

Homeschooling: Discovering How and Why It Works

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

Qualifications

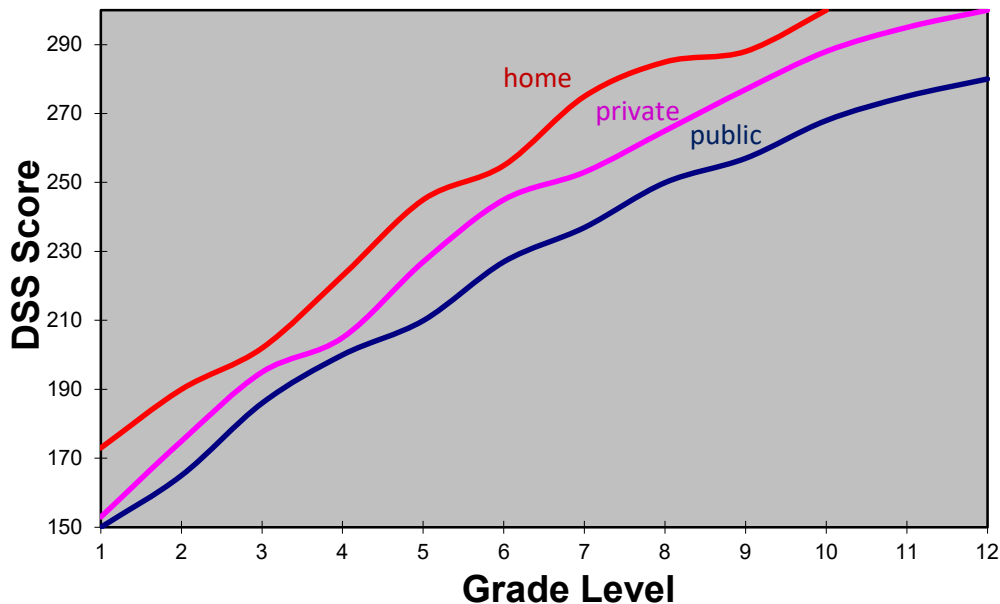
- Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes homeschooling materials through Berean Builders
- Is an adjunct professor at Anderson University

Homeschooling Works

- More U.S. students are enrolled in homeschool than in charter schools.
- According to studies, the average homeschooled student is better educated and socialized than his peers.
- Homeschoolers get accepted to and graduate from all major universities.
- Homeschoolers distinguish themselves in the workplace.

Academically, Homeschooled Students Excel

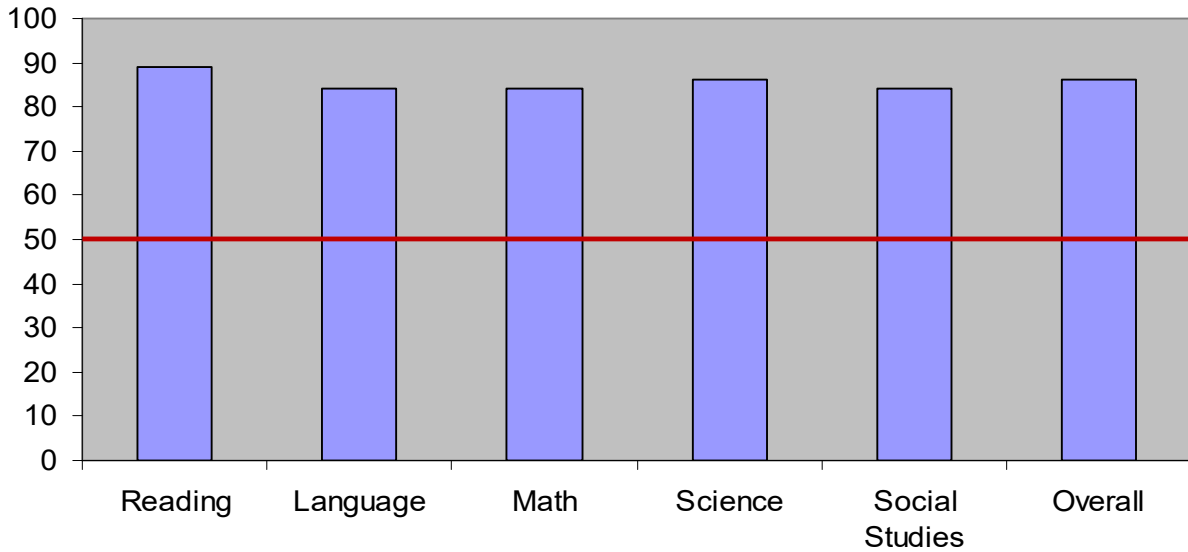
Median Composite Scores



(“The Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998,” Lawrence M. Rudner, Ph.D., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, Vol 7, March 23, 1999, ISSN 1068-2341)

