



Tapestry of Homeschool A Portrait

In April of 2008, and from June through August of 2008, Learning is for Everyone conducted a mostly open ended survey of interested homeschoolers with the aim of creating a more personal and meaningful look at homeschooling. With design input from over one hundred homeschoolers across eight states, *Tapestry of Homeschool* seeks to create a better understanding of the diverse and multifaceted community of people who choose to personally direct their children's learning.

The results are presented here, in respondents' own words, along with some compiled statistical information relevant only to the population that participated in this survey. The original questions are appended at the end of this document. We've grouped responses more naturally (we hope), so answers don't necessarily appear in the order questions were asked. We learned a lot about how to put together a survey of this magnitude, and realize there were a couple of redundant questions, and some that might have been better framed or provided better methods of response.

We're drawing no conclusions from the survey, and making no recommendations one way or another, except perhaps, that we take the time to listen to one another more often. Overall, we think the homeschoolers who participated in the survey spoke just fine for themselves, and created a beautiful tapestry of this little segment of homeschoolers.

We hope this report helps homeschoolers see that you're not alone in the variety of feelings you may have about your homeschool experience, that even as we love being home with our kids, like any parent, we also sometimes get tired of being home with our kids. That, like people everywhere, we wish we had more hours in the day. But we also cherish above all the time we have with our families.

And we hope that those who don't homeschool can get a better sense of our shared humanity: That our kids are like kids everywhere, curious, funny, with a million different ideas about who they are and what they want to be and do, and who grow up just fine to have careers and families of their own. And that whatever our educational choices, ultimately the common ground we all stand on is the love of our children and our families.

Theresa Willingham
Vice President
Learning is for Everyone

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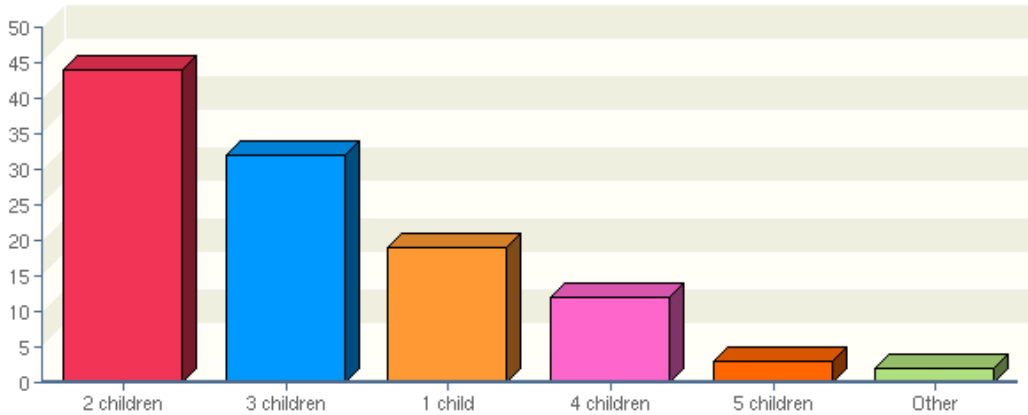
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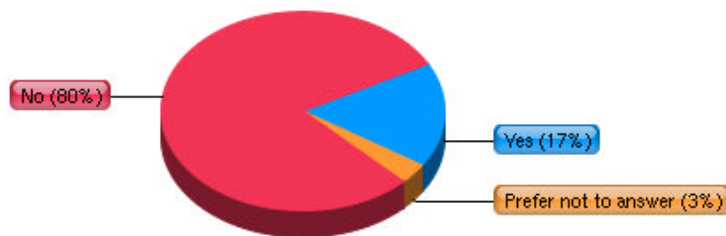
The Threads of our Tapestry

Who We Are and Where We Live – (Questions 1-4,6,8,9-11,14-16,27-36)

- 985 people completed the 80 question survey,
- From 49 states and 3 countries.
- The majority of responses came from Florida (127), followed by Oregon and Georgia with 56 respondents each.
- The majority of respondents – nearly 45% had 2 children.



- 90% of the respondents were married, 4% were single, a little over 3% were in domestic partnerships.
- 80% were homeschooling for non-religious reasons.



Ethnicity

The majority responding to this optional question ethnically identified themselves as white or Caucasian, but answers describing ethnicity were rich and far ranging including:

Hispanic
Multiracial
Jewish
Celtic
European American

Asian American
Bi-racial
American Indian
Japanese
Canadian

As well as:

- Heinz 57
- Mutts
- People of Color
- “We Don’t”

And even “Conservative.”

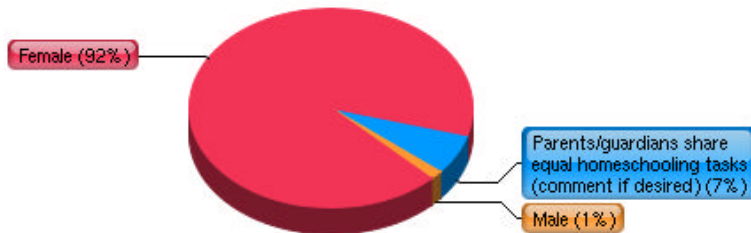
Religion

Religious identification, which was optional, varied from none and atheist, to almost every religion known. The majority of those identifying their religion said “Christian,” followed by a large number of Unitarian Universalists, Catholics and Jews and a varying combination of Pagan, Buddhist, Jehovah’s Witness, Mormon, Muslim, Eckankar, and Shinto.

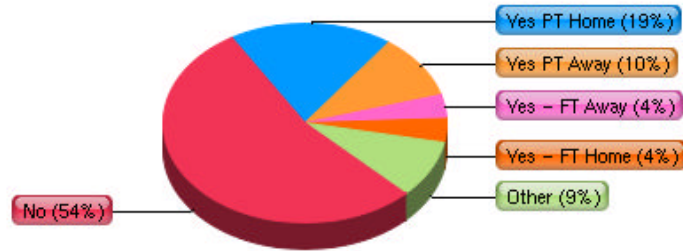
Several identified themselves as “interfaith families,” for example:

Pagan/Catholic/Buddhist

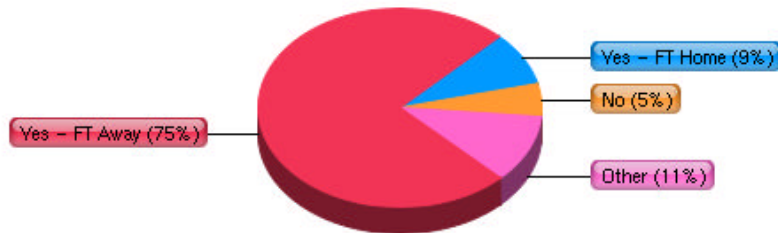
- In more than 90% of responding families, the mother is the primary homeschooler.



- 90% of responding families had at least one full time stay at home parent, although half of stay at home parents worked at least part time:



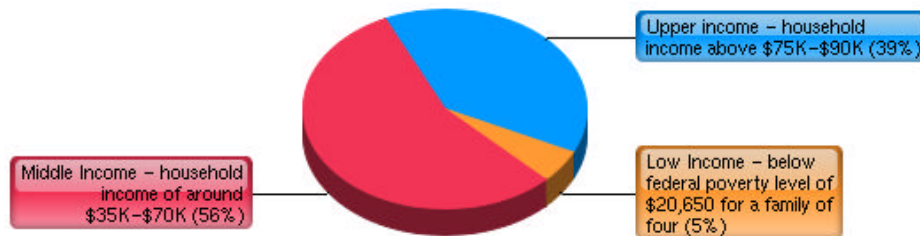
➤ 75% of the other parent or guardians work full time away from home.



➤ 12% of respondents were certified teachers homeschooling their children.



- About 5% of homeschooling adults responding were formerly homeschooled as children.
- A small majority of respondents consider themselves middle income families, about 40% upper income



Our Children

- Most children did not attend public school prior to be homeschooled
- Nearly 30% were homeschooling children with special needs, but the majority (66%) of those did not rely on county or state services for assistance or support.
- ADHD was the most commonly cited problem, followed by dysgraphia, dyslexia, autism, usually Asperger’s Syndrome, Down’s Syndrome, sensory processing disorders, and food allergies and sensitivities.
- Giftedness was commonly cited as a reason for homeschooling. Many people expressed themselves similarly on the idea of giftedness:

“Although I believe both of my children are exceptional (what mother doesn't?), honestly I believe they are just normal kids. My 6 year old is working from high school and college textbooks for science and astronomy. Some people regard this as "gifted" or "exceptional" but I believe all children are capable of this level of work if it's a subject they are passionate about and are give the time and energy to devote themselves to it. So, I suppose, from the outside he looks "exceptional" to be doing that type of work at 6, but I think he's just been allowed to follow his bliss.”

Some were brought home because families felt schools were a destructive influence in their children’s lives:

“My lovely caring sweet boy was turning into a dark angry monster from daily negative feedback from staff and peers, daughter is dyslexic and wasn't bothering to learn spelling because they didn't mark off for it because she was dyslexic”

“Our child is highly gifted with a learning disability (GTLD)-- he tests at eight grades above grade level (documented) in one area, significantly below grade level elsewhere --

and while the school made a good-faith effort to address this, the teachers were constrained by the need to accommodate to a curriculum that was not the best fit. We also saw that our amiable, highly social child was experiencing an atmosphere at school that was increasingly characterized by a great deal of bullying, racial and sexual harassment. Sometimes this was aimed at him, sometimes at others; but it had become a daily and apparently accepted part of the atmosphere. Teachers did the best they could, but had little control over things like sexual taunts at the lunch table (which were not aimed at my son, but which disturbed him), threats of violence, etc. Since everyone said that this was even more common in middle school, we felt that leaving him in such a circumstance would be tantamount to child abuse. However, without the GTLD issue, we would have undoubtedly looked at a private school.”

“The school identified some behavioral issues that we never encountered at home. We let the school test her for any learning difficulties and they could identify none. We started teaching our child, at home, the things she seemed to be missing in the classroom. We determined that the school "got" her during the most productive time of the day; at the end of the day we had a tired, hungry child in need of play, not more lessons. And she was trying so hard! My husband and I are both confident in our abilities to teach our child well, and we both love to learn (and both have doctorates in our respective fields). It wasn't a hard decision to pull her out of regular school. We figured on our worst day we'd still do better than any teacher in a classroom could do on his/her best day! And we were right. It's the best decision we've ever made.”

“The school told us that it was OK for our G&T son to never, ever learn to read rather than address his reading problem. They were only looking at the symptom, not reading, rather than the root cause, Auditory Processing Disorder. Once we remediated through FastForWord, the child took off reading. The school then claimed the child was just lazy and that it was nothing we did since we were only dumb parents. I taught at the college level, hold patents, and was far from dumb. They lost us forever at that point.”

“The Public School lifestyle was too fast paced for our family. We got the "crumbs" of our daughter, what was left after a tiring day. She was grumpy and tired most of the time, and didn't have time to do all the activities she wanted to do.”

“School had no love and only cared about the states money the received for my child. When my child started having uncontrollable s seizures we pulled the plug. Funny two weeks later the seizures stopped... love always finds a way...”

Our Choice to Homeschool - (Question 13)

- Most respondents met with support, or at least acceptance, from family and friends upon their decision to homeschool.

- **Reasons for homeschooling ranged from the basic and direct** (and yes, it was some sort of a brain hiccup that caused us to word two different questions almost identically, so responses have been combined here from question 11 –*Why Did Your Family Decide to Homeschool?*” and question 13 “*Explain the reasons your family homeschools.*” Whoops. Many respondent were kind enough to answer twice!):

“It's the best option & fit for our family at this time.”

“Academic reasons, primarily. Our son is gifted and has ADHD”

“We feel we are the most qualified to teach our children.”

“Disappointment with the public school system, More flexibility. Better able to meet needs of very active and very intelligent boy”

“We don't feel that public schools teach how to think--only how to follow and memorize.”

“To ensure family bonds, to raise our children with our morals and values, to provide a love of learning and encourage self esteem...”

“I had raised my children since birth and did not see any reason to turn that over to anyone else. I enjoy being with my children. I did not want to limit their experience by putting them in school everyday.”

“1) Problems reintegrating into the American system after the German system 2) Freedom from schedules 3) Media culture's presence in school 4) Disagree with the competition in school 5) Disagree with the assembly line approach to education”

“To reduce the influence of peer and societal pressures like consumerism, violence-as-entertainment, casual and under age sexuality. To ensure that my children have as peaceful, productive and safe childhood as possible.”

“We decided to home school because it was the best option of all options we have.”

“Freedom to progress at each child's level. Violence/bullying in school, both by students and teachers. Freedom to travel.”

“We like being with our children. We want to nurture their curiosity. We have a broad view of the world that we are happy to pass on to them.”

“Saw teen homeschoolers and was impressed with them. Homeschooling allows freedom in learning and adapts to the individual. Homeschoolers have a better quality of life. Homeschoolers do better academically according to research. Our family can travel as homeschoolers and have done so internationally for five weeks at a time.”

“...My children are serious ballet dancers and spend an average of 12 hours of dance each week. It wouldn't be possible to do that, school and homework if we didn't.”

“It seemed like a natural extension of attachment parenting.”

“We think it is best for all of us.”

“We are happy homeschooling.”

To the complex and sublime:

“Decline of our education system and morals of students, leaders, teachers and parents. To instill Godly character in our child. Keep her safe from harmful influences. Give her a superior education.”

“We became aware of our increasing disenchantment with the overall school experience. It required so much of our child, our time, and our resources. It felt like an external force was running our family and our home. Homeschooling had been lingering in the back of our minds probably since our first midwife appointment. It took us three years to find our courage to jump off the big machine but we are so happy I can honestly say we have never looked back.”

“...by homeschooling my kids I am allowing them to be free to decide everything from when they want to use the restroom to what they are going to read about that day. They are with people who love them. They are learning useful skills. They are meeting various people in the community. They have time to just sit and think instead of being rushed to school, through all the school subjects, and then home where they will be rushed to do their homework in order to get to their afterschool activities. By homeschooling, they have much more freedom and many more choices and that is what we all want.”

“Intellectually we want our children to be able to think for themselves--follow their passions and enjoy learning. We don't want others to mold our children. They are my children, it is my right, my responsibility to ensure that they reach their full potential.”

“We did not think it logical to send our children away for eight hours a day to a school where they would receive a mass produced education, and where they are taught to conform and follow, rather than appreciating their own uniqueness and leadership ability. When given the power in their own education, children are liberated from the 'norm' and encouraged to thrive.”

“800,000 different reasons. Here are but a few. My children can get a safer, better, more complete, more customized, more relaxed education at home. I do NOT want my children

to be followers of peer groups. I want them to have strong moral values and to have independent opinions despite the prevailing public opinion of the time. Public school teaches conformity. Creativity. I want my children to develop their own creativity and not have it defined or constrained in a public school classroom. Freedom. The freedom to learn the subject of their choosing, the freedom to choose, to choose to do something or not to do something. The freedom to go to the bathroom when the need strikes. The freedom to eat when the need arises. The freedom to run and play when they just can't sit any longer. Kindness. My children are more likely to be treated kindly at home by their family and friends than they are in a classroom environment. I could go on for days. I won't."

To the humorous:

"(1) Academic reasons (2) Ds's nickname is "Our Lord of Perpetual Motion". Full day K would have been torture for him."

