

WHY HOME SCHOOL?

Hank Tate

062007



WHAT IS HOME SCHOOLING?

Home schooling is a method of education through which the parents take sole responsibility to oversee the entire education of their children in a personal, direct manner. It is characterized by a one on one tutorial method of education using the parents as teacher/tutors and most often takes place within the home of the student.

Hank Tate

Home Schooling is school at home.

David Tate, home school student, Age 8



HOW MANY HOME SCHOOLERS?

- **estimated 2,000,000+ homeschoolers in United States**

growth rates of about 7-15% per year varies with community and events that take place

2003 National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) estimated 1.7 – 2.1 million homeschooling students a 500% growth over number of homeschoolers in 1991

larger than Michigan - 1,712,300 & New Jersey - 1,422,762 more homeschoolers than public school students in Wyoming, Vermont, South Dakota, North Dakota, Delaware, Alaska, Montana, New Hampshire, Hawaii, & Rhode Island *combined*



WHO IS HOME SCHOOLING?

- **Independent**
- **70%+ Christians or strongly religious**
- **Reflect characteristics of the community**

Varied educational backgrounds

Varied personalities

Varied skills, abilities



WHY ARE THEY DOING IT?

1. **Moral & Religious Reasons (70%)**
2. **Academic Reasons (60%)**
3. **Well Being of Child/Safety & Positive Socialization Reasons (40%)**
4. **Miscellaneous Reasons (4%)**

Many give multiple reasons for home schooling



Philosophy of Education

“Every education teaches a philosophy; if not by dogma then by suggestion, by implication, by atmosphere. Every part of that education has a connection with every other part. If it does not all combine to convey some general view of life, it is not an education at all.”

G.K. Chesterton

“The philosophy of the class room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.”

Abraham Lincoln



Philosophy of Education - 2

“Education is more than the acquisition of a certain body of knowledge; it comprehends the transmission to the younger generation of the entire culture of a people. Now the culture of a people involves an ideal of character and of religious faith, a system of behavior, together with some theory of the universe, however simple it may be.”

Eby, F. & Arrowood, C. F. (1940).
The History and Philosophy of Education Ancient and Modern

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Control of Education

"In practice, the choice of values transmitted lies not with the child or the child's family, but with the political majority or interest group in charge of the school system. . . . Even in those areas concerned with basic skills it is clear that teaching is never value-neutral, that texts, teachers, subject matter and atmosphere convey messages about approved and rewarded values and ideas. It is unlikely that any amount of "equal time" for other points of view will reduce this effect."

"The Supreme Court has eliminated religious indoctrination in public schools but . . . the imposition of secular values may constitute as significant an interference with first amendment values as the imposition of religious beliefs. Yet, except when dealing with overt instances of value inculcation such as compulsory flag salute, the Court has left the establishment of other ideologies untouched."

S. Arons and C. Lawrence, "The Manipulation of Consciousness: A First Amendment Critique of Schooling", 15 Harv. Civ. Rights-Civ. Lib. Law Rev. 309, 325 (1980)



Foundation of Public Education

Horace Mann, "the father of public education," became the first secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education in 1837. . . . His goal was to create a non-sectarian school system, and he envisioned that education would bring salvation to society. He wanted to establish "a new religion, with the state as its true church, and education as its Messiah." Mann stated:

"What the church has been for medieval man the public school must become for democratic and rational man. God will be replaced by the concept of the public good. . . . The common schools. . . shall create a more far-seeing intelligence and pure morality than has ever existed among communities of men."

Horace Mann and other proponents of public education were intent on reforming society by changing the values of children. Mann had little sympathy for Calvinists or Catholics, and he was determined to use every legal means—including state coercion in schooling—to ensure that other people's children were taught the truth as he understood it.

Richard Baer



Hidden Goals

"The battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: A religion of humanity . . . utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to carry humanist values into whatever they teach . . ."

"The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new — the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism . . ."

John J. Dunphy, Prize Winning Essay in *The Humanist*, Jan/Feb 1983



Hidden Goals... 2

"Every child in America entering school at the age of five is mentally ill because he comes to school with certain allegiances toward our founding fathers, toward our elected officials, toward his parents, toward a belief in a supernatural being, toward sovereignty of this nation as a separate entity. It's up to you teachers to make all of these sick children well by creating the international children of the future."

