

Homeschooling: The Solution to Our Education Problem

by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

Qualifications

- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes homeschool science and Christian apologetic materials
- No longer a part of Apologia

The Problem: Government Schools

They usually have incredibly low academic standards

“Canadian education is not just inefficient but seriously inadequate...Dropout rates, literacy levels, and academic achievement are signals of the dismal state of Canadian education today...Of those young adults who have completed high school in the past decade, 33% are insufficiently literate to cope in contemporary society.”

-Claudia Roberts Hepburn, the Fraser Institute

[http://oldfraser.lexi.net/publications/critical_issues/1999/school_choice/section_02.html]

“Disappointingly, static schooling outcomes are the norm despite high levels of per-pupil spending and seemingly strenuous efforts by provincial governments to raise education standards...Efforts to improve the system's performance have yielded mixed evidence; some pointing slightly upward, and some suggesting further deterioration.”

[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, “Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream,” Fraser Institute 2007, p. 10]

72% of Canadian homeschoolers surveyed say that they homeschool mainly because of concerns regarding academics and educational philosophy

[Wendy Priesnitz, “Home-Base Education in Canada,” The Alternative Press 1990, p. 6]

They are usually hostile to religious values

David Brown, a constitutional lawyer in Toronto, cites recent cases where Canadian courts have ruled that in public schools, “reasoning based on faith or religious reasons is not acceptable.” For example, parents in a British Columbia school district wanted the school to remove books portraying homosexual relationships favorably. The parents' objections were grounded in religious belief, the judge ruled, and that made them unacceptable grounds for removing the books.

[<http://www.csmonitor.com/1999/1103/p7s1.html/%28page%29/2>]

They are sometimes unsafe for students

- 55% of boys and 27% of girls report being in a fight at school resulting in harm to another. [Alan W. Leschied, "The Roots of Violence," The Political Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health 2008, p. 14]
- "...bullying takes place every 7 minutes on school playgrounds... A study released late in 2009 found Canadian students among the worst in the world for involvement in bullying-related activities: we ranked 36th out of 40 countries examined."
[<https://www.onlineparty.ca/issue.php?ISSUEID=521>]

They usually expose students to a very bad peer group

- 22% of Canadian homeschoolers cite "use of drugs and alcohol in school system" as one of their reasons for homeschooling.
- "Nationally, over a third of students in grades 7-9 have binged on alcohol. Over 40% of 15-19 year olds have binged at least once in the past year, and more than a quarter of drinkers aged 12-19 have binged 12 or more times in the past year."
[*Substance Abuse in Canada: Youth in Focus*, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse 2007, p. 6]

The Solution: Homeschooling

- You can raise your children with the moral and religious education you want for them.
- You can keep your students SAFE!
- You control peer group!
- You will hold your children to the highest of standards, because you love them and want the very best for them!

Homeschooled Students Excel!

"Many studies, Canadian, American, and international, have found that home schooled students outperform students in both public and independent (private) schools."

[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, "Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream," Fraser Institute 2007, p. 3]

The largest study in Canada found that home schooling students score at the 80th percentile in reading, the 76th percentile in language, and the 79th percentile in mathematics.

[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, "Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream," Fraser Institute 2007, p. 14]

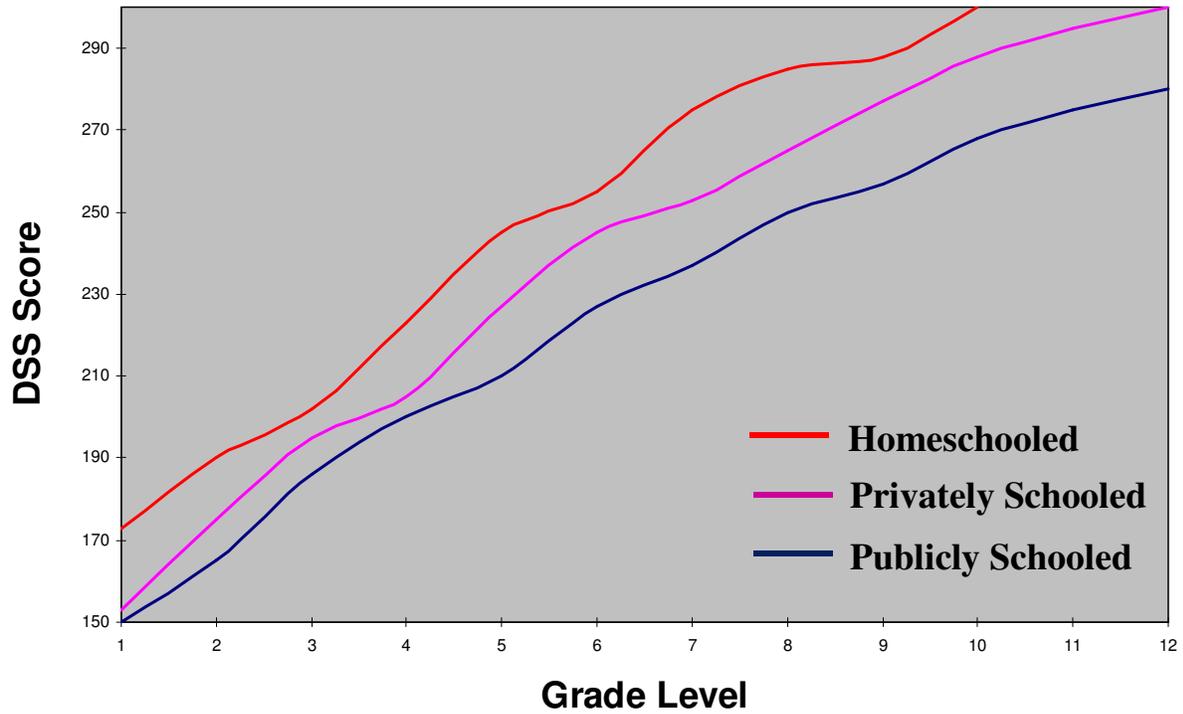
In a 2003 study of more than 1,600 Canadian homeschoolers, researchers found that the students "perform above the Canadian norm for their levels."