"I had a number of things happen that convinced me school wasn't going to work for my son. First, I knew he would be the kid who came home from the first day of kindergarten with a note pinned to him, "Don't send him back without drugs". I thought I'd save myself the trouble, LOL. Also, I used to work here in town with a lot of high schoolers and I always swore that if I ever had kids there was no way I would send them to the local public school. And then I had this hilarious but sad event where two teens (13 and 19)

were watching a Revolutionary War re-enactment but could not decide what war was being re-enacted. Since my then 4 1/2 yr old child already had a grip on his town's history it cemented homeschooling in my mind."

"Eight year old asked , "Why can't I stay home and you teach me?" I didn't have an answer. :)"

And often we choose homeschooling for seemingly incongruous and conflicting reasons, sometimes seeking to protect our children from the very things others want to provide:

"Do not trust how the school will educate my children. I can teach them the basics minus the secular humanism."

"... We disliked the emphasis on conformity and Christian views and ideas and holidays as the norm at school and too much peer orientation. Also, I worked in schools as an Educational Assistant previously and have seen the way adults treat children behind closed doors and so many burnt out teachers I knew that our daughter would be considered a "problem" as she is extremely curious and enjoys constant conversation. We really decided to homeschool so that our daughter could be herself and follow her interests and maintain her love of learning and curiosity, and so that she would not have to deal with all the peer pressure and conformity until she is older and has a better sense of what is actually important to her."

“Honestly, the Lord laid it on my heart and my husband's heart to do so. He reminded us that He has called for us to raise up HIS children for HIS glory and to teach them all about HIM from the time they wake up in the morning until the time they go to sleep in the evening. How could we do that if they were gone for half the day while someone else was teaching them?”

“Biblical world view instead of secular world view belief system.”

“With both of our children, we want to avoid the bias towards a European-American, white, Christian experience in explaining the world. And, we believe that the schools do not know what knowledge our children need to know in the future (nor do we), so we want to help nurture their love of learning, their natural curiosity, and their ability to seek out the knowledge they need and want throughout life. ...”

“We originally considered homeschooling for academic reasons based on our own public school experiences as "gifted" students, bored in school. As we looked into schooling further, we realized homeschooling was ESSENTIAL to preserve our family values and Christian morals. We had not previously realized how far the government schools had turned from God. Yikes.”

“Because of the lack of quality in our public school system. Spanish language dominates this area, and most teaching is geared toward Spanish speakers, with the English speaking kids on the 'back burner'.”

“We wanted to be able to study what we want, how we want, and when we want. To have the whole world as a classroom. To learn from and with people of all ages and backgrounds.”

“To protect my children’s sense of personal authority so they can grow as THINKING individuals. To nurture our sense of Family. Institutionalized anything usually doesn’t mix much with our values. Because I have faith in a living beings ability to learn rather than be Taught .Because "once a child asks a question , he/she knows the answer forever. Because I believe in readiness learning. To protect my child from "predators" in the large sense of the word. For health reasons- my kids virtually never got sick at home. To let my kids' natural gifts flourish .To nurture their natural love for nature animals and nonviolence”

“To spend more time together; to allow our children the opportunity to determine their own interests and pursuits; to escape the teach-to-the-test climate of public schools; to counter the consumerism, sexism, racism and homophobia we see expressed in mass culture; to allow us to travel when & where we have the opportunity.”

“To provide an environment for learning so much more than the traditional school environment provides, while not exposing an innocent child to the hazards you find in traditional schools, such as bad language, lack of morals and virtues, and over-all negative air. Today's traditional teachers can not teach or enforce the morals & virtues

that were once taught in schools, as a continuation of what we were taught at home. The immorality seen in younger grades is a reflection of parents not teaching morality at home, so it's picked up among other children. For us, that is child abuse and emotional abuse. Why set up a child for failure? God gives us children to disciple, not to throw away. In addition to that, our desire for our child is to let them explore the world, traveling from a very young age as he has, to learn that our world truly is incredible, because it was created by God, who truly is Incredible.”

“We felt called by God to homeschool.”

“Because we thought John Holt had the right idea and we found out he was right!”

“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We wanted our children to have faith in God. If they are not consistently taught God's Word their faith will not be what it could be. Also, we feel God has been taken out of schools and so His protection is not there. It's evident the devil is controlling the schools. That's not a place I want raising my children. We also feel it's our responsibility to raise and teach them.”

“Schools were not liberal enough - they banned books that dealt positively with homosexuality...”

“...I also really disliked the fact that teachers totally ignored the separation of church and state and brought their religion into their classrooms. I saw students who were Jehovah Witnesses or Jewish treated less than equal to their peers because the teacher wasn't going to not have Christmas or Easter or etc... be spoiled by having one child who wasn't a believer in their class.

“...our family was very committed to teaching a Biblical World View and that is unavailable within any public school.”

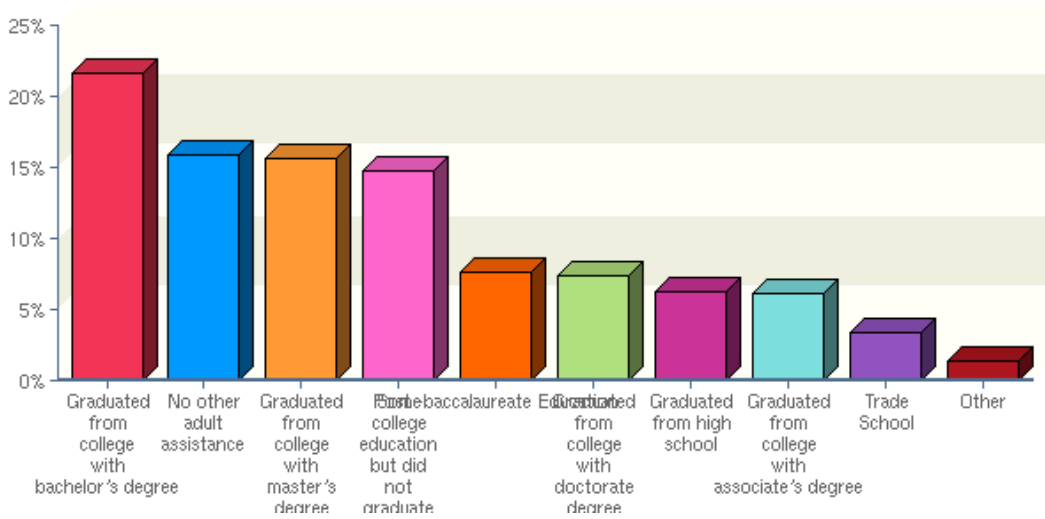
“I want education to be from a Christian worldview. I want positive socialization I like the family togetherness. Not willing to deal with the public school intrusiveness. I like to have control of my life.”

But ultimately, we all want:

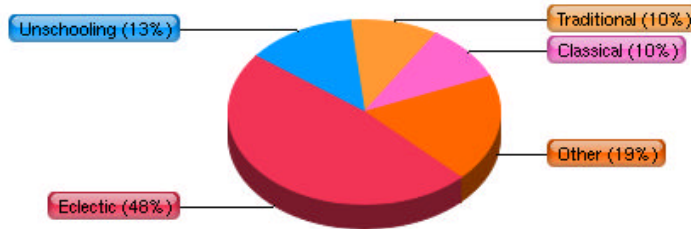
“Freedom! Freedom to learn at our own pace and in our own style without being label. Freedom to choose what we want to learn. Freedom to travel when we want. Freedom to wake, sleep, eat, use the bathroom when we need. freedom to create when we get the feeling. Freedom to work at something until you get it or until it is finished and to take as long as you need with out being made to feel dumb. Freedom to walk around the room or ride a bike while processing tough information and then come back and finish the problem. Freedom to speak and socialize when you want or need with friends you have personally chosen. Freedom to use your own brain and ask why. The list of Freedoms goes on and on!”

How We Teach and Learn – (Questions 20-24, 26-35, 65)

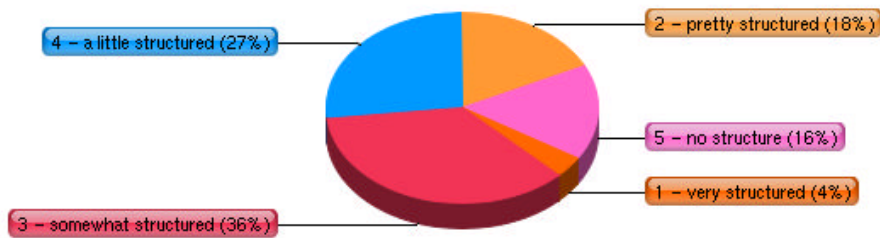
- In more than 95% of the families, women were the primary homeschooling parent.
- Level of education of homeschooling parents was split fairly evenly:



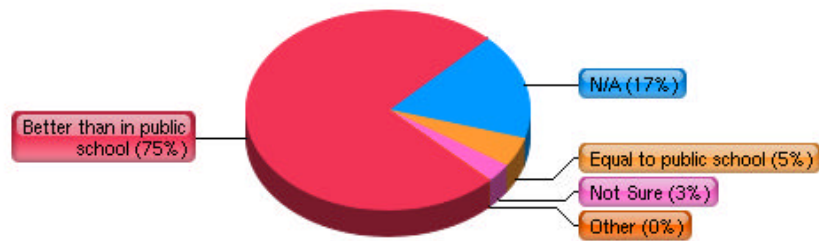
- Most respondents (about 50%) considered themselves “eclectic” in their homeschooling style:



- and vary considerably in the amount of structure in their homes .



- Most had been homeschooling 2-5 years. The majority reported spending under \$500 per year on homeschooling.
- Most assessment is by observation, although several states require annual testing. Most felt that homeschool academic progress exceeded what they felt their children would achieve in public schools:



- More than 80% of respondents gave their children the option of attending public school.
- Most reported great satisfaction with their homeschool experience.
- Uneven or “asynchronous” abilities are common and taken in stride,
- And while many reported high academic achievement, an equal number observed that academic achievement wasn’t the primary measure of their home education success:

“Our children learn at their own pace, and as a result are ahead of their schooled peers in some areas and behind in others. They tend to focus on one area of learning for a longer period of time, and then move on to another. It is our intention that in this way they will, over the period of many years, end up with the same skills as their schooled peers as well as many other skills that their out of school experience has allowed them to accumulate.”

“Our children have been recognized numerous times for success in their extracurricular activities on a state and even national and international level. Our oldest son received substantial scholarship offers at 8 different colleges this year (he's a senior) and is accepting an offer at a top 15 liberal arts college with a scholarship worth over \$200,000 over four years. He completed 11 AP classes with all 4s and 5s on the exams so far, is a National AP Scholar and scored over 2300 on the SAT, but the most important things are that he is a good and godly young man who loves his family, loves learning, and is well-prepared for the future.”

“We make progress in ways that are not measured in public school, so it is an apples/oranges comparison. We feel our kids are far better prepared to function in society, interact with adults, and contribute as citizens than most similar-aged kids we see. Academic progress represented by rote memorization and standardized testing is not an indicator of intelligence, employability, or success or any sort.”

“I started with a six grader who was at 3rd and 4th grade level, the schools were going to send him on to seventh grade and would not listen to our pleas to hold him back. My son is now in 9th grade and is at his level and ABOVE in his subjects”

“Both have regained a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem. They've been able to move up 1-2 grade levels in certain areas.”

“They do better than average in standardized testing. The doctor that diagnosed her General Anxiety Disorder and Dyslexia told me that homeschooling was the best thing for her. I can cater to her intellectual hunger without letting her be held back by difficulty in reading level. She is leveling out at grade level reading at age 10 without feeling stupid. She receives many compliments on her knowledge of animals.”

“We have not pushed writing as much in the early elementary years, so progress has not been as rapid there yet. However, we are able to advance more quickly in other subjects. In everything, we can tailor the pace to suit the child's level of understanding.”

“I have happy, healthy, caring, intelligent children who love to learn. Their interests are varied. They love help cook, do chores, help in the garden, and play. We receive comments quite often from family, friends, and strangers that our kids are so "happy". Several people have said they don't remember being that "happy" as a child. This is all we could ask for.”

"We don't really measure academic outcome (and I sometimes panic about that), but my kids have a depth and breadth of knowledge that impresses me and others. I expect if we tested them for grade level content and skills, they would be way above grade level in certain areas (such as natural sciences), but below grade level in others (such as math computation)."

"The first year we started homeschooling, my daughter had taken the mid-year standardized test at school and scored way below grade level in math. This was also reflected in her placement test for homeschool math curricula. After taking her out of school and working with her for 4 months (in a very low-pressure way), I had her tested again with the local homeschool group. She moved up 2 full grade levels. The best part was that, regardless of the test results, she had her confidence back again and her math anxiety was greatly reduced."

"I use the Massachusetts Dept. of Education Curriculum Framework as a guide for my education plans for my children, although that is mainly to satisfy the requirements of our town. Based upon the framework, in many areas both my children are advanced. In a few areas they are at or below grade level. However, our goals are not to match or exceed the expectations of the DOE, but to help our children to maintain a love of learning and to acquire the tools to be able to live a happy, independent life. In this, I feel we are quite successful."

"Homeschooling has allowed my children so much. One of my children has visited and studied in six different countries. Two of them jumped two 'grade levels' while at home and being able to work independently. They have been able to pursue areas of interest to them and truly exceed. One has a poem nationally published. My oldest has received numerous awards in college. Many while she was younger than the traditional student even graduates from high school."

"We're doing great academically, but I think academic achievement is highly over-rated. We're more concerned with raising happy, healthy, self-reliant children who know how to teach themselves what they want to learn, and who feel they can do whatever they want to do if they work for it."

"I feel exceptionally comfortable that he IS actually learning -- not just getting bits and pieces of information. His reading is remarkable, and compared with some of his exceptional high school friends (my son is in "6th" grade), he reads MUCH BETTER than they do. He even complains about friends his age (most of whom are in "honors" classes) about how they don't read very well. He has also helped a couple of his friends with their homework."

"We acknowledge our kids' handicaps without caving in to them. We show them how to adapt and overcome. Where as the school taught them how to become cue dependent and how to quit."

“My children still love to learn. That to me is the greatest achievement. They are both progressing above grade level in some subjects and at grade level in others.”

“We encourage our children to learn on an ongoing basis, generally following their own interests. While they are/will be learning how to take standardized tests, we do not use them for assessment - if they want to take them to get into college (for example) they'll know how. We do not assess according to grade level, but look at whether they are able to master something that is important to them or relevant to a situation they encounter. We're most concerned with whether they know how to access information when they need it, and to critically assess it when they have it.”

“Better in some areas, worse in others, because children have cognitive skews, and homeschoolers aren't made to be in a "norm." They can focus on what they love. Parents can be more patient with their developmental timetables. Parents can also give them special help for the deficits.”

“My children are at least as literate as their school peers. Their knowledge and experience is much more in-depth in most areas. Some things that their peers learned and forgot, they never learned at all however. But even though they never learned their times tables one is studying calculus and the other has gotten A's in Astronomy and Geology in college.”

“I would say our greatest personal achievement in our homeschool is that my son loves to learn. He doesn't dread our learning time, because he knows what is important is the goal of him doing his best at whatever level that may be, and not other peoples expectations. I let him choose things of his interest and I base a whole language approach to the topic he has chosen. Where else can you receive a tailor made education other than homeschooling?”

“All children have their strengths and weaknesses and rather than belittle them when they struggle we need to encourage them and they will excel in those areas when they are ready. Our oldest, age 13, enjoys college level science theories yet struggles with basic math and reading. His interests are broad including the sciences, programming his NXT robot, gardening including bonsai, curling, rock climbing, alternative energy, and activism. We don't base how much they are learning on some standardized test full off meaningless information. We see how much they are learning from everything in life and see specialties develop as well as their general knowledge base expand constantly.”