Statements made by a Harvard University Professor at a 1973 teachers' seminar as quoted in *Schooling Choices*, (Portland, Oregon: Multnomah, 1988), 131



Hidden Goals... 3

"Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism, and every public school is a school of humanism. What can the theistic Sunday school, meeting for one hour once a week and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five day program of humanistic teaching?"

Charles Francis Potter, *Humanism: A New Religion*

"Our goal is behavioral change. The majority of our youth still hold the values of their parents and if we do not resocialize them to accept change, our society may decay."

Dr. John Goodland in a report written for the National Education Association entitled, "Schooling for the Future"



Hidden Goals... 4

"I think the most important factor moving us toward a secular society has been the educational factor. Our schools may not teach Johnny to read properly, but the fact that Johnny is in school until he is sixteen tends to lead toward the elimination of religious superstition. The average American child now acquires a high school education and this militates against Adam and Eve and all other myths of alleged history. . . . When I was one of the editors of the *Nation* in the 20's, I wrote an editorial explaining that golf and intelligence were the two primary reasons why men did not attend church, perhaps I would now say golf and a high school diploma."

Paul Blanshard, Contributing Editor *The Humanist Magazine*

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An Analysis

“...the crisis that threatens us, the force that could topple our monuments and destroy our very foundations, is within ourselves. The crisis is in the character of our culture, where the values that restrain inner vices and develop inner virtues are eroding. Unprincipled men and women, disdainful of their moral heritage and skeptical of Truth itself, are destroying our civilization by weakening the very pillars upon which it rests.”

Charles Colson, *Against the Night*, pp 10-11

“Public education is not about education. In too many instances it is about propagandizing and controlling the minds and hearts (and bodies) of the next generation. Without public schools, liberalism would qualify as an endangered species. With them, liberals hope to train sufficient numbers of left-thinking drones to replace them when they are gone.”

Cal Thomas *AFA Journal*, April 1993



God is Irrelevant?

“Obviously the schools are not Christian. Just as obviously they are not neutral. The Scriptures say that fear of the Lord is the chief part of knowledge; but the schools, by omitting all reference to God, give the pupils the notion that knowledge can be had apart from God. They teach in effect that God has no control of history, that there is no plan of events that God is working out, that God does not foreordain whatsoever comes to pass... The public schools are not, never were, can never be, neutral. Neutrality is impossible.”

The big lie of the public schools is that the God of the Bible is irrelevant. The textbooks never mention Him. Everyone assumes that children do not need to know anything about God, God’s law, and God’s Word in order to become educated people. This is Satan’s own lie.”

Robert Thoburn



Spiritual Influence

“Of all dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. ...And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality may be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religion.”

George Washington’s Farewell Address

“The most powerful single influence in all history has been Christianity. This influence has shown itself not only in the religious beliefs and spiritual ideals of the human race, but in the march of political events and institutions as well.

Compton’s Encyclopedia
quoted in *America: To Pray or Not To Pray*, David Barton



Spiritual Consequences

“I am as sure as I am of Christ’s reign that a comprehensive and centralized system of national education, separated from religion, as is now commonly proposed, will prove the most appalling enginery for the propagation of anti-Christian and atheistic unbelief, and of anti-social nihilistic ethics, individual, social and political, which this sin rent world has ever seen.”

Dr. A.A. Hodge, *Popular Lectures on Theological Themes* (Philadelphia Presbyterian Board of Publications, 1887)

“I am much afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the word of God must become corrupt.”

Martin Luther



Education = Religion

What is education? In simple terms, education is the transmission of basic skills and values to the next generation. It is inescapably religious, and it cannot be neutral.

Christopher Klicka

Every educational philosophy, every educational system, every educational curriculum has an ultimate concern. In this sense, every educational system is inescapably religious.

R. C. Sproul

There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.

C. S. Lewis



Parental Responsibility

“The public school has become the established church of secular society.”

Ivan Illish

“Sending our children to the public school violates nearly every biblical principle described above. It is tantamount to sending our children to be trained by the enemy. No doubt that if Satan had his choice as to which school system he would want us to send our children to, he would choose the public school system. Yet, the vast majority of Christians still send their children to public schools.”

Christopher Klicka, *The Right Choice-Home Schooling*

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ACADEMIC CRISIS

“The educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and a people...If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen ourselves.”

