldridge Lop
Crossville, TN 38555
(888) 235-4524
www.elijahco.com

Shekinah Curriculum Cellar
101 Meador Road
Kilgore, TX 75662
24 Hour Fax / Order Line:
(903) 643-2796
www.shekinahcc.com/

Saxon Publishers
2450 John Saxon Blvd.
Norman, OK 73071
(800) 284-7019
Math & phonics
www.saxonpub.com

Timberdoodle
E1610 E. Spencer Lake Blvd.
Shelton, WA 98584
(800) 478-0672
www.timberdoodle.com

Home School Suppliers

Christian Book Distributors

Box 7000
Peabody, MA 01961
(978) 977-5000
www.christianbook.com

Rainbow Resource

Toll-Free orders: 888-841-3456
Questions: 309-695-3200
Toll-free Fax: 800-705-8809
www.rainbowresource.com/

Math-U-See

Manipulative math program K-12
<http://www.mathusee.com/>

Home Training Tools

546 S 18th St W
Suite B
Billings, MT 59102
(800) 860-6272
Science curriculum & supplies
www.hometrainingtools.com/

Apologia Educational Ministries

1106 Meridian Plaza
Suite 220
Anderson, IN 46016
(888) 524-4724
Christian-based high school science.
www.highschoolscience.com

R.O.C.K. Solid

Discounted Christian homeschool resources
(800) 705-3452
www.rocksolidinc.com/

Used Curriculum Websites

www.homeschoolchristian.com

www.theswap.com

www.vegsource.com/homeschool

www.usedhomeschoolbooks.com/page4.htm

www.christiancurriculumcellar.com

Special Resources

NATTHAN

P.O. Box 39
Porthill, Id 83853
(208) 267-6246
www.NATTHAN.com

Simplified Learning Products

Joyce Herzog
P.O. Box 154
Big Sandy, TN 38221
(800) 745-8212
www.JoyceHerzog.com

Homeschool Children with Special Needs

www.geocities.com/Athens/8259/special.html
Michele has done a wonderful job of collecting a large number of links to aid you!

ADHD of a Christian Kind

www.christianadhd.com

Other Home Schooling Helps

Home School Legal Defense

Provides professional legal representation to protect your right to homeschool.

P.O. Box 3000

Purcellville, VA 20134-9000

(540) 338-5600

www.hslda.org/default.asp

Texas Home School Coalition

PO Box 6747

Lubbock, TX 79493

voice: (806) 744-4441

fax: (806) 744-4446

www.thsc.org/

Minority Homeschoolers of Texas

To enlighten, encourage, promote and motivate minority educators across the state of Texas as they nurture and train their children in the way of the Lord and in the spirit of excellence.

<http://www.mhot.org/>

NBH (Network of Black Homeschoolers)

P. O. Box 28325

Richmond, VA 23228

804-562-2684

NBH4@yahoo.com

NBHERA

(Nat'l Black Home Ed. Resource Assoc.)

6943 Stoneview Ave.

Baker, Louisiana 70714

225-778-0169

nbhera@internet8.net

A Texas Home School Mom's Website

www.texashomeschoolers.com/

Donna Young.org

Contains information and many useful print-outs for those who are educating children.

<http://donnayoung.org/>

Learn in Freedom, School is Dead

by Karl M Bunday

Don't miss this enormous web site, packed with essential information for homeschooling.

<http://learninfreedom.org/>

Crosswalk.com

<http://homeschool.crosswalk.com/>

Home School World

<http://www.home-school.com/>

Texas Home Educators Website

An excellent resource for links, articles and helps.

<http://www.texashomeeducators.com/>

Periodicals

The Home Front

The monthly newsletter issued of the Brazos Valley Christian Home Educators Association.

www.bvchea.org

Home Schooling Today

One of the three most popular bi-monthly magazines. They have book reviews, art appreciation, and unit study ideas.

www.homeschooltoday.com

Practical Homeschool

Published by Mary Pride. Articles deal with classical education on the elementary level as well as the high school level.

www.home-school.com

National Home Education Research Institute

www.nheri.org

The Teaching Home Magazine

Contains articles particular homeschooling topics.

www.TeachingHome.com

Home Education Magazine

One of the oldest, most respected, and most informative homeschooling magazines. www.home-ed-magazine.com/

Eclectic Homeschool Online

Online e-zine with great articles

<http://eho.org/index.html>

Other Home Schooling Helps

Testing Services

California Achievement Test

Grades 2-12 Cost: \$20.00
Christian Liberty Academy
502 W. Euclid
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 259-4444

Stanford Achievement Test

And Iowa Basic Skills Test
BJU Press
Greenville, SC 29614
(800) 845-5731

www.bjup.com/services/testing/

The Sycamore Tree

www.sycamoretree.com

Seton Home Study School

1350 Progress Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630
(540) 636-9990
FAX 540 636 1602.
Offers CAT testing year-round to be administered
at home by parents.
www.setonhome.org/testing/default.stm

Books on Home Schooling

Homeschooling Almanac 2002-2003

By Mary & Michael Leppert

For the Children's Sake

By Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

You Can Teach Your Child Successfully

(Grades 4-8)

The Three R's (Lower Elem.)

The Language Wars

Homeschool Answer Book

By Ruth Beechick

The Christian Home Educators Manual

By Cathy Duffy

Home Style Teaching

By Raymond and Dorothy Moore

The Right Choice

By Christopher Klicka

The Well-Trained Mind

By Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise

The Christian Home School

By Gregg Harris

How to Create Your Own Unit Study

By Valerie Bendt

Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning

By Douglas Wilson

The Home School Manual

By Theodore E. Wade and others

What Every 1st Grader Needs to Know.

By E.D. Hirsch, Jr.

The Big Book of Home Learning

Vol. 1 "Getting Started"

Vol.2 "Preschool and Elem."

Vol.3 "Teen and Adult"

by Mary Pride

The Homeschool Journey

By Susan & Michael Card

Underground History of American Education

By John Taylor Gatto

References

¹Southeast Texas Home School Association, *Home Educator's Handbook*, 1989.

²Chas. J. Murray, District Judge 17th Judicial District Court of Texas, Findings of Fact in *Leeper, et al. v. Arlington Independent School District, et al.* No. 17-88761-85, April 13, 1987.

³*Handbook for Texas Home Schoolers* (Richardson, Texas, Hearth & Home Ministries, 1985), p. 6.

⁴Southeast Texas Home School Association, *Home Educator's Handbook*, 1989.

⁵*Home School Court Report*, March-June 1987, p. 3.

⁶Knowles, J. Gary. "Now we are adults: Attitudes, beliefs, and status of adults who were home-educated as children." *The Beat of a Different Drummer* (1992) pg. 12.

⁷Brian D. Ray, PhD., *Home Schooling on the Threshold: A Survey of Research at the Dawn of the New Millennium*, 1999. pp. 6, 8-9.

⁸Weaver, Roy et al. "Home Tutorials vs. Public Schools in Los Angeles," *Phi Delta Kappan*, Dec. 1980, pp. 254-55, quoted in *Home Education: Is It Working?* p. 4.

⁹Gordon, Edward, "Home Tutoring Programs Gain Respectability," *Phi Delta Kappan*, Feb. 1983, pp. 398-99, quoted in *Home Education: Is It Working?* p. 4.

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¹¹Press Release, HSLDA, December 1991.

¹²*Home Education: Is It Working?* p. 5.