“I think this is hard to compare. For example, my oldest does not have any distinguishing test scores but she published her first book at 15. My oldest son does not get high standardized test scores but he is a hard worker and well liked by everyone he meets. Our academic achievement has not met my initial expectations but the personal maturity of my children has far exceeded what I could have even imagined.”

“Academic progress is a mixed bag. My children are all over the map when it comes to “equivalent” instruction with regards to the public schools. On the one hand, they excel at reading, know how to pursue a project in depth, are not afraid to ask people they don't know when they are curious, and pursue a variety of interests, many of which they would not been able to pursue in school. ON the other hand, I have one who hates any kind of drilling, so doesn't do long division, and another child who hates paperwork; he will tell you about his discoveries at length, but will not write them down. How do you compare? Public school academic progress compared to homeschooling is like apples compared to oranges. They are both fruit, but that's where the similarity ends.”

“My children are not very interested in the sorts of academic studies typically associated with school. They are both highly creative, and enjoy creative writing, clay-sculpting, other types of art and crafts, and drama/theater. They are also both Venture Scouts, and participate regularly in a variety of scouting activities that are both educational and exciting. Despite his lack of enthusiasm for academic studies, when my son, age 16, decided last summer that he wanted to attend public school in order to be around lots of other teens all day, every day, he was able to pass (with high grades) all the tests to get credit for all the required 9th grade courses - even though his studies at home and in homeschool classes had all been very informal and had never involved any testing. So he is now in 10th grade in a public school, and is getting very high grades, and is happy with his decision. My daughter, age 14, has no desire to be part of a horde of age-peers, and is still quite happily being homeschooled, where she prefers to devote her time to creative writing, crafts, learning about animals, caring for her pets, listening to good books (she is dyslexic, and listens to books rather than reading with her eyes), and participating in a variety of interests outside the home, including Scouts and volunteering at a local Shakespeare theater.”

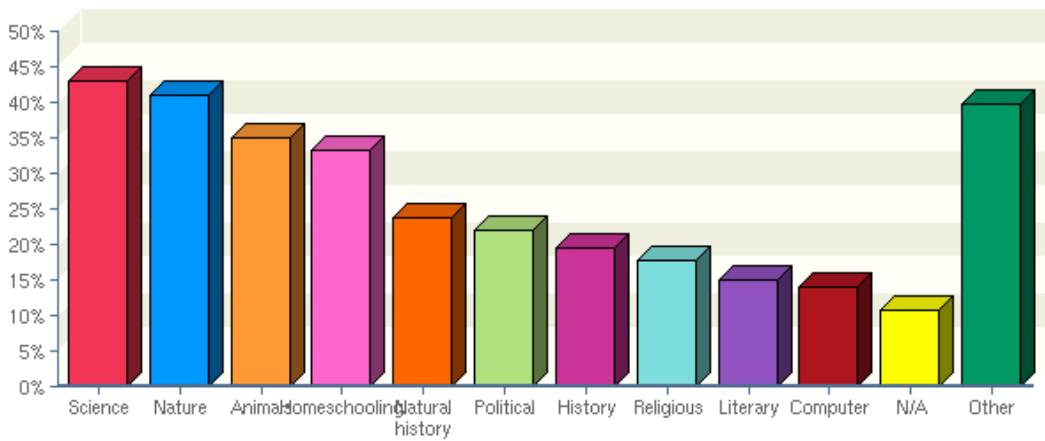
“Our local public school (back in Utah, before we relocated) told us that we would not be able to “keep up” to grade level for any of our children because “Mom is not a professional teacher” My sons were given the Iowa Basic Skills tests with their same grade level classmates. My older son was in the top 10% NATIONALLY for all 5th graders in overall scores (all subjects taken into the score). My younger son made the top 10% in reading and Science scores for all 3rd graders NATIONALLY. If the school meant I wouldn't keep them at the same level as their peers by homeschooling because they'd have such an ADVANTAGE, they were correct. I no longer make my children sit through testing, as they hate it.”

“Academic progress is not the measure of our success. Given that each person is an individual and we have chosen to honor that, our success cannot be fairly measured by test scores or subjects taught in public schools. We are growing whole people who are capable of thinking for themselves. They a learning where their gifts lie and how to use them in their own way. I've only administered one standardized test, the both scored in the 99th percentile. It does not matter. What matters is that they are happy, that they know how to work well with others, they know how to stand up for themselves and others, they know right from wrong...this could go on and on.”

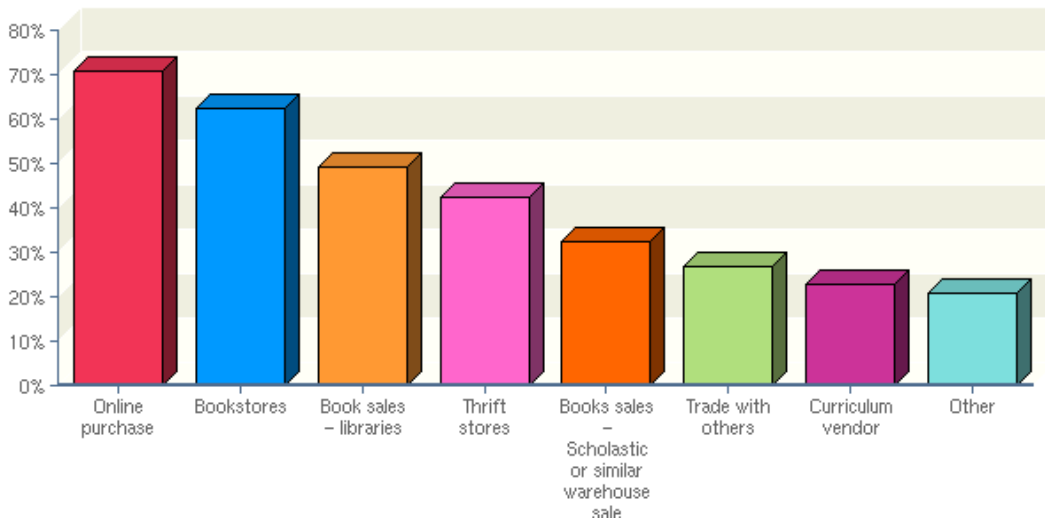
“My children's academic progress in some subjects such as history and science are much better than public school. Math and Language are at least equal. My children are exposed to things that they probably would not have the opportunity to be exposed to in a public school setting: arts, extensive field trips, religious training, ongoing experiments and hands-on science and life skill experiences. However, academic progress is not, in my opinion, THE measure of success. It is a tool, as are many other skills, to having a joyful, productive and rewarding life.”

How We Learn (Q 23, 37-44,46-55)

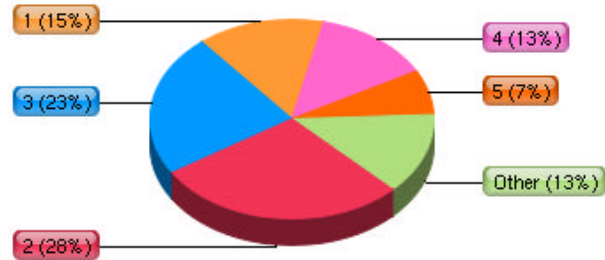
- About half of respondents subscribe to magazines, mostly science and nature magazines:



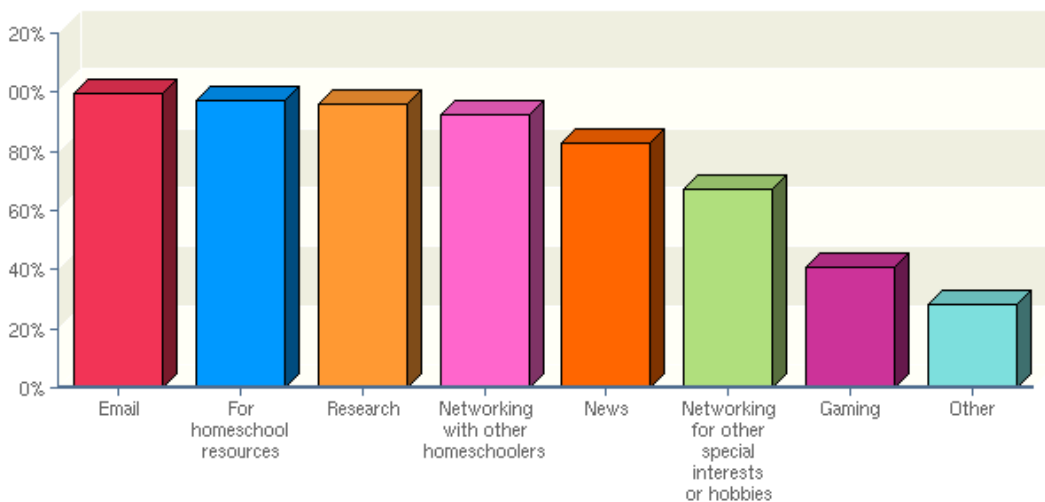
- 95% of respondents have over 100 books at home, and most (a little over 70%) buy their books online.



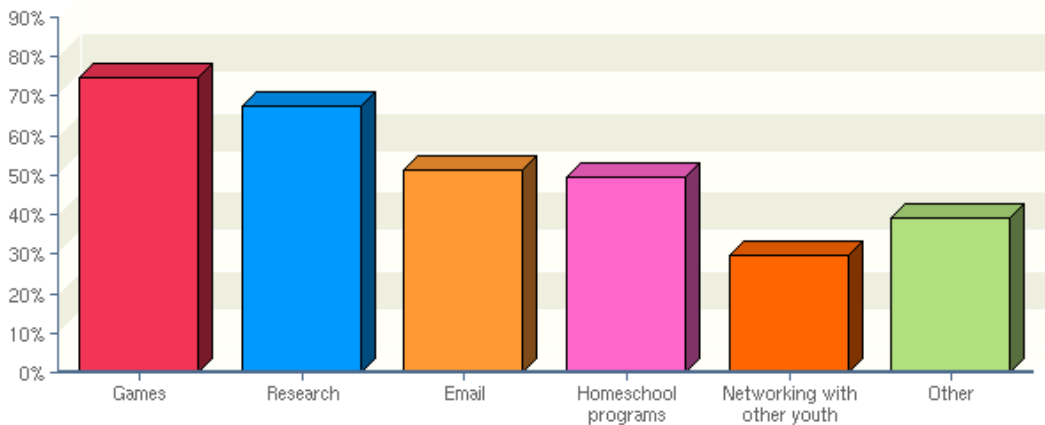
- Nearly 50% of respondents visit their local library once a week, and about 40% are on a first name basis with their librarians.
- Respondents have a lot of computers – more than 50% have at least 2 computers – 15% have four and more than 10% have five or more.
- Only about 30% have two televisions.



- And while 80% of respondents children don't have televisions in their rooms, nearly 50% have their own computer.
- Nearly 100% of respondents have Internet service at home.



- Computer use varies, but most of the time, it's used for email and homeschool resources and research.
- Homeschooled youth use the computer mostly for games and research:

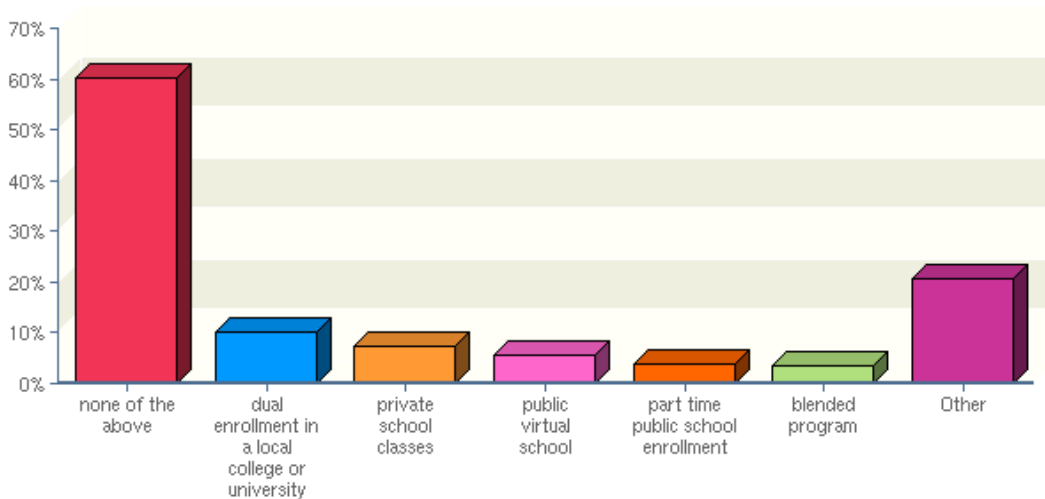


- Most respondents, over 80%, considered themselves to have above average computer proficiency.

Where We Learn (Q 56-64)

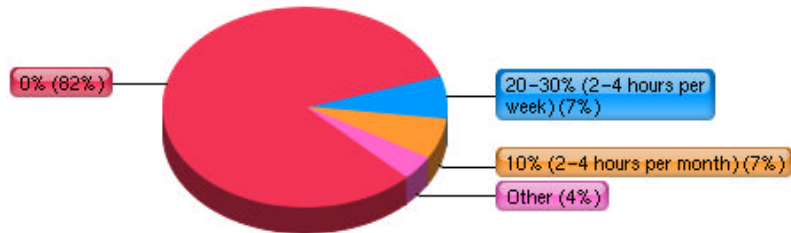
Homeschooling took many forms, and despite sometimes raging online debate about the influence of public programs, the majority of respondents did not participate in any public school programs.

- Less than 10% had children enrolled in virtual schools. “Other” typically referred to cooperative homeschool learning programs.
- About 80% of respondents enjoyed most of their group activities via a homeschool support group or cooperative.

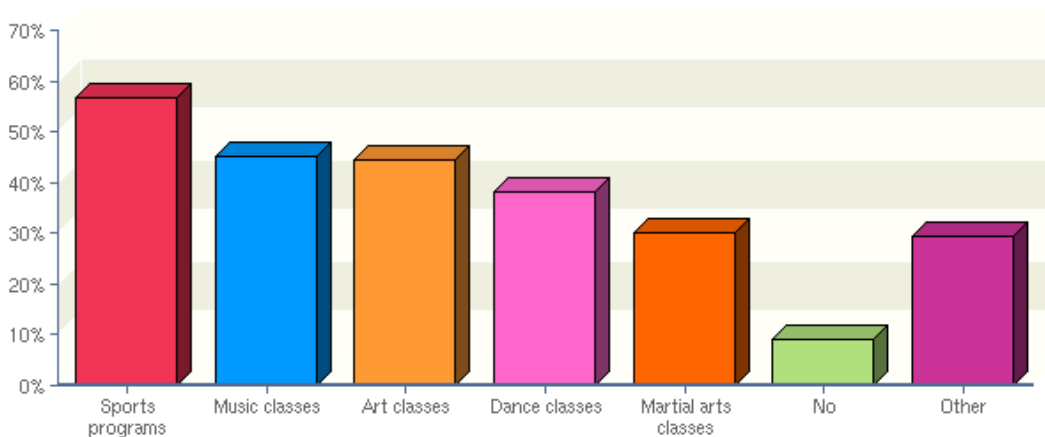


- For those who did participate in public education programs like music, art or sports, 20-30% participated for 2 to 4 hours per week.