“A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Education Reform.”
National Commission on Excellence in Education - 1983



Academic Crisis... 2

30% of the largest companies offer remedial reading
27,000,000 adults are functionally illiterate — most are high school graduates
46,000,000 adults marginally illiterate - can't complete a job application
If trend continues 2/3 of the U.S. population will be illiterate by 2000
“A Nation at Risk” – 1983
National Commission on Excellence in Education

12th graders near bottom in Third International Math and Science Study
U.S. students 19th out of 21 nations in math - 16th out of 21 in science
The Center for Education Reform 1998

High school graduation exams covered material that would be considered middle school content in most other countries.
Achieve Study 2004



Academic Crisis ... 3

“With very few exceptions, I watched for fourteen years as student after student entered and left high school having learned next to nothing during his or her four year term. And the problem is not in someone else's backyard, not in someone else's school district: It's systemic. My experience has convinced me that if the purpose of the public schools were to prevent children from acquiring an education, they could not do a better job than they are right now, at this very moment, in classrooms all across the nation.”

Ours is an educational system that labels children “learning-disabled” and then calls for more tax dollars to remediate the problem it created. It is an anti-intellectual, morally bankrupt system whose values-clarification classes and bogus drug and sex education programs contribute to the very addictions they sanctimoniously claim to solve. It is a system that crushes our children's intellectual curiosity and then demands that they learn anyway.”

Edward Rauchtut, 14 yr. High School English Teacher
“Comment” in *Teacher Magazine*



Academic Crisis ... 4

1/3 of students entering college require remedial help
By age 17, only 5% of students could understand the kind of information found on science pages of daily newspapers.
Reading achievement of 17 yr olds is down from 1980
Math achievement is up 1 grade level since 1980 – BUT only 8% can do multi-level problem solving and elementary algebra – even though 91% took algebra
5% of students drop out and never complete high school
National Commission on the High School Senior Year – USDE 2001
Only 13% of young Americans could find Iraq on a map
National Geographic Survey – 2002

In Texas, nearly 25 percent of the state's residents aged 25 and older lack a high school diploma.
Special Report on State of Texas Education – Dec 2003



Academic Crisis... 5

“Did you know that you and I and all the rest of American industry together spend more money each year teaching remedial math to U.S. workers than all the grade school, high schools, and colleges in this country combined.”

Gerald Greenwald, vice chairman of Chrysler Corporation

In a national survey; the American Management Association found that more than 40% of job applicants failed reading tests last year, and almost 35% failed math.

Workforce Magazine, Oct 2001



WELL BEING/SAFETY OF CHILD

- EMOTIONAL TRAUMA
from peers or teachers
- PHYSICAL SAFETY
drugs, assault
- HEALTH PROBLEMS
long-term illness can cause absentee problems

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Violence in the Halls

The top discipline offenses, according to educators:

1940	1990
talking out of turn	assault
chewing gum	robbery
making noise	drug abuse
running in the halls	alcohol abuse
cutting in line	pregnancy
dress code violations	suicide

“Violence in the Schools”, U.S. News & World Report, 1993

Persons institutionalized in a large North American institution suffered violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault) at a rate of 12 per 1,000
Urban U.S. middle schools & high schools

Assaults on inmates in U.S. prisons - 7.4 per 1,000

Arguably it appears safer for a young person to be in prison than in a U.S. public school!

1997 National Crime Victimization Survey



SAFETY CRISIS

Today, more than 3 million crimes a year are committed in or near the 85,000 U.S. public schools...New York Mayor announced plans to station city cops in all 1,069 New York public schools — at a potential cost of \$60 million.

With students fearing literally for their lives, learning has become next to impossible in some schools. “Violence,” says Secretary of Education Richard Riley, “has turned many of our classrooms into war zones.”

U.S. News & World Report, Nov. 8, 1994

A counseling center in Florida specializes in counseling students with “an irrational phobia about going to school”.

Houston Chronicle, 1994



Safety Crisis... 2

1999 - 7% of students in grades 9-12 reported being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property.

2003 - 1/3 of all students in grades 9-12 reported being offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.

12- through 18-year-old students were victims of about 2.7 million crimes while they were at school in 1998.

Younger students (ages 12 through 14) were more likely than older students (ages 15 through 18) to be victims of crime at school.

Violent crimes against elementary students doubled from 1995 to 2001
National Association of School Resource Officers 2003

Under reporting is rampant! Houston Independent School District had not reported 75% of crimes committed on school campuses. Consistent with other under-reporting around the country. Some districts up to 85% of crimes are not reported.