[Deani Van Pelt, "Home Education in Canada," CCHE and HSLDA 2003, p.4]

Several studies have found that home education may help eliminate the potential negative effects of certain socio-economic factors. For example, one study found that students taught at home by mothers who had never finished high school scored a full 55 percentile points higher than public school students from families with comparable education levels.

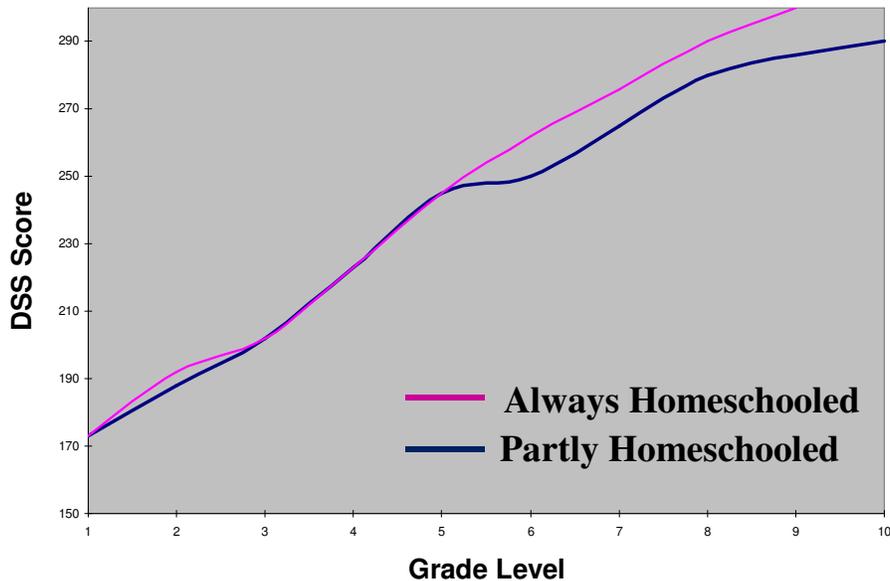
[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, "Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream," Fraser Institute 2007, p. 3]

In The United States Median Composite Scores



It Gets Better the Longer You Homeschool!

Mean Score by Time Homeschooled



Both graphs from data found in <http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/543>

Why Do Homeschoolers Excel?

The Love of Learning is not socialized out of them.

“Public schools are great places of business of salaried teachers, unions, administrators, janitors, bus drivers, textbook corporations, cafeteria workers, etc., but no place for bright, curious children.”

[Wendy Priesnitz, “Home-Base Education in Canada,” The Alternative Press 1990, p. 4]

Learning is generally more interesting for students when the curriculum is tailored directly to them.

“About half utilize an eclectic mix of various traditional textbooks and workbooks, another 17% use a comprehensive textbook approach, while the rest report following a more child-initiated approach.”

[Deani Van Pelt, “Home Education in Canada,” CCHE and HSLDA 2003, p.5]

You can't beat the teacher/student ratio!

Homeschooling teaches independent learning.

Homeschooling parents impart *by example* that education is important.

A Study of the Childhoods of Geniuses

Dr. Harold McCurdy studied the childhoods of 20 geniuses, such as Blaise Pascal. He saw three commonalities:

- (1) A high degree of attention focused on the child by parents and other adults, expressed in intensive educational measures and usually, abundant love
- (2) Isolation from other children, especially outside the family
- (3) A large amount of imaginative play

“It might be remarked that the mass education of our public school system is, in its way, a vast experiment on the effect of reducing all three of the above factors to minimal values, and should, accordingly, tend to suppress the occurrence of genius.”

[Harold McCurdy, “The Childhood Pattern of Genius,” *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* 73(2):448-462, 1957.]

But What About “Socialization?”

☺ “...home educated children...are involved in a wide variety of activities with peers and adults outside of their homes. For example, 60% are involved in group sports, 82% in Sunday School, 48% in music classes...” 45% even take classes with other children outside

of the home [Brian Ray, *A Nationwide Study of Home Education in Canada*, Brian Ray, National Home Education Institute 1994]

- ☺ “On average [home educated] children spend 12 hours per week with non-sibling children” [Brian Ray, *A Nationwide Study of Home Education in Canada*, Brian Ray, National Home Education Institute 1994]
- ☺ "Popular belief holds that home schooled children are socially backward and deprived, but research shows the opposite: that home schooled children are actually better socialized than their peers." [<http://ontariohomeschool.org/fraserstudysummaries.html>]
- ☺ Dr. Gary Knowles (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) studied Michigan adults who had been homeschooled. None were unemployed or on welfare. 94% said that homeschool helped prepare them to be independent persons, and 79% said that it helped them to interact with those from other levels of society. ["University Study Says Home-Taught Children Won't Become Social Misfits," appearing in the *Grand Haven Tribune* 9 March 1993]
- ☺ Deani Van Pelt did a long-term study of more than 1,600 Canadian homeschooling families. The data indicate that homeschooled students have a **life satisfaction** score significantly above those in government schools. [Deani Van Pelt, “Home Education in Canada,” CCHE and HSLDA 2003, p. 10]
- ☺ “The average Canadian home schooled student is regularly involved in eight social activities outside the home. Canadian home schooled children watch less television than other children, and they show significantly fewer problems than public school children when observed in free play.” [Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, “Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream,” Fraser Institute 2007, p. 3]