- There was general confusion about whether such participation changed a participants educational designation from homeschooled to public schooled. About 25% said “No,” 10% said “Yes” and the rest weren’t sure.

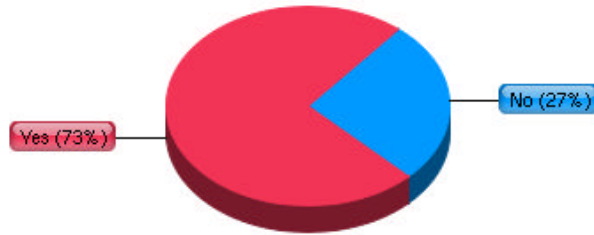


- Respondents children were active in a wide variety of youth programs – the most commonly cited were Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, but also include 4H, AWANA, church youth groups, FIRST robotics, Roots and Shoots, Civil Air Patrol and YMCA programs.
- Youth sports were the most commonly participated in community activities, followed by music, art and dance classes.



- Among the most commonly visited community learning resources were science centers, followed by museums and parks.
- About 70% of homeschool respondents participate in community volunteerism, most commonly with churches, food banks, homeless shelters, humane societies, libraries, and nursing homes.

- Most families felt they were civically active.



- Many were involved in family businesses, including restaurants, nurseries, family farms, landscape companies, and small family owned stores.
- We use a variety of curriculum, with Saxon math being among the most popularly used.
- Others include
 - Math U See
 - Singapore math
 - Oak Meadow

What We Like Best about Homeschooling –(Question 56)

- **Flexibility and Freedom** were almost universally acclaimed by respondents as the best aspect of learning at home.
- That was followed by “spending time together,” which couldn’t happen without flexibility and freedom.

“Having the extra time with my children, watching and helping them learn, and learning right along with them.”

“Watching the children enjoy exploring the world.”

“I enjoy seeing my kids learn, knowing what is going on in their lives, and seeing them happy.”

“Homeschooling has changed the dynamic of our family. We are on the same rhythm now, and we work toward the same goal. There is no more yelling and screaming in the morning to get the kids out the door (which I hated!) and no more fighting over homework. We live in peace and we work cooperatively.”

“Being with my kids and watching them grow.”

“The relationship I’m able to have with my children. The family bond we have developed.”

“Do I only get to pick just one thing? I get this one opportunity to be a parent, and I love throwing myself into it whole-heartedly. I love those light bulb moments when he understands new things. I love the fact that at age 9, he still likes to snuggle with me. I love the fact that I get to learn all these new things (he has very different interests than I do, so I am, in fact, learning a lot).”

“Being with my kids. Seeing my kids make their own choices about learning without must reactionary choice against educational pressure.”

“The Ah Hah moments my son gets in his eyes when he fully comprehends something or the pride and joy he expresses in accomplishing something new or difficult for him.”

“Being able to teach my children about God, who He is and what He has made.”

“The ability to be spontaneous, meet our kids educational needs, spend time with the kids, take a vacation when my husband’s business was slow . . . what’s not to like?”

“Spending time with my children before they grow up and fly away. Being unchained from a clock and a calendar. Freedom to respond to our kids specific strengths and weaknesses. Ability to help them learn to observe, analyze, adapt - not memorize and

conform. We feel they are really learning to think and to learn independently - which they will do for the rest of their lives.”

“The closeness I have with my children. Being there when the light goes on--when they grasp a concept for the first time. I can't believe most people miss being there for this.”

“LIFE! and freedom and live and learn!”

“Waking up each day to new possibilities!”

“We love being a family together.”

“I love the homeschooling lifestyle. I love exploring the world with my child and husband.”

“I love getting to know my children as they grow into the adults they are meant to be. I like the hours - we can sleep in and not be late for classes :). I like the fact that my 12 year old son will and does play with his 5 year old brother and 9 year old sister every day. They are very close and get lonely if one of them is gone somewhere.”

“I enjoy witnessing my kids making revelations every day... watching the wheels spinning & the light bulbs popping up! I enjoy answering their -many!- questions and participating in the interesting conversations that follow. I love talking to them, playing with them -when they want me to-, learning with them, teaching them when they don't realize they're being taught and having TIME for whatever we need time for. also, the closeness we have as a family is amazing.”

“TIME!!! We get valuable time with our children. Once they are grown, you can't get this time back. We truly ENJOY our children. Time is PRECIOUS!!”

“Growing and learning together, making memories, sharing our lives. I miss my children when they are gone because they are interesting, lovely people, not because they grew up when I wasn't looking. I have gotten to know them and to see them grow strong and compassionate. I have shared my values and experiences and grown from theirs.”

“Time - I love having the time to build into my children's lives; I like being there during their teachable moments rather than just getting the leftovers. I also like the kids having time to think, to play, to process what they are learning, to study things they are interested in, and to pursue their hobbies and gifts. And I like being able to set the schoolwork aside when Dad gets home or we decide to take a day off and do something spontaneous. I also value our family relationships. My girls are really friends; they like each other and enjoy spending time together (most of the time). And they seek me out when they have difficulties.”

Our Challenges (Question 57)

Many said “*nothing*,” but many said “*Getting it all done*,” or variations of that involving “*balance*” in our lives.

“Sometimes the little voice that is saying "you're not doing enough" or "they aren't learning enough" even though I know they are.”

“Getting everything done that I want to learn and want my kids to learn judging myself about success in homeschooling.”

“Sometimes there's pressure to prove to outsiders that we're educating our children. That's tough. Sometimes, there's so much going on that we feel swamped. Sometimes I just need a break from being with children 24/7.”

“Juggling work schedules and child care/ instruction.”

“Finding the balance between structure and freedom -- enough structure so that they can live independently in a structured society someday; enough freedom so they can fully explore and enjoy their own particular interests, abilities and gifts.”

“Trying not to feel overwhelmed buy all the curriculum choices. Also, I feel overwhelmed when I think of the high school years. Trying to balance the "fun stuff" with the more structured learning. Trying to help my oldest regain her love of learning and her fear of contributing during co-op classes.”

“Finances.”

“Balancing the kids desire to play, with their need for rhythm and my need to clean the house...basically, balancing all the needs/wants.”

“Wondering if they're missing something they'll need.”

“Two things - balancing homeschooling with all of my other responsibilities and not having enough adult interaction. I love homeschooling, but I do wish that I had more contact with people my own age.”

“Trying to entertain one child while teaching another and keep baby happy at the same time.

“Finding enough time to expose them to everything I find interesting about the world. Figuring out how to address their particular needs when their experience is different from mine (for example, what will inspire a slow writer?).”

“Being with them 24/7 lends toward taking one another for granted, which leads to some difficult days and seasons. While I think that's probably true of all parenting in general, the closeness of the homeschooling family's home life intensifies these moments.”

“This year is incredibly different from last year...I say it's the maturity. My most difficult challenge is expecting too much from him. I expect him to learn it all, get it all right, and do it on time. I'm learning to be more flexible and less uptight about perfection. I'm reminding myself daily that he's learning more than so many, and life balance is more important than perfect scores...”

“Teaching secularly when living in the bible belt. The peer group for my daughter in the secular community is very small, but it is slowly growing with really good kids.”

“Dealing with my kids 24/7/365!”

“The lack of external reward system. You have to be fairly confident to keep it going. It is exclusively my responsibility if I mess them up. Finding time for myself.”

“Finding the right books, programs and projects to capture the interest and spirit in the child. Sometimes something that interests me not necessarily interests my son the same way so it is a trial and error situation.”

“Combining the role of educator and parent, the absence of a peer cohort for the child to use as a yardstick for achievements.”

“The most challenging part of homeschooling is choosing a curriculum. There are so many resources available to homeschoolers that it can be quite overwhelming. Additionally, I then had to choose a style (i.e. classical, Charlotte Mason, etc); just too many choices.”

“Finding the time to accomplish all that we plan!”

“Balancing the schedules of all three children. Making sure everyone is busy and happy, but not too busy.”

“Balancing a variety of needs- homemaking, providing learning opportunities, making time for everyone's needs.”

“Having no backup. If mom's sick, there's no substitute teacher to bring in instead.”

“Finding other kids and moms to get together with regularly. We are in a very rural area where most of the other HSers are very conservative and strict. All of our friends (HSing and not) are always busy with activities, responsibilities, school, work, etc. and we could use more social time. My kids spend lots of time with other people and other kids but not concentrated time with one or two special friends, which they would like more of right now. Their friends in homeschool and public school are always busy.”

"Being the one and only authority figure in my child's day-to-day life presents its own set of challenges. Positive and negative, it's all directed squarely at me. :)"

"The freedom! It's all up to me, isn't it? I have to guide us and sometimes I doubt myself. I'd also like more privacy and alone time. Messy house. With my husband working at home and homeschooling to kids, not to mention all our hobbies, our house is packed full of way more than was ever intended to be going on here!"

"Stereotypes about what a homeschooler is/should be. Not having the money to do all the things we might like to do. The challenge of finding decent non-Christian-specific materials designed for homeschoolers rather than classrooms."

"It can be difficult separating mom from facilitator. I try at all times to resist the temptation to make school a discipline issue when everyone's having a bad day. Sometimes it's OK just to pack it all up and call a "personal day.""

"Balancing. Balancing the needs of three children who are two different ages (we have one set of twins). Balancing homeschooling with housework (the housework usually loses). Balancing my relationship with the children and my relationship with my husband. You get the picture."

"Focusing all of us with the daily distractions of life. People tend to think we can help with anything and take off at a moments notice because we are "home doing nothing." It's also hard when you have a subject the kids don't like (for us it's writing) and having to always be the "bad guy." It would be nice sometimes to have somebody else crack the whip, and be able to just come in with a warm chocolate chip cookie and "save the day.""

"Sometimes a feeling of being overwhelmed, of wondering if I am doing it 'right!' "

"Dealing with people who don't understand it - and keeping the house clean!"

"Working and HS together. They require very different use of time - one more fluid and flexible, the other task oriented with completion. Often times the two worlds don't compliment each other and the parents in our "group" get a bit overwhelmed. However, these are our choices and we have not relinquished that responsibility to the school district, teachers or others."

"Reconciling the needs and desires of multiple people."

"We live in the boonies, so we spend a good deal of time in the car. I loathe traffic."

“Trying to choose from all the options in the world. Keeping my budget under control. Trying to get children to stop reading to go outside, trying to get children to do boring text book work when it's sunny or snowy...”

“Reinventing the wheel, so to speak, each year, as the material changes from year to year. If I was a teacher in a traditional school and assigned to 3rd grade for instance, I would be a “newbie” only once, then would be able to master the material in the subsequent years. For 9 years, I have had to learn, along with my children, the material for that year, then move on the next year to all new material. This has been challenging, yet exhilarating at the same time.”

“In homeschooling a high schooler, the biggest challenge has been knowing what directions to take for high school credit, knowing all the requirements for graduation, keeping up with the paper work and not letting any vital detail fall through the cracks.”

“Keeping myself out of the school model of a teacher and just trying to get into being more of a curious learner along the natural learning styles of each of the children.”

“Ignoring the voices in my head that try to tell me what I should be doing according to the indoctrination that I received for many years of my own schooling. Although I do a pretty good job of ignoring them to be honest.”

“Staying on track with the lesson plans while keeping up with appointments and the household chores.”

“Being with my kids. I'm not being facetious. Being with my kids is the best part of homeschooling. We are really experiencing their childhoods with them, and having a positive influence on them. But it is challenging being with them all day. It is draining. It can be emotionally exhausting to put so much time into something and feel like it might not be working, or the child is ungrateful.”

“Working with all the different personalities of our family, and finding a way to make life flow easily in the area of academics, and every day living....”

“Being consistent. Life happens while we're making other plans. :-) Sometimes a week goes by and we don't get back to a certain subject and we have to start back at the beginning of a lesson.”

“Worries about the future for the kids. Will they be able to adjust to society at large? Will society adjust to them? See how wonderful they are?”

“Kids who need a break from each other. Organization of time and space at home.”

“Being with my son constantly. I don't always get the time to myself that I need. Sometimes being mom and teacher can conflict.”

“Having to jump through hoops to get what a public schooled student takes for granted such as work permits, drivers education/training, entrance into programs for gifted students and having to identify as a “grade” not based on your level of achievement or abilities.”

“Never having a single moment at home alone!”

What Our Children like Most and Least (Question 68)

“Freedom, flexibility are probably their favorite things about homeschooling, and I know they like being together, with us and with one another (usually!). I think the thing they like least is probably listening to me “teach” about everything. (Other mothers don't make the morning paper a civics lesson.)”

“My son loves having the opportunity to experiment with things that interest him and to have the time and opportunity to create when he feels inspired. He hates phonics, though. :)”

“Least - mom is a harder teacher and challenges her more than public school Most - flexibility / less time spend on school.”

“I think they enjoy having the freedom to learn what they want and no having to deal with the structure imposed by public schools. They miss having the daily interaction with other kids.”

“My oldest son (6) responded with a typical “nothing”. But if I ventured a guess he'd say not having to get up early and head off to school where'd he have to sit still for 7 hours a day is what he's likes most. Again, guessing here, he'd say what he likes least is doing his workbooks everyday.”

“They like being with me and having school be interactive. They dislike anything which requires a lot of worksheets.”

“They like sleeping longer in the morning. They like being home instead of in a stuffy school. They would like to see their friends more often.”

“G: most:” I love everything about homeschooling!” (probing) “not sitting at a desk all day” least: “harder to find guys my age.” S: most: ? (probing) learning at my own speed, learning anywhere I want to least: Mom making us go somewhere boring. Adult: I think a lot of their attitudes about school come from the information I've provided. They don't really have a basis for comparison - this is all they've ever known.”

“My daughter like most to be with her family and the freedom homeschooling affords her. What she hates most is MATH! My son likes the relaxed pace of homeschooling. He hates when we must run around.”

“The kids like the freedom they have. They can work at their own pace, and learn about what interests them. They like learning outside and being much more connected with nature. The most difficult part for them is the isolation. We do take advantage of community groups, park days, and classes, but at times they miss the built-in friends that come with a school situation.”

“Sleeping in, staying up late, discussions around the dinner table, making a science experiment out of anything that fits.”

“They like it least when I try to 'make 'them do math ,reading, writing, on a regular basis. They like being in the drivers seat of their life They like meeting and getting to know diverse people. They like being treated with respect -they really don't like it when people are cruel, patronizing, or act out of ignorance but they have amazing compassion for these types of behaviours from people.”

He claims to like everything about homeschooling, except the fact that he doesn't get any snow days!

“Sleeping late and not getting picked on are favorite reasons for homeschooling. Least favorite would be working when school kids are off.”

“My children liked the flexibility and the ability to work at their own pace - they hate wasted time. Their biggest struggle was trying to reconcile their grandparents hostility towards our educational choice. It was very uncomfortable for them to constantly be asked "when are you going to go to school?"”

“7 year old boy: Likes the most: We get to go play with our friends. That we get to stay home and not have a teacher teaching us. It is fun at home. It's fun to do homeschooling because we can do whatever we want like different lessons or go play. Likes the least: Kids in school get to play videogames more. 10 year old boy: Likes the most: I get to do schooling with my mom one on one. That I don't have to do a lot of work. That I can play outside more than kids in school. I get to read my own books not read books that the people say I have to read. Likes the least: That people think that homeschooling is bad. I am happy with my life.”