New York Time - Nov 2003



THE BIG QUESTIONS

- Is Home Schooling Legal?
- What about Socialization?
- Are Parents Qualified to Teach?
- Does Home Schooling Really Work?



IS IT LEGAL?

In 1980 only three states in the United States recognized homeschooling as a legal method of education – Utah, Ohio, Nevada

All states now recognize homeschooling as a legal alternative to public and private schools.

“The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in the Union repose excludes any power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not a mere creature of the state; those who nurture and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

Pierce v. Society of Sisters U.S. 510 (1925)



SOCIALIZATION

“Aren’t your kids going to have difficulty relating to others if they aren’t around the other kids at school?”

so•cial•ize v. – tr. 1. To place under government or group ownership or control; 2. To fit for companionship with others; make sociable in attitude or manners. 3. To convert or adapt to the needs of society.

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Socialization... 2

- ❖ Mass education, public or private, with its age segregation, is an artificial environment for learning socialization.
- ❖ True successful socialization is the ability to interact with people of all ages — older and younger.
- ❖ Socialization is learned one-on-one, not in large groups
- ❖ Only a limited portion of a school day is available for “acceptable” socialization.

87% play with friends outside the home
98% involved in 2 or more activities outside the home

Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling, Brian Ray 2005
www.nheri.com



Socialization... 3

“Research studies funded by Cornell University found that children who spend more elective time with their peers than with their parents become peer-dependent, thereby diminishing their self-worth, optimism, respect for parents and trust in peers, all of which are crucial to sound mental health and positive socialization. The child that feels needed and depended upon at home will usually be the social leader because he is more likely to be self-directed and independent.”



Socialization... 4

Dr. Steven W. Kelley, Socialization of home schooled children

Used *Piers-Harris Children's Self Concept Scale*.

“The self-concept of home schooling children in suburban Los Angeles was significantly higher ... than the norms of conventionally schooled children. ... A low anxiety level could be a contributing factor. More contact with significant others, parental love, support, and involvement, peer independence, and a sense of responsibility and self-worth may be other contributing factors.”



Socialization... 5

Smedley, Radford University

Used *Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales* to evaluate the communication skills, socialization, and daily living skills of demographically matched public-schooled and home-educated students. Smedley's data revealed that “...the home-educated children in this sample were significantly better socialized and more mature than those in public school. The immediate implication is that home school families are providing adequately for socialization needs.”



Socialization... 6

Shyers, University of Florida

Compared a group of 70 home schooled children with a group of 70 children schooled in traditional public and private schools. The groups scored the same in self-concept and assertiveness on social development tests. Videos of the children at play were analyzed by trained counselors, and the home school children were found to have “consistently fewer behavior problems.”

The traditionally schooled children were more aggressive, loud, and competitive. The home schooled children tended to talk quietly, play well in groups, and took initiative in inviting others to play.

Shyers' conclusion was that “the results seem to show that a child's social development depends more on adult contact and less on contact with other children than previously thought.”



PARENTS QUALIFIED TO TEACH?

“Aren't you concerned about whether your kids will be academically deprived. After all, you're not a trained or certified teacher”

Certification has never been proven to be of measurable value in education. In fact, when the results of teaching by certified teachers and uncertified teachers are compared, the results are very heavily in favor of using uncertified teachers.

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Qualified to Teach?... 2

Albert Shanker — *President American Federation of Teachers*

“Education is the only professional field where after people graduate they say they could have been better off without training.” **Houston Chronicle**

Most states are now accepting or even begging for non-certified teachers. 13% (37,700) of all teachers in Texas in 2003 were not certified.

Minority students more likely to get unqualified teachers.



Qualified to Teach?... 3

“Next to the media in general and the television in particular, our schools of education are the greatest contributor to the dumbing down of America. They have been transformed into agencies of social change, mandated to achieve equality at all costs, an equality not of opportunity but of outcome. No one can be tested because no one must fail.”

“Teacher colleges do not teach knowledge but rather four years of methods.”

...among teacher-educators today “the goal of schooling is not considered to be instruction, let alone intellectual, but political”

Ed School Follies: The Miseducation of America’s Teachers



Qualified to Teach?... 4

- College Education is not necessary to teach.
- Research has demonstrated that no background skills or knowledge relates directly to success in teaching.
- The only factor guaranteeing success in teaching is the absolute commitment of the teacher to do whatever is necessary for the student to learn the desired subject.
- The significance of the teacher to the student is one of the most powerful motivators. No one has more significance to a young child than his parents
- The goal is self directed learning. As the child reaches 5th grade and up he should be doing more of his own learning with the parent acting as a counselor and facilitator.