“This is a bit tricky to answer, because my children don't know any life but the one they've had, so they can't compare it to public schooling. They don't know what it is to be herded, to be told what to do and when and how to do it, to be put on someone else's agenda. They like being with each other and with me; they like being able to write to pen pals and have fun with paints; they like reading books; they like watching Signing Time; they like playing outside in the sun; they like going to multicultural events., I do know that they don't like not getting to ride a school bus, that's an experience they crave.”

“I doubt that they think of it in these terms. What you are referring to as "homeschooling," they think of as, simply, "life." To put it another way: "Homeschooling" is not a broken-out part of their lives. To them, "homeschooling" is mainly a socially acceptable code word (when communicating with the mainstream world) for "doesn't go to school.””

“My children like the most that they aren't stuck in school all day and when they're done, they're done. My oldest feels like she is "different" and "odd" because she homeschools.”

“Most: The freedom and spontaneity. The ability to learn about things that interest her and not have to spend time on things that don't. The security of being with a loved one most of the time. Least: Not getting to play with friends as much as she'd like to because they are in school.”

“My daughter tells me she loves to be schooled at home. She doesn't wish to get on the bus in the morning to go off to school. Her favorite class is her history class where about 6 students from all over the U.S. are taught by conference call from a history expert out of his home. She thinks it is great to have classmates all over the country. Likes least? She wishes she could ride the yellow school bus.”

“'Free time' says the 10 year old at my elbow, 'Friends, park, play' least: 'Ummmmm, Nothing' The 6 year old likes 'I don't really know what I like, or if I like it. 'what do you like about life?' There are fun things. least: 'I have to do as I am told.' They don't have anything to contrast with and life is homeschooling, there are no off hours at our house.”

“Bickering with each other. Sometimes we are cooped up too long in a too-small house. They think they might have a more expansive social life in public school, but they didn't have that they were there - that's a TV-generated fantasy. My older daughter has a wider social life now that she is part of various youth groups - my middle schooler is a bit envious, but will also be there in a few years. They like getting enough sleep, better food, having the freedom to chose when to do things, spending long periods working on one project uninterrupted, long periods of reading, working in pajamas, going to the bathroom without asking.”

“Lack of structure, Lack of structure”

“My middle daughter dislikes any formal seat work unless she initiates it. But she loves "reading" me readers. My son likes sitting down and doing bookwork as long as it doesn't take too long. I don't think he likes anything the least about homeschool. His favourite part of homeschooling, per his own words, are the freedom he has to do things like not walking in a line and being able to drink and eat whenever he wants to.”

“They love the freedom they have. They like the fact that they don't have to go out into the cold in the winter. They love the way they can read until they are done or work on a project without interruption. They don't like the fact that we are not allowed to take part in sports or band or things like that. My youngest sometimes feels a little lonely so we get together with a friend regularly to help him with that.”

“Our sons have always said that they like wearing whatever and being comfortable. We started out all together at the dining room table, but as they grew and projects diverged, they took over the entire house. Our oldest son is a little uncomfortable with the phrase "home schooled" because it has daft-religious overtones. People seem to think "Oh, they are homeschooling for religious reasons", which we are not. Both boys are a little confused about not have a high school diploma that is recognized by others as valid (college), but it really hasn't caused any problems. Community colleges require

proficiency (tests) for admission (the fact that our sons had no accredited diploma was not a problem)."

"14 yog favorite: freedom to learn about what you want in-depth least: not having a locker 9 job favorite: not having homework least: I don't know 7 yog favorite: not having to sit in a chair all day least: cleaning"

"Our daughter likes that her daddy is a relaxed sort of person - less rigid than mommy and therefore, they go through their day sometimes in a few hours sometimes not at all. Sometimes they have "a farm day" and I cringe! She likes the curriculum least of all - which is why we are changing it next year. This one is WAY too boring for her - but we chose it for our first year for its' simplicity. She likes the flexibility, the play time, the fact that we can take it on the road when we want to and the fact that she can do some of it at night when mommy gets home."

"My daughter says she likes being able to see her friends more, likes being able to have more time in the day to do the things that she wants, although she still feels pretty busy because she has lessons and activities (sports, piano, drama, kendo, etc..) that she wants to be involved with. She says she also likes being able to see her mom more often and loves being able to paint more, and being able to ride her bike and skate more. She says she also enjoys having the time to make up recipes and draw and practice playing piano and collecting rocks. She says she's happy that she gets to play video games with her dad more since he often works weekends and has his days off during the week. When asked what she likes least about homeschooling she said, "Nothing I know of right now.""

"They like the flexibility they have in structuring their day, and they like that we can go to museums at off times and really talk to curators and the like. What they like least is when adults who aren't really interested in their homeschooling feel that they somehow have the right to question them or quiz them on what they are learning."

"They like the freedom in their lives the most of all, the more free time to play, to sleep until their body wakes up, having time to do things they want to do (classes their schooled friends cannot access due to those kids' time constraints). They like to have a say in some of what they learn (some of it is not up for discussion). They dislike being told what to do or learn. They hate struggling to learn something that comes hard to them, they wish everything was absorbed instantly without effort. They blame homeschooling for us putting limits on things like watching TV and playing videogames and even eating junk food. So while they would say sometimes that homeschooling is not great, it is only because (they have told me this) that they think that the homeschooling is the reason they are limited in those experiences while in reality those limits would be in place and maybe even more strictly if they did attend school (due to needing time to do homework in the evenings)."

"It is more fun than traditional school. We don't get snow days!"

"Most - Math! I think because of the manipulative. Least - Narrations - "Boring!""

“Both of our boys love not feeling strapped to a desk all day being told what to do, how to do it, why to do it, where to do it and with whom to do "IT" with. the freedom empowers them... it gets their creative juices flowing and encourages them to WANT to learn about things. they seem to enjoy spending time with us -their parents- more so now than ever. the school they're enrolled in is fun for them the 1-2 days per week that they may or may not attend... they have a sense of community now. I believe that they dislike being asked to be a more functioning part of our household. since they do not attend a normal PS, they have a lot more time to be held accountable for their "things" and for their behavior. our youngest, almost 7, would like to be in PS only because he'd be able to be around other kids ALL day long... he's the social butterfly while my older son, almost 11, is more of a loner. this is a hard question to answer!”

“My children like the fact that there is no pressure to keep up with 26+ other students in a classroom. My son likes the fact that he isn't forced to stay in at recess because he didn't finish his stack of worksheets or because he didn't read and test on the AR books that don't interest him in the least. My daughter likes the fact that she can just learn and not get caught up in all the cliquishness of middle school. They both like that they can sit down and have a nice leisurely lunch---usually with no mystery meat.”

“My son loves the freedom to learn what he wants when he wants. However, he wishes he had the larger social community of the public school system (although he has plenty of friends in his homeschool community).”

“Least -- missing out on sports team most -- flexible schedule that meets our family's needs, not those of a preconceived schedule.”

“Different children like different things...my oldest hated field trips, but my younger ones love them. Some love math, others history, others fiction. I have one who LOVES grammar, another who LIVES for geography. Getting up in the morning is probably what they like the least!”

“They really enjoy our time as a family learning together. They love it when they get so lost in learning they spend days creating a project and chat about it non-stop with excitement and anticipation throughout. The lack of others to learn with is the most disappointing about homeschool. At times they imagine school is full of children just like them, loving every minute of learning and they long for friends who would join them in a project or share a book with them or have long discussions with them over philosophical issues. So they reach out to other children in their peer groups and quickly realize how odd they are to the other kids. Public school kids are worse than other homeschool kids. I can see the disappointment in their hearts over this. “

“My children think that it's awesome that they only have to spend three to four hours doing school work and are then free to play, draw, etc... as opposed to their public schooled friends. Their least favorite thing about homeschooling would have to be not

having gotten a chance to ride on the big yellow bus. It sounds silly, but they want to know what it's like.”

“My son says he likes going different places and getting to choose what he learns most of the time. He doesn't like doing worksheets. My daughter likes choosing different classes and going to them and she likes doing crafts and projects. She thinks workbooks are boring, too. Obviously, they can't address the advantages and disadvantages of homeschooling over other types of schooling very well because it is all they've done. The perception they have of public school from books, movies, and TV. is not very realistic. They think children have to sit still in their seats and listen to boring teachers all the time except for lunch and recess where they then interact with the other kids who are either nice or mean to them.”

“She loves being home, self directed learning. An only child she is sometimes bored or lonely, but never as frustrated as she was at school where she was bullied and REALLY bored.”

Where Our Kids Want to Do (Question 69)

Our teens and young adults, like teens and young adults everywhere, have a variety of interests and goals. It's interesting how many of our homeschooled children want to be teachers.

"17 year old son will be entering college in the fall, majoring in criminal justice and minoring in music. The youngest, 16 year old doesn't know what career path he wants yet.. He is getting good grades and working towards the goal of college but has not expressed a strong desire to go to college."

"My #1 child has graduated high school (Dec 2007) and is heading toward Belmont University to study Music and Entertainment Business. She wants to be an entertainer (singer/dancer) and is auditioning for Disney, and various theme parks for the summer. She may be heading to NYC to spend time living with and working for family members in Manhattan and auditioning for Broadway things - just for summer experience."

"Our 10th grader has not really decided yet. However, he is exploring MANY options by taking outside classes (a NASA robotics class at a local university, drama experiences, etc). He is leaning somewhat toward the field of law. His goal at this point is to get a 30+ on his ACT and graduate with a 4.0 average so that he can get a full scholarship. He has taken the ACT twice and the SAT once and has (so far) a 4.0."

"I have one high school age whose interests are primarily philosophy, psychology and music. She plays piano and drums, is playing with a band and is always exploring a variety of music . She likes to mess with hair colors, styles, extensions etc and has considered cosmetology. Her current academic goals are to improve her math and reading skills, to get the basics in for a diploma or GED."

"He's graduating from high school this year. He may take some correspondence college courses, but his main interest is teaching tae kwon do. He spends time going to seminars on the sport and this year he'll be traveling to meet and work under the masters."

"Current senior: accepted at a very competitive private university with scholarships and financial aid Current sophomore: has reached a high level rank in Civil Air Patrol; wants to continue pursuing a career in aviation -- not sure if that will involve military or not."

"Our oldest son is interested in architecture and is pursuing a degree in that area. Our youngest son (17) is interested in basketball and is seriously pursuing playing in college and professionally. As far as his backup career, he is interested in psychology."

"Both of my teens are going into Game Design. The one graduated is doing an online 4 year program. The other is going a community college route."

“My son is 15, and is a drummer and artist. He has expressed interest in going to school for both music and art (luckily we live within a mile of a state college known for their art school and their jazz program) but has also expressed an interest in studying philosophy or religions. This is if he chooses to go to college. He's a musician, so he's also interested in starting a band or becoming a music reviewer. He also talks about writing graphic novels.”

“Finish high school next year and then begin CLEP tests for a college degree in Music.”

“My goal is go to a 4-year college, major in English or Literature, then go on to library school, than become a children's librarian.”

“She is getting ready to attend a missionary college. After 4 years getting her BA in missions and two years of missionary work she intends to get her masters in psychology.”

“One is beginning University in a few months. Her goal is a Dr. in Anthropology. Another is planning on Teaching and writing novels as well as being an illustrator.”

“My oldest became a mechanic which he loves. The second one has a degree in business and is working at a music store which he is determined to buy from the owner in the future. (He began as an apprentice there when he was 16.) The third one is considering college and is presently working at a hospital. He works with mental health patients. He has worked at the hospital since he was 16. He has a heart for troubled people. My fourth begins college in the fall to be a high school math teacher or a librarian--not sure which yet.”

“My son is graduating this year and is leaving to enter into the Navy Seal program for the US Navy. My other son is starting dull credit classes at our local community college.”

“Our oldest is 20. He will transfer into OSU, Corvallis OR this fall as a junior with a major in engineering and a minor in computer science. He has signed up for an intern programme where he will work for two six-month periods in his field for experience and salary. He found baseball too time consuming (his 4.0 dropped to a 3.89 because coaches require 20 hours a week and there is not enough time). He's taking golf lessons an may look into the OSU golf team. Our youngest is 18 and has been taking college classes for the past year or more as I ran out of ability to teach him higher math and other sciences. He also wants to socialize more. He has not yet decided on a major, but is looking around.”

“My 17-old-son is a junior and is working toward a career in automotive technology, but he also has interests in driving a truck and cycling.”

“1) 16 year old wants to be a gastroenterologist 2). 15 year old wants to be a ornithologist 3) 13 year old wants to sing and write music.”

“Middle Son = age 16 / Dual enrolled at Comm. College with 4.0 GPA / plans Law School in Intellectual Property Law Older Son = Homeschool Graduate / enrolled at 4 year College now where he will graduate in 3 years instead of 4 / plans Law School in Environmental Law.”

“One is headed to a military career after 15 or so college credits, which he will get at home. The other is going to graduate from homeschool with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering. He then wants to get his masters in Physics. He has a patent in the works.”

“My daughter wants to pursue both music and writing, though she is also considering a veterinary career. She had as a goal to get into the SC Gov's School of the Arts, and has been accepted for next year. My son wants to go to the SC School of Math and Science, and then on to MIT, pursuing a neuro-engineering link to make improved prosthetics that are realistic in appearance, and interact with the nervous system in natural ways. Both Gov Schools are final two years of high school, boarding schools.”

“One wants to work for NASA and the other wants to be a special education teacher.”

“She wants to attend Radford University in Virginia & be a speech pathologist.”

“Film/TV production”

“NROTC; career as a naval officer. Interested in history, science, dance. 2. Interested in sports; wants to pursue sports communication.”

“My daughter is interested in a career in design. My son is interested in chemistry.”

“12 y.o. wants to be an architect. Thus, she is pursuing 2 associate degrees - one in liberal arts and one in fine arts in order to be a strong candidate to architecture school when she's 16.”

“I'll be a freshman, I want to go to collage and be a teacher.”

“My youngest just finished 10th grade at an alternative high school. He was able to pick his classes and advance at his own pace. He was planning to finish in less than three years but instead is going to a math and science program at a university next semester where he will take university classes and get high school and university credits. He will finish high school with two years of college math, science and English behind him.”

“My son's plans include finishing high school through the dual enrollment program with his AA degree and transferring to the University of Florida's Naval ROTC program for the Marine Corps. He is working to join the USMC as an officer, specializing in intelligence recon, and after his commitment to the Corps is up, he would like to work for the FBI or CIA in special operations.”

“My daughter wants to attend a selective or semi selective college. She would like to get a BA in Economics, join the Navy, go to law school, become a JAG lawyer, and then later be a civilian lawyer, retire, get into politics, possibly the Senate. That is her plan but the order may change, or anything could change. The one constant: She has always been interested in the Navy, Econ, Law, and Politics. She would like to minor in classics.”

“architecture; engineering; culinary arts”

“Guitarist, Scientist, Engineer, Artist”

“My teen wants to be a professional musician. Although he feels he "should" go to college (which I support!), I think he's starting to lean away from it. He is currently interested in learning algebra, cooking, and modern American history.”

“My daughter wants to get certified in ASL through the high school to college program and then use that to work her way through a 4 year college. She says she's interested in so many things she's not sure what she wants to be. She doesn't want to be limited to one thing.”

“My son has no goals. That's going to bite him in the butt in a couple of years when he graduates. But he'll figure it out just like his father and grandfather had to (they were also kids with no goals).”

“I have a 9th grader who wants to work with animals as a veterinarian or zoologist.”

“Currently, my highschooler is dual enrolled at the university, where he's concentrating on math and science. He intends to pursue a degree in Physics, and eventually wants to work at CERN.”

“She wants to join a dance company. I want her to go to college.”

“To own a bicycle/bed and breakfast business.”

“My daughter wants to be a librarian. She plans to go to community college and then transfer to the state university to get her masters in library science. She wants to get married, have a family and homeschool her children. Her general interests are reading, writing fan fiction, surfing the internet and boy scouts (she is on a BS venture crew).”

“High school aged son is AP scholar as a freshman, and will be National AP scholar next year, with all high school requirements done. That gives two years to do more stuff before college. Maybe live in China for a while, take law school, or take lots more AP tests to matriculate as a junior. Maybe get really good at golf. He is interested in speech and debate, law, literature, science, and medicine...considering possible surgery or law. Either would be easy at this point.”

“Air Force Academy”

“To attend a division 1 college and play sports at a professional level. AND... to get a nursing / kinesiology degree.”

Where Our Grown Homeschooled Kids Are Now (Questions 70 -72)**Where They're Going to School:**

- Our kids are attending colleges throughout the country, including::

American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC);
Arizona State
Belmont University, Nashville, TN
Benedictine
Bethany School of Missions
Brevard College
Bryant University, RI
Chemketa Community College
Cleveland Institute of Music
Columbia State Community College, TN
Concordia University of Wisconsin.
Cuyahoga Community College
DeVry University
Earlham College
Eastern Connecticut State University
Eckerd College, St. Petersburg FL
Emerson College
Engineering School at U of Michigan
Fairmont State University, WV
Gibbs School in VA.
Glendale Community College
Hamline University
High Point University
Hillsborough community College
Holy Apostles in Cromwell
Impact 360 in Pine Mtn
Indian River Community College
Indiana Vocational College
ITT Tech in Rochester
IPFW in Fort Wayne, IN.
Jacksonville State University
Jefferson Community College Middle
Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, MI
Lake City Community College
Miami of Ohio.
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community
Mt. Hood Community College
Nazareth College
New College, Sarasota FL
NM School of Mines and Technology
New Mexico Tech
Oberlin College
Oklahoma Christian University
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
Ozark Christian College
Piedmont Virginia Community College
PLU in WA state
Portland Community College
Portland State University
Randolph Macon College
Red Rocks Community College
Reynolds
Rice University in Houston, TX
Rochester Institute of Technology
ROTC
Salem International University
Shasta Bible College, Redding, CA
Smith College
Springfield, MA
Tennessee State University, TN
Temple University.
Trinidad State Junior College
Truett McConnell in Cleveland, GA
University of Alaska
University of Central Florida
University of Houston Honors Program
University of Mary Washington
UMass/Amherst
University of Maryland
University of New England
University of New Mexico
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of South Alabama
College
University of South Florida
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas – Dallas
University of Victoria
University of Washington,
Western New England College, Valdosta
State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

- Students received a variety of scholarships, ranging from HOPE scholarships, to merit based aid.

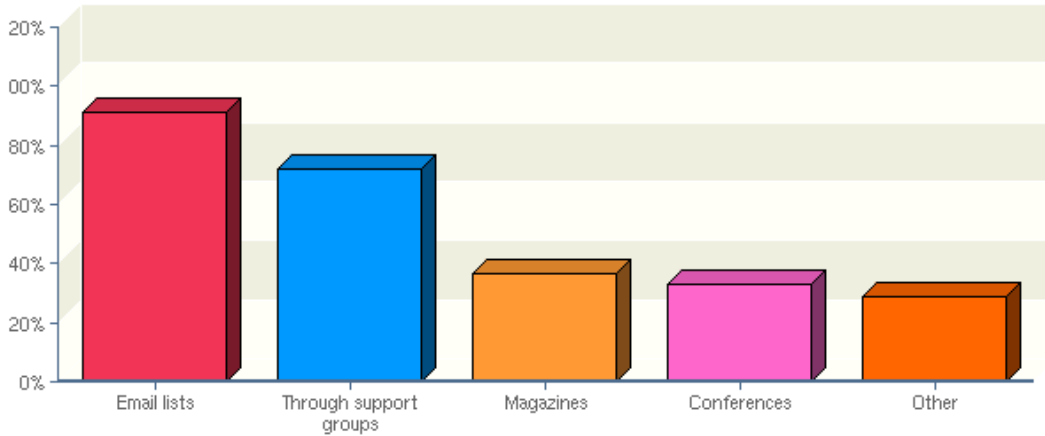
What Else They're Doing

While most participants' grown children were still attending college, several were married with their own families, and many were working as:

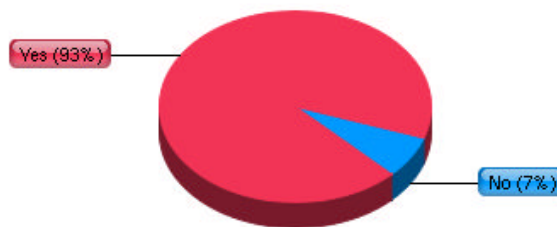
- Nurses
- Dancers
- Aerospace industry
- Missionary work
- Internships
- Electrical engineers
- Military
- Management
- In Family Businesses

How We Stay Informed About Homeschooling (Q 74-78)

- Most stayed informed about homeschooling via email lists.



- Most respondents are well connected at the local level, with a little over 80% being members of local homeschool support groups, but nearly 20% were not members of any group.
- Respondents reported less connection at the state level, and even less at the national level.
- Results were fairly split on state homeschool group membership – a little over 50% were part of a state group, and just under 50% were not. Most people – 93% felt they knew their state homeschool laws pretty well though.



- Nearly 80% were not part of any national support group. Of those who were, about 5% cited membership in Home School Legal Defense Association, followed by the National Home Education Network and UU Homeschoolers with about 2% each, with a sprinkling of members in Homeschooling Mensans, and Unschoolers United.

State Level Concerns (Question 79)

Respondents expressed a variety of concerns, mostly having to do with the desire to avoid increased restrictions on the homeschooling freedoms they currently enjoy. Sometimes the things we want or are concerned about are in opposition to what others want or are concerned about.

Of particular note: Many respondent outside of California expressed concern about a CA homeschooling case that was making headlines at the time of the survey. But CA homeschoolers seemed largely unconcerned about it.

“I just hope the laws never become more restrictive.”

“Interference by special interests with private agendas is my biggest concern.”

“My state is pretty lenient but since homeschooling is growing a such a rapid rate now worry about changes in the laws. “

“Concerned about the law changing that would make homeschool parents have a degree in education.”

“It would be nice if home schoolers were included in the teacher tax breaks on income taxes. It would be nice if it was recognized by congress as a legal and normal way of schooling.”

“ Our state (NC) is very negligent in securing better services for our kids. The state organization (NCHE) was hands-off, but I feel a better plan is working with private school regulators and in exchange being part of virtual schools or having the ability to participate in elective type activities (band, sports).”

“Required standardized testing for homeschooled and private school children. We all use different texts and styles of teaching, standardized grade based testing would force everyone to study the same material at the same time.”

“The removal of Special Education services for homeschooled students (NY).”

“...(in my state), if neither parent has a bachelors degree you must register with an umbrella program. The majority of the umbrella programs are Christian based. This does not show a separation of church and state so is a biased approach. Also, for homeschool families of different religious backgrounds this law does not take that into account.”

“Required Testing just defeated in TN. Churches having to pass School level Codes - do not support.”

“Not really. Every once in awhile there's a movement to impose restrictions on home schoolers. This is usually met by an equally energetic response maintain the status quo.”

“Mississippi has recently launched a virtual school program. There is a common misunderstanding that virtual school is the same as homeschool. Some legislators don't understand that virtual school is public school at home. They tend to try to lump us all together for state testing purposes.”

“ Tennessee is currently considering making testing mandatory for homeschoolers. Testing as in the same testing public schoolers take. TCAP OH NOOOO! I printed out a TCAP (4th gr) recently and what a bunch of useless crap. I don't know what I'd do !”

“I'm ALWAYS concerned! It seems that there is always some representative who is introducing something to restrict homeschooling. And I'm also concerned over what happened in California recently, and how that many affect the attitudes of other representatives in other states.”

“I really don't appreciate the level of accountability I have to our school system. I have no faith in them, yet I have to answer to them. We also differ in our interpretation of the laws, which are very loosely worded.”

“No one should be told how to homeschool or that they can't homeschool. However, my life would be a lot easier if I enrolled my kids in a virtual public school program. That way I could give my kids the K12.com curriculum that I love, without worrying about my kids figuring out how to "work" the school system.”

“I am concerned about military recruiting of homeschooled youth, particularly my own son and oppose it. The state has various bills that are concerning school age expanding to 5-18. I am concerned about the MCAS test and whether homeschoolers should take it, and not desiring legislation like that. I am concerned about special needs children and homeschooling in this area and am afraid to get school help for fear of the state not allowing homeschooling. However, there seems to be no need for any special help anyway as my son is progressing fine.”

“I am upset that so many homeschoolers don't consider the virtual school (MoVIP) to be homeschooling. They say that since it has it own laws and does not follow homeschool laws that it doesn't count. We have been thinking about enrolling our eldest son in one, and I still think that it is homeschooling because it is schooling at home. I think that the state law should say that anyone schooling their child at home IS homeschooling regardless of the technique used.”

“The whole virtual academy debate. It's not homeschool, it's public school in your home. I think that this option will open the door for the government to try to mandate what homeschoolers can and can't do. I believe that every parent has the right to choose what is best for their family and am glad that this new option is available to homeschoolers. My fear is that the 'system' is seeking to find a way to get it's ideals/morals/way of

thinking into the minds of all those homeschoolers who are not in a classroom being indoctrinated. Right now it seems like a great option, but this could just be the beginning of the end of homeschoolings as we have known it. (I've been reading the book--The Underground History of American Education by John Gatto, so know that I understand that the system wasn't designed to do what we keep hearing it's supposed to do I see even more why homeschooling is the best option for most, if not all, children.)"

*"I would like to see public schools run like public libraries, as resources available to the community to pick and choose what meets our needs and not be obligated to. This can't happen without the dissolution of the authority that has been given to the schools by compulsory education laws. I would much rather see the community/state/nation put the energy and money they are wasting on the schools into *offering* resources for parents who want to learn how to parent better, and compelling *only* those parents who have shown themselves to be abusive or otherwise unfit to take classes or enroll their children while they undergo counseling."*

"I think Colorado requires too many hours. I don't think the state should require a certain number of hours because some kids learn the material much faster. I don't have a problem with the required standardized testing, but I think they should leave it at that. It's not their business how many hours it took for my child to show proficiency at their grade level."

"I wish my child could participate in public school athletics."

"PA has a lot of rules. I would like to live in a state that leaves us alone more. I am concerned that backlash/misunderstanding about virtual schools and homeschooling will result in more restrictions. I am concerned that homeschoolers are stereotyped as religious extremists that isolate their children."

"I wish there was a better option for secular homeschoolers. I do wish homeschooling was as easy to initiate as it is to attend public school. Parents should be free to make the best educational choice possible for their children without jumping through hoops."

"I am in Michigan and concerned about the proposed bill HB5912."

"I really just wish that we were more like Wisconsin....tell the state once that you intend to homeschool your children, and they don't ask any more of us...I don't agree with annual reporting or testing, but do it to stay "legal" I think it is an invasion of my privacy and oversteps the bounds of the government....children have a "right" to an education...I as their parent (in collaboration with my children) decide how to do that...I don't think the state should dictate that."

"Oregon is respectful of children who learn at home and their families. But it concerns me to think of how uneducated the general public is about the possibilities for homeschoolers. It is such an enriching path without many of the overt social pressures to

conform as seen in school systems. Children I believe on the whole feel better about who they are and more confident about their family relationships.”

“I am very upset that Oregon is not supportive to homeschoolers. In Washington State there are so many state funded opportunities, and I know very many homeschool families who are moving across the river to embrace those opportunities. I wish Oregon would embrace the future of education--it could boost our economy and our state in so many ways. When my kids get to high school age, if things don't change, we may be forced to move out of state (if we are still homeschooling, that is).”

“Too much state involvement in several states.”

“New York's loss of special services this year is a concern.”

Homeschoolers should be allowed to take classes in the public schools. Our tax dollars still support those schools after all.

“I am concerned that homeschooling families take their freedom to homeschool for granted. When legislation comes up, and it does every time there is a session, we need to continue to be vigilant and remember what the former generation of homeschoolers have sacrificed (time, etc) for what we have.”

“The recent anti-homeschooling court ruling in California has gotten homeschoolers here in GA, including myself, concerned about how that attempt to outlaw or restrict homeschooling might impact our state legislature. We have one of the least restrictive sets of homeschool requirements here in GA, and we want to keep it that way! Other concerns in recent years have involved legislation proposed by the HSLDA, an organization that claims to represent all homeschoolers, but which, in reality, has a fundamentalist Christian agenda and does NOT represent me or most of the members of the homeschool groups to which I belong. Certain changes to GA homeschool laws have been proposed and promulgated by the HSLDA which, ostensibly, would have been for the benefit of homeschoolers, but, as the proposed legislation would have mandated that public schools allow equal access to public school sports teams for homeschoolers, many of us were concerned that such a mandate would have led to requiring homeschoolers to use the same curricula and testing and grading system as the public schools, AND would have caused a lot of resentment towards homeschoolers who would be seen as having an unfair advantage over the schooled kids. That proposal and others like it never made it past the committees of the state house and senate.”

“The misrepresentation of home school by people who seem to have an agenda.”

“I believe the homeschool laws in Florida are very strong. In my opinion, Florida is a very homeschool friendly state. The requirements of Florida homeschoolers, in my opinion, protect everyone. . . the homeschooled students and the homeschooling families.”

“In Maryland homeschoolers are regulated as private schools. We do not have access to any public school programs including music, band, art, PE, athletic teams or any special services other than testing and limited access to speech therapy. Homeschool sports teams usually are denied access to local recreational, public and private school leagues. There are also always the annual efforts within the legislature to regulate homeschoolers, particularly in the areas of standardized testing and teacher certification of parents; so far fails each time.”

“Maryland is a pretty good state to homeschool in.”

National Level Concerns (Question 80)

Although only about 20% of respondents were part of any national group, there were more responses about national level concerns than state level concerns. And there were a lot of dichotomous answers – the fear of federalized homeschooling, coupled with a desire for tax breaks, for instance, or concerns about government control in our lives side by side with a desire for a Parental Rights Amendment that would legislate parenting.

“Efforts by HSLDA to legislate morality through things like the Parental Rights Amendment, and thereby resulting in legislating not only homeschooling, but marriage, as well.”

“I am worried that public and private school lobbyists will continue to push for tighter rules on home schooling.”

“I think the HSLDA group is often looked to as the national group (heard them on a program on NPR) and I do NOT feel like they are representative of me or others who homeschool. they have a specific agenda and it does not include a significant portion of homeschoolers.”

“While I don't want any government money, because that would entail government input, it would be nice if the tax deductions for educators were extended to homeschoolers. And if documentation is a problem, to all parents who buy books and paper, and computer programs, etc. I don't know how it can be done without inviting more government control than I'd be happy with. HSDLA's push for a constitutional amendment is also ridiculous, and not where we ought to be putting our efforts. They don't even get the facts about the CT homeschool law "crisis" right. Luckily, I think they haven't a prayer of getting it passed, but it is distracting from real issues.”

“I am concerned that religious extremists and cases of neglect/abuse/authoritarian parenting give homeschooling a bad reputation. I am concerned that loving, respectful, progressive families may face stricter laws (e.g. teaching credentials) because of such cases.”