UNQUALIFIED TEACHERS!

Recent teacher testing has indicated a growing weakness in basic skills.

33% of all secondary school teachers who teach *math* do not have either a major or a minor in math, math education, or related disciplines like engineering or physics

48% Science teachers are unqualified.

In Texas & 12 other states teachers with reading skills below 25th percentile are still qualified to teach

15 states use Educational Testing Service exams to qualify for certification. Cut off scores for passing are from 35% to 55%. Kentucky and others: Math Certification - 35%, Science - 40 to 55%, Chemistry - 40 to 55%

this would be F or D for a student taking the subject
Cheating & falsification of test scores by schools is rampant



DOES HOME SCHOOLING WORK?

Research studies in the United States and Canada have consistently confirmed the effectiveness of home education. Many of these studies are done by public education organizations or state departments of education.

Almost all studies show that homeschool is excellent:

20-30+ percentile points higher score on standardized achievement tests than their counterparts in public schools

NO studies have shown homeschoolers scoring less than public schoolers



Proven Results... 2

Ray, 2002

Recap of studies of homeschool percentile test scores:

Indiana – 86th, Massachusetts – 85th, Montana – 72nd, North Dakota – 85th, Oklahoma – 88th, US Overall – 84th

Note: National average for students in conventional schools is 50th percentile.

Some states require testing of homeschoolers. Their reports also demonstrate homeschoolers scoring well above average on test scores.

Home schoolers spent an average of \$296 per child per year for home schooling, compared to \$5,300 per child quoted by the U.S. Dept of Education in 1994.

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Proven Results... 3

Most in-depth study focused on 5,402 home educated students from 1,657 families

- 87th percentile for reading
- 82nd percentile in mathematics
- 87th percentile in overall battery

Ray 1997

Successful competition demonstrates competence

Homeschoolers make headlines as they often win national competitions such as spelling bees, geography bees, science fairs, and engineering fairs.

- Homeschoolers only 4% of school-age population
- Typically 15% of competitors and often finish in top three.



Proven Results... 4

RUDNER

Largest study on homeschooling. 20,760 students from 11,930 families. All students took the *Iowa Basic Skills* test for grades K-8 and *Tests of Achievement and Proficiency* for grades 9-12.

"In every grade level home school students scored significantly higher than their public school counterparts."

24.5% enrolled one or more grades above age level

Grades 1-4 performed 1 grade level higher than public & private

By 8th grade average home school student 4 grade levels above

The longer a student homeschooled the bigger the difference.

SOME FAIL ...

Home education, however, is not perfect. There are failures in home education — just as in any other endeavor. Some families and some pupils will not do what is necessary to succeed, thus they fail.



COLLEGE

Hillsdale College: "They're almost too good to be true. We've not yet had a poorly trained home-schooled student. They have been exceptional. Home-schooled students follow a similar pattern of rising to positions of leadership and influence in college."

Boston College: "Boston University welcomes applications from home-schooled students. We believe students educated at home possess the passion for knowledge, the independence, and the self-reliance that enable them to excel in our intellectually challenging programs of study."

Oral Roberts University: Home schoolers are generally in the upper percentile and hold an unusually high percentage of student leadership positions.



COLLEGE RESULTS

Galloway, Bob Jones University

Five areas of comparison with objectively measurable criteria. Ranked by number of 1st place rankings in criteria.

	Homeschool	Christian Private	Public School
Overall (63)	42	9	12
Academic (12)	10	0	2
Cognitive (23)	17	2	4
Affective-Social (10)	7	1	2
Spiritual (11)	7	3	1
Psychomotor (7)	1	3	3

Conclusion: Homeschool students excel once they leave home, especially in leadership positions, both elected and appointed.



THE BIG QUESTION

"A pupil is not above his teacher: but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher"

Luke 6:40

Who are your children going to become like?

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education"

Theodore Roosevelt



RECOMMENDED READING

Home Schooling: The Right Choice:

Christopher J. Klicka

The Harsh Truth About Public Schools

Bruce N. Shortt

Let My Children Go – Why Parents Must Remove Their Children from the Public Schools NOW

E. Ray Moore, Jr.

The Closing of the American Heart

Ronald H. Nash

The Seduction of Our Children

Neil T. Anderson & Steve Russo

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