“I'm concerned about certain political parties (if elected) attempting to take away our rights to educate our children as we see fit.”

“There is a push to get "homeschooling" defined so we can be put in a box. Well there is no one box that fits all homeschoolers. With the emphasis on testing I would hate to have to prove to the powers that be that homeschooling works.”

“I don't think home schooling is in any danger of being prohibited nationally.”

“The NEA always needs to be watched, as they want to CONTROL schooling/education at ALL levels. Also, with the socialistic climate going on in our country today, I'm also concerned with the candidates running for President, and their idea of what education

"should be" in this country. I find it very scary to think that education could be controlled even more stringently at the national level, with sweeping controls put in place for all the states, regardless of each individual state's stand on education."

"I'm pretty sure that the NEA is the devil. As long as their agenda is self-serving and involves taking an administrative role with home-schoolers I will be wary."

"Since schools have been traditionally left to the states, I'd prefer that over federal legislation. I know some states are much more difficult to homeschool in than others, but feel states should deal with this on a more local level rather than having a federal law that applies everywhere."

"I am concerned that right-wing fundamentalists have bamboozled the general public into believing that they constitute the majority of homeschoolers and, therefore, "speak" for homeschooling."

"I am concerned that media images of homeschooling are dominated by religious and social conservatives -- and beyond conservatives to fundamentalists and fanatics. I am concerned about the regulatory and legislative reactions to this movement, particularly when the media image seldom breaks past the self-appointed leaders of the religious homeschooling movement to see the rest of us. I see the need for a realistic survey of homeschooling (thank you!) then a follow up publicity campaign that knocks the religious homeschoolers out of their positions as de facto spokespeople."

"I am concerned with the perception that homeschoolers need increasing government oversight in order to be sure they provide well for their children. In my view, oversight was provided BY the government schools TO the parents, to assure the PARENTS that the government was providing an adequate education for their children. Because parents have an inherent interest in their children's lives, I believe it should be assumed that barring any evidence to the contrary parents will make the best choices for their children."

"We're not all religious zealots! Some of us still believe in the separation of church and state, and teach tolerance in our homes and communities."

"I prefer that there is no mention of homeschooling at the Federal level and that it be left for the States."

"Sick of the HSLDA trying to control everything."

"I worry that someone somewhere will want to have a national home school standard. Legislation only leads to more regulation and difficulty."

"It sounds like laws are horrible in other states (like having to pretend that your a Church School when you're not religious and overbearing reporting requirements).

Sometimes I think national guidelines would be great but only if they're like Minnesota's. They'd probably end up being like one of the overbearing states."

"I am a liberal and a democrat, but I as much as I hope a Democrat wins the next presidential election, I worry about what that means to homeschooling. Public education is so beloved and romanticized by liberals, that it seems to me homeschooling may be put under a microscope in the next few years."

"Not homeschooling issues per se. I would like to see Parental Rights amendments passed in all the states and at the National level."

"My biggest gripe would be that the largest national homeschool group (HSLDA) is too heavily involved in politics not related to homeschooling. I wish they'd stick to homeschooling and not use homeschooling as a vehicle to promote other political agenda. When they do that it paints all homeschoolers with the same brush, as far as the public is concerned, and some of us don't like being associated with certain political agenda just because we homeschool."

"Yes, I'm very concerned that HSLDA continues to purport to represent homeschoolers, when their values couldn't be more antithetical to mine."

"I am opposed to specific tax breaks being written into the federal tax code for homeschoolers because even though the money might be nice, I feel this is a slippery slope towards the possibility of national homeschooling standards/requirements, to which I am very opposed. Other than that, I see no other national level issues."

"I would love a homeschooler's tax break because we save the school district money by paying for our own child's education."

"NEA lobby is too powerful. I wish they'd concentrate on doing a better job with the public schools they have, and stop trying to interfere in homeschooling - it works!"

common public view that 'all' homeschoolers are religious fanatics common media portrait of HSLDA as representing all homeschoolers common media representation of homeschool families as secretive, likely abusive."

"Yes, I am. I am afraid that if our gov't becomes less conservative, I may lose my right to homeschool. It seems that only liberal rights are fought for and won. As a conservative I feel that my rights don't seem to matter much."

"The Homeschool Defense League speaking on my behalf. They do not represent my opinions. I feel there is a lack of truly secular organizations in homeschooling on the local, State and National level."

"I do not like HSLDA being the "mouthpiece" of all home schoolers, and wish their was a national level hs'ing organization that was more representative of the diversity in homeschooling families."

"I do not like the idea of a lobby group speaking for "all" homeschoolers."

"I feel that it is a violation of our US constitution that children are required to be schooled at all. education is one of those rights left in the hands of the parents (or the person themselves). and we should be free to educate (or allow our kids to educate themselves) without schooling. schooling, of course, is only one avenue to an education. and not necessarily the best one (well, certainly not the best one, I should say). I believe compulsory schooling laws are unconstitutional. and also that the states could/should be sued for forcing parents to put their children in harm's way by sending them to school."

"Check out parentalrights.org and that will pretty much cover it all. While children should have rights, they should have the right to have a parent that is able to make the decisions. Children have no business making 'life' decisions that can affect them for the rest of their lives."

"We would like to see more support for parental rights, and families , whether they chose to homeschool or not. We are particularly concerned about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and it's legal positioning above our own national law. We are concerned about it's effects upon our parental rights and freedoms."

"I don't want a parental rights amendment that will delineate parental rights because they are so vast as to leave out some which will only increase governmental control instead of limiting it which is the stated intent of the amendment. People have got to question "And then what happens?" to the nth degree before they propose laws or amendments. If we don't we'll get a lot of unintended consequences that could have been foreseen and addressed before hand."

"I'm quite concerned with HSLDA's general policies and their suggestion that they speak for all or even a majority of homeschoolers. While they may do some good, I suspect that they do more harm than good for homeschoolers in general, and feel that they are too tied to particular political positions that have nothing to do with homeschooling."

"I think homeschooling in America is perceived very narrowly by the majority of Americans. They are constantly bombarded with media stories about kids who have been homeschooled in order to keep them isolated and abused or about fundamentalist families who isolate their kids in order to "protect" them from everyone else in the world. I'd love to see real homeschooling families from across the country, from across all groups doing what they do best. I'd love to see the day when homeschooling was not considered a little weird by the rest of society. We're getting there, but very slowly."

"...I don't like the homeschool movement being perceived as purely a religious-based phenomenon, would like perceptions to mirror the diversity. I would like to see more co

mingling of public , private and homeschool resources for educating children. though I believe parents should have freedom of choice regarding their children, I also believe we have a lot of power over children and that the more varied the choice of resources are for parents, the more well rounded children will be. I believe in a little bit of checks and balances where raising children are concerned..”

“I don't want there to be any national homeschool issues! Let's keep it at the state level please!”

“Need for national recognition and understanding of the positive elements of homeschooling.”

*“I'm worried about **any** national-level homeschooling laws or tax credits. All I want is to be left alone by the government, and national recognition will undoubtedly lead to national regulation.”*

“I am concerned that homeschooling is coming under fire as a choice of educating children. I want this choice to be protected at a national level.”

“I just want families to have the freedom to do what's best for their own children. It makes no sense to hand that responsibility over to a government agency.”

“I am opposed to Universal Preschool.”

“I'm concerned that things like NCLB have brought schooling issues under federal oversight.”

“Yes. I'm concerned that Congress will try to institute a national curriculum. I'm also concerned about the influence of the national teacher's unions on our Senators and Representatives.”

“Media treatment of homeschooling as a bizarre aberration to normalcy gets up my nose.

I'm bothered by the fact that the HSLDA wants to define the entire face of homeschooling as a religious movement, with no regard for the fact that secular homeschoolers likely equal the number of religious homeschoolers.”

“I wish the national media would avoid perpetuating the stereotypical images of the homeschooled child as a buttoned-up, hyper-religious, socially backward do-gooder, or alternatively as a vegetarian, contrary hippie-wannabe. My children fit neither of these stereotypes, nor do any of the other home-schooled children we've met.”

“Homeschooling is under attack by those that believe they care more for our children than we do. It would be laughable if it was not so frightening. Our state believes that a 22 year old with no vested interest in our children is more qualified to teach them, than the parents that would give it all for them. A college degree does not qualify a person to raise

and train our children. IT has been proven through the last 40 years, just how failing our current system is! Yet instead of changing it the system is just altered slightly. It needs a complete overhaul. Until the rights of parents are expressly provided for in our Constitution to determine the best course for our children, OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT SAFE! And currently UNICEF is trying to create a UN bill on the rights of a child that gives the government the ability to decide the best interest for the child. This is so loaded with socialism it isn't even funny. The bill expressly states the right to privacy and freedom of expression. An 8 year old has no such right. The right to respect yes, but the right to look up things on the internet, have the friends of their choosing, express themselves violently, get involved in drugs. Our hands will be tied as parents to raise them. We must have the ability to protect our children and to guide them. That is a responsibility given by the creator (whatever you call him/her), not a right earned by the government. The current system was designed to catch the falling children not to set the rules of the successful families.”

“I hate to see the religious right-wing used as a "typical" homeschool. ...And I dislike those who don't take their children's education seriously, end up in the news and ruin it for those of us who ARE serious and conscientious.”

Final Thoughts (Question 81)

Respondents were given an opportunity to express thoughts about anything they weren't asked, and concerns or questions they had about the survey. Many enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on so many aspects of their home education experience; many agreed the survey was very long, a surprising number thought it was too *short*, and many had recommendations for future surveys, or things they'd like to know more about in the homeschool community.

"Thanks for the opportunity to review who we are, what we do and WHY."

"All our homeschool voices need to be heard."

"Thank you for reaching out to secular homeschoolers. We are out here! :-)"

"Homeschooling is such a diverse experience, I don't think this (or any) survey can possibly capture it. For us, this is a different way of living, where learning isn't something separate from what we do every day. It's not easily quantified or categorized."

"Homeschoolers are a very diverse bunch at it will be nice to see the results of a project that is attempting to reflect that."

"I think the survey is a good idea, but limited in use. We will find out that homeschoolers are a diverse group with many teaching styles."

"I'm amazed at how deeply I feel about homeschooling after putting words down. I have lots of friends that homeschool, and we get together, and we share and we support each other, but to actually put down on paper how I feel, and how I do things, or how my son feels about our decision, is a real eye opener for me. I look forward to reading through this when it's done. I should have copied what I wrote before coming to the end. Thank you for the opportunity to reflect. "

"God bless you as you create this accurate picture of our trend. :)"

"Glad that someone is doing this survey and hope that it is not going to be used to further the agenda of HSLDA or any other organization."

"Good luck. I would like to add that there are many resources for people who hs for religious reasons. People seem to associate hs'g with them, but they most surely do not represent me."

"I think a question that should have been included is, "If you do not belong to any homeschool groups, is there a reason?" In our case, we don't belong to any homeschool groups because all the groups in our area are extremely Christian in nature."

"The most difficult question was about homeschooling for religious reasons. While I don't think that was our reason in a sense that you may think, it is difficult to say that

anything I believe in strongly is not part of my religion. I believe in homeschooling as the best way to raise children. I couldn't allow myself to make another choice for my family because it would be morally wrong. It is my responsibility as a mother to raise my own children and allow them to learn in the best environment I can possibly provide. This can only be accomplished by homeschooling."

"I have a tough time finding homeschoolers who are not religious. I would like to see more studies done that show that there are liberal minded, non religious homeschoolers out there (not homeschooling for nonreligious reasons, but truly non religious homeschoolers)."

"It might have been useful to find out if people who don't consider themselves religious homeschoolers, consider themselves secular homeschoolers. This is a segment of the homeschooling community that has been largely ignored by the media, homeschooling support groups, etc."

"I loved it! You asked pointed and important questions. Thank you for giving me the chance to speak my mind."

"I am a handicapped (partly blind) homeschool mom and would like to see more resources (ways to attend local activities, etc) for us."

"Thanks for taking the trouble to document info BY HOMESCHOOLERS."

"Thank you for helping to open eyes about the diversity that exists in the homeschool community."

"Interesting survey. It's nice to find one that does not assume that my children are closeted at home for 7 hours a day and never spend time with anyone outside their own religious sect and homeschooling support group."

"You're right, with a baby on my lap this did take a very long time. LOL"

"It was interesting, but short..."

"Too long for busy people...thanks though"

"Very easy to do!!"

"This has been a long survey."

"It was interesting, but short and I am not at all sure it will give you any better picture of Homeschooling than the next survey. But at least you tried."

"I am surprised at the depth of the survey. All of the questions are important to the homeschool experience, but I have not every looked at them wholly. Blessings!"

"I would love for the nation to realize that homeschoolers are not all religious, awkward, socially-stupid spelling-bee winners. They are normal people. Our girls worry about their hair and makeup, and clothes, and go through the same hate/best friend relationships that any girl goes through. The kids hang out at the mall, go to the movies, and when meeting someone new no one even knows they are homeschooled unless they bring it up."

"It was great and therapeutic!!!! Brought me back to my focus on why we homeschool!!!! I could use that encouragement right now!"

"I want my tax dollars to use towards my child's education."

"Great survey...I like that this isn't an "official" gov't survey, but homeschoolers speaking or themselves."

"Thank you for taking the time to listen to homeschoolers! We're pretty passionate about what we do. And I honestly feel that if more parents decided to homeschool, we could raise up an amazing generation for the future."

"I like that so many questions did not have the "multiple choice" format. There were a few of those questions that I'd have liked the opportunity to expand on further but I can't remember which ones now!"

*"Thank you for doing this!! I think a major issue my friends and I discuss that didn't receive much attention in your survey is the importance of religion. There are MANY mainstream parents who are choosing to homeschool. The religious zealots are still around, of course, but more and more families are reflective of the general population: perhaps religious, but *not* extremists, and not always Christian. Our group has Catholics, Wiccans, Pagans, Scientologists, Mennonites, Unitarians, and Atheists. Very few of them would say that religion was a major factor in their decision to homeschool."*

"It's always nice to be able to put my thoughts down about hs'g -- especially within the parameters of someone else's questions. Many of these questions I wouldn't have thought to ask myself. So it's always good for me to reevaluate my positions. :)"

"I thought this was a pretty in depth survey. I felt the last several questions were very thought provoking as I don't always stop to think about state involvement or current issues. I'm usually so caught up in being with our children I don't always pay attention to the current homeschooling issues."

"We homeschool because it's our freedom to do so. I hope no one ever takes that away. I actually have a child that I spend time with that I love, but I like her too. That wouldn't have happen if she had continued leaving home for 7 hours a day for schooling, then come home to do a few more hours of homework."

“I think this survey is very good for trying to get a picture of what homeschooling is like. The only problem with this kind of survey, is that the responses are likely to be only those that puts homeschooling in a good light.”

“I think the whole culture and socialization issue is important, and you will have many opinions in this area. Also, there is a lot of difference of opinion over unschooling, hyperschooling, classical schooling, etc....however, in our groups we learn to live and let live. Although we all have radically different beliefs and politics, we all share the common value of taking care of our children.”

“Having been homeschooled, I know that I can learn what I want to know. I don't need an outside incentive to want to learn more. I don't need to wait for someone else to tell me what to do or how to do it. I trust myself. I know that I don't need to know everything because I know how to find the resources to find things out. It is a very powerful thing. I was once told I am fearless like an animal who'd never known a predator. I attribute that to having those years to ponder, learn, observe, and develop as my own person, joyfully living my life.”

Other things people would have liked to have answered or discussed :

- Age ranges of the children for this survey
- Political affiliation could have been asked
- I was surprised there were no religious questions included.
- I'd be curious to find out how many hours and days of the week others homeschool.
- A section on how many homeschooling families had problems with public school before deciding to homeschool.
- If you do not belong to any homeschool groups, is there a reason?
- What are the family dynamics, i.e. mixed family, adopted children, etc..?
- How do you decide on your curriculum, like following a set method, Cathy Duffy, or advice from other parents?
- Perhaps some State law relevant questions - e.g. in CA there are four legal methods for homeschooling; in some States there are more regulations to do with testing vs. assessments/evaluations; some States don't even require any kind of registration. How do these affect people's plans or activities?
- I was surprised there wasn't a question or two on what subjects are covered in my homeschool.
- I'm curious how many homeschoolers use laptop versus desktops.
- It might have been useful to find out if people who don't consider themselves religious homeschoolers, consider themselves secular homeschoolers
- For those who were homeschooled or who are, do you think you will homeschool your own children?
- More questions about socialization and how the children relate to others.

- Perhaps questions about the needs of homeschoolers (i.e. what things would you like to access to that you don't presently; description of support groups in which one belongs; general overview of how a typical day goes).
- You asked if the special needs child was receiving services. You didn't give an opportunity to record if the special needs child had graduated from services.
- You didn't ask about religious education done through the church which is also a snapshot of the child's involvement in a formal learning environment
- You did not have a box to check for people who own more than a hundred books.
- Perhaps more information about the types of homeschooling resources people use: types of curriculum, books, online resources. etc.
- It would have given better data if some of the questions could be answered for each child.
- Would be interesting to know how other homeschoolers view family trips; are they always for educational purposes or is education always added to pleasure trips?
- Wish there were a few topics more on apprenticeships or other mentoring programs.
- I heard it suggested from an old survey, that research into the effect on moms hasn't been, but needs to be, done. I believe women are taking the burden of homeschooling on their shoulders and am wondering if they are supporting each other enough and are receiving enough support from family and community at large,
- What would you do differently if you had to do it over and why? What 2-5 things would have helped you the most in your home schooling? Did you know anyone who home schooled before you considered it yourself?
- It would have been helpful to indicate household size, and composition. As well as whether the parents were involved in any educational setting.
- An area that wasn't discussed was homeschool freedom or persecution of homeschoolers I would like to have an idea of the national "tolerance" for homeschooling. I'd really like to separate fact from fiction in this area.
- Age of parents is left off. Rural, suburban or urban location (I think this makes a big difference for some). General acceptance level of HS in your area.
- I'd be curious to learn about how much time other families dedicate to different subjects, which they feel they need the most support with and what kind of support would be most helpful.
- Would have preferred a rating system 1-5 on happy/unhappy/concerned, etc type questions with room for explanations as optional.
- It might be interesting to ask about the most common misperceptions and assumptions homeschoolers deal with.
- You might include if we follow a particular approach or not, and if we belonged to a religious-focused homeschool support group or not... or an approach-driven support group or not (CM, Classical, etc).
- You might ask what subjects the participants think are most important, and possibly rank them in order of preference
- Question pertaining to learning styles Gender Questions. Do you teach your male children and female children differently?

- A survey of our (parent/guardian...) public school / homeschool experience annotating some of the most common reasons to pull children out of ps, or to homeschool. A checklist (multiple-choice) of the character traits we hope to teach our children. ... Pros / cons

And we'll sew up our Tapestry of Homeschooling with this final thread, from one of our participants:

“Homeschooling is much like gardening you water this or weed that but for the most part you sit in a still place in the garden and marvel at the mystery of nature.”



===== **Welcome to the Tapestry of Homeschool Survey**

1. Who is completing this survey?

- Parent (Parent)
- Student (Student)
- Adult, homeschooled as a child (Adult, formerly homeschooled)
- Homeschooling relative (Other relative)
- Non-related guardian (Non-related guardian)

2. If you answered "student" above, please provide age or grade. If you answered other than parent, please explain.

(If you answered "student" or "adult, homeschooled as a child", please answer remaining survey questions to the best of your ability and with respect to your overall experience.)

3. Where do you live?

4. How many primary or secondary school-aged children (preschool-18) are you home schooling, or have you homeschooled?

5. If homeschooled children are grown, are they (please add any details you'd like)...

- In college
- Working
- Other
- Optional - identify college or type of work if you'd like

6. How do you ethnically identify yourself or your family?

7. What is your religious preference? State "none" if that's the case.

8. Are you...

- married

- in a domestic partnership
- single
- another situation
- Prefer not to answer

9. Are you, or were you, homeschooling for religious reasons?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)
- Prefer not to answer (Prefer not to answer)

10. Did any of the children attend a public school prior to homeschooling? If yes, please explain, and include last grade attended. Type N/A if not applicable.

11. Why did your family decide to homeschool?

12. How was or has your homeschooling choice received by family or friends?

===== About Your Homeschool

=====

13. If you'd like to briefly explain the reasons your family homeschools, use this text box.

14. Are you homeschooling any children with special needs?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)
- Prefer not to answer (Prefer not to answer)
- N/A (N/A)

15. If you'd like to describe your child's special needs, you may do so here.

16. Are any county or state services being received for special needs child?

- N/A (N/A)
- Yes - what type? (Yes)
- No (No)
- Prefer not to answer (Prefer not to answer)

17. If you are homeschooling a child with exceptional abilities, please describe here.

18. Is English spoken as a second language in your home?

- Yes - what is your language of origin? (Yes)
- No (No)

19. Do you feel academic progress in your homeschool is/was...

- Equal to that of public school (Equal to public school)
- Better than in public school (Better than in public school)
- Not as good as public school (Not as good as in public school)
- Not Sure (Not Sure)
- N/A (academic progress/ability is not the measure of our success) (N/A)

20. If you'd like to share your thoughts on academic or personal progress or achievement in your homeschool including general results of any testing or evaluation, special recognition or experiences, please do so here.

21. How long have you been homeschooling or, if your children are grown, or you were homeschooled, how long did you homeschool?

22. How is learning assessed in your homeschool efforts?

23. About how much do you think you spend on homeschooling? If you answer this question, it would be helpful if you could generally itemize what you think you spend on tutoring, outside classes, books, curricula, etc.. But a round dollar figure is fine, too.

24. How would you describe your family's homeschooling style?

- Traditional (Traditional)
- Eclectic (Eclectic)
- Classical (Classical)
- Unschooling (Unschooling)
- Our own thing (Our own thing)

25. Are or were homeschooled children in your family involved in a family livelihood, like a store, farm or other business? If yes, and you don't mind, please describe.

26. Is the choice to attend public school available in your family?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

==== About the homeschooling parents or guardians
=====

27. The gender of the primary homeschooling parent is...

- Male (Male)
- Female (Female)
- Parents/guardians share equal homeschooling tasks (Parents/guardians share equal homeschooling tasks (comment if desired))

28. What is the main homeschooling adult's highest level of education?

29. If there is another adult helping with homeschooling, what is that person's highest level of education?

30. Is there a full time stay-at-home parent or guardian?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

31. Does the main homeschooling parent or guardian work?

- Yes - full time, away from home (Yes - FT Away)
- Yes - full time, from home (Yes - FT Home)
- Any special work circumstances? (Any special work circumstances?)
- Yes - part time, away from home (Yes PT Away)
- Yes - part time, from home (Yes PT Home)
- No (No)

32. Does the other homeschooling parent or guardian work?

- Yes - full time, away from home (Yes - FT Away)
- Yes - full time, from home (Yes - FT Home)
- Any special work circumstances? (Any special work circumstances?)
- Yes - part time, away from home (Yes PT Away)
- Yes - part time, from home (Yes PT Home)
- No (No)

33. Is any homeschooling adult in the family a certified public school educator?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

34. Was either parent homeschooled as a child? If yes, please provide number of years homeschooled.

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

35. Does your family homeschool the children of relatives or friends? If yes, please identify generally -- friends, cousins, grandchildren, etc.

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

36. Do you consider your family...

- Low Income - below federal poverty level of \$20,650 for a family of four (Low Income - below federal poverty level of \$20,650 for a family of four)
- Middle Income - household income of around \$35K-\$70K (Middle Income - household income of around \$35K-\$70K)
- Upper income - household income above \$70K (Upper income - household income above \$75K-\$90K)

===== Your Media Use

=====

37. If your family subscribes to magazines, please identify the type of magazines you receive at home.

- Animals
- Computer
- History
- Homeschooling
- Literary
- Natural history
- Nature
- Political
- Religious
- Science
- Other - please identify subject
- N/A

38. How many books do you have at home?

- None (None)
- A few - 1-10 (A few - 1-10)
- Enough to fill one shelf (11-25) (Enough to fill one shelf (11-25))
- Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100) (Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100))

Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100) (Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100))

39. What type of books comprise your home library, in order of popularity i.e. homeschooling, instructional books, literary, history, science, story books, etc.?

Most popular/common _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

4th _____

Least common _____

40. How are home library books usually obtained?

- Bookstores
- Book sales - libraries
- Books sales - Scholastic or similar warehouse sale
- Curriculum vendor
- Online purchase
- Trade with others
- Other source
- Thrift stores

41. Is any prepared commercial curriculum used in your homeschool? If so please explain. If not, just type N/A.

42. How often does your family visit your local library?

- Rarely or Never (rarely or never)
- At least once a week (at least once a week)
- At least twice a week (at least twice a week)
- At least once a month (at least once a month)
- A few times a year (a few times a year)

43. How does your family use the library?

- We don't
- For recreational reading material
- For reference or research, incl. homeschool use
- For Internet access
- For group meetings
- For movies
- For music
- For youth programs
- Other

44. Are you on a first name basis with the local librarian?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

45. How do you get your news?
- Daily newspaper - subscription
 - Weekly news - via local papers
 - Read news online
 - Television news
 - Radio
 - I don't keep up with the news
 - Other

46. Do you have television at home?
- Yes - how many sets? (Yes)
 - No (No)

47. Do the children have television in their rooms?
- Yes (Yes)
 - No (No)
 - N/A (N/A)

48. Please describe your television viewing habits, including estimated number of viewing hours and preferred programming. Type N/A if you do not watch television.

===== About Your Computer Use

49. Are there computers in your household?
- Yes - How many? (Yes)
 - No (No)

50. Do the children have their own computers?
- Yes (Yes)
 - No (No)

51. Is there Internet service in your home?
- Yes (Yes)
 - No (No)

52. What do you use the computer for?

- Email
- News
- Gaming
- Research
- For homeschool resources
- Networking with other homeschoolers
- Networking for other special interests or hobbies
- N/A
- Other

53. What do the children use the computer for?

- Email
- Games
- Research
- Homeschool programs
- Networking with other youth
- They don't
- With adult supervision they use...
- Other use
- N/A

54. How proficient are you with a computer?

- Excellent for a non-expert (or I *am* an expert) (Excellent -)
- Pretty Good- I'm comfortable with many aspects of computer use (Pretty Good-)
- Okay - I can email, surf the web (Okay -)
- I Manage -- I use the computer at a very basic level (I Manage --)
- What's a Computer? (What's a Computer?)
- Other (Other)

55. How proficient are the children with the computer?

- Excellent for a non-expert (or he or she is an expert)
- Pretty Good- they're comfortable with many aspects of computer use
- Okay - They can email, surf the web
- They use it only under adult supervision
- They're not interested
- N/A
- Other comment

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About Your Homeschool Community Activities
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56. Are or were any of the following part of your homeschool program?

- private school classes
- part time public school enrollment
- public virtual school
- dual enrollment in a local college or university
- none of the above
- blended public/homeschool program
- Other

57. If public education programs, like music, art or sports classes, or online public school programs, are used, what percentage of the learning experience do they comprise?

- 0% (0%)
- 10% (2-4 hours per month) (10% (2-4 hours per month))
- 20-30% (2-4 hours per week) (20-30% (2-4 hours per week))
- 40-50% (8 - 10 hours per week) (40-50% (8 - 10 hours per week))
- more than 50% (10 + hours per week) (more than 50% (10 + hours per week))

58. Does the use of a public school program change your legal designation in your state?
If so, please explain.

- Yes
- No
- N/A
- Comments

59. What type of youth programs has your family participated in?

- None
- 4H
- Camp Fire
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Spiral Scouts
- Navigators
- Earth Scouts
- Other

60. Have any organized homeschool group activities or learning programs been part of your homeschooling?

- Yes - please identify (cooperative, support group activities, etc.) (Yes - please identify (cooperative, etc.))
- No (No)

61. If homeschool group activities or programs have been part of your experience, and you would like to tell us more about them, or about what might be special about your homeschool group, please use this text box.

62. Does your family volunteer regularly? If so, how often?

- please tell us where (library, shelter, etc)
- No
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- A few times a year
- About once a year

63. Have you used any community based or private learning options in your homeschool program?

- No
- Martial arts classes
- Dance classes
- Art classes
- Music classes
- Other/Comments
- Sports programs
- Apprenticeship/Mentoring program

64. What community resources have been part of your homeschooling, and about how many times per year are they visited?

- Museum
- Science Center
- Farm
- Park
- Nature Center
- Zoo
- Other
- None

===== Your Feelings about Homeschooling

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65. How structured would you classify your homeschool experience?

- 1 -Very - We homeschool for a specific number of hours each day and complete work on schedule (1 - very structured)
- 2 -Pretty structured - our week is pretty well planned out (2 - pretty structured)

3 - Somewhat structured - there's usually time for something spontaneous (3 - somewhat structured)

4 - A little structured - we do math or some subject every day (4 - a little structured)

5 - Structures are buildings, schedules are for doctors, we're completely unstructured (5 - no structure)

66. What do you most enjoy about homeschooling?

67. What do you find most challenging about homeschooling?

68. What do the children like most, and least, about homeschooling? (Type N/A if you're responding as a student or formerly homeschooled adult, unless you'd like to respond with respect to siblings.)

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69. If there are high school aged homeschooled children in the family, what are their current academic, career or general interest goals?

70. If youth have been accepted to a college, and you don't mind sharing, please tell us where.

71. Have college bound homeschooled children in the family earned any scholarships? If so, what type?

72. If there are young adult homeschooled graduates in the family, and you would like to share their progress or your experiences homeschooling them in the past, please do so here.

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73. Do you feel you are civically engaged or active?

Yes (Yes)

No (No)

74. How do you stay informed about homeschooling?

- I don't
- Email lists
- Magazines
- Through support groups
- Conferences
- Other
- Optional - identify the email lists or magazines you use
- N/A

75. Are you part of a local homeschool group?

- Yes
- No
- Optional - identify group if you'd like

76. Are you part of a state homeschool support group?

- Yes
- No
- Optional - identify group if you'd like

77. Are you part of any national homeschool group or association?

- Yes
- No
- Optional - identify group if you'd like

78. Do you feel you know your state homeschooling laws well?

- Yes (Yes)
- No (No)

79. Are you concerned about any homeschool issues at the local or state level? If yes, please explain.

80. Are you concerned about any homeschool issues at the national level? If yes, please explain.

81. Please leave us your comments about your survey experience, questions you think might have been helpful that weren't included, or other thoughts. Thanks!

===== Thank You!

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You made it! Thank you so much for participating in the Tapestry of Homeschool Survey. General results will be posted in the fall on the Learning is for Everyone website.. If you would like more information, or have questions, please email <mailto:info@learningis4everyone.org>?