Grouping All Grades Together (Different Study)

Standardized Test Scores, K-12



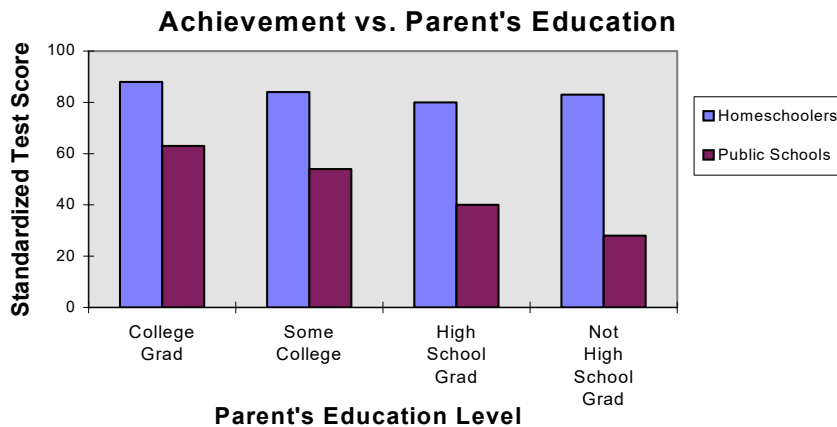
(Brian D. Ray, "Homeschool Progress Report 2009: Academic Achievement and Demographics," Home School Legal Defense Association, 2009)

The Quality of a Homeschooled Student's Education is Independent of the Parents "Qualifications" to Teach!

K-12 Basic Battery for those whose parents are certified teachers: 87*

K-12 Basic Battery for those whose parents aren't certified teachers: 88*

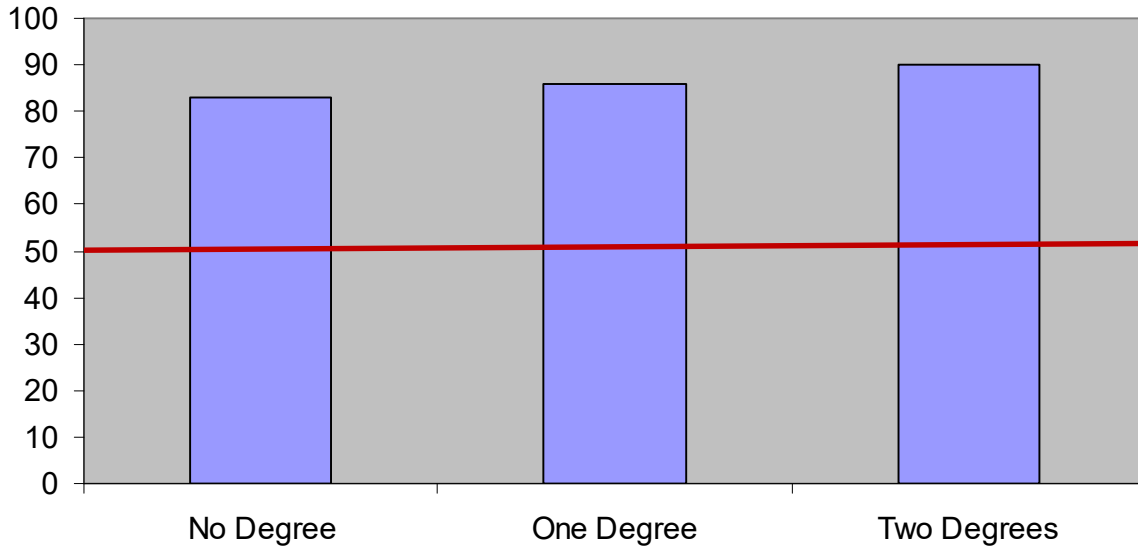
*This compares to 50% for public schools



(Brian D. Ray, "Home Education Across the United States: Family Characteristics, Student Achievement, and Longitudinal Traits," Home School Legal Defense Association, 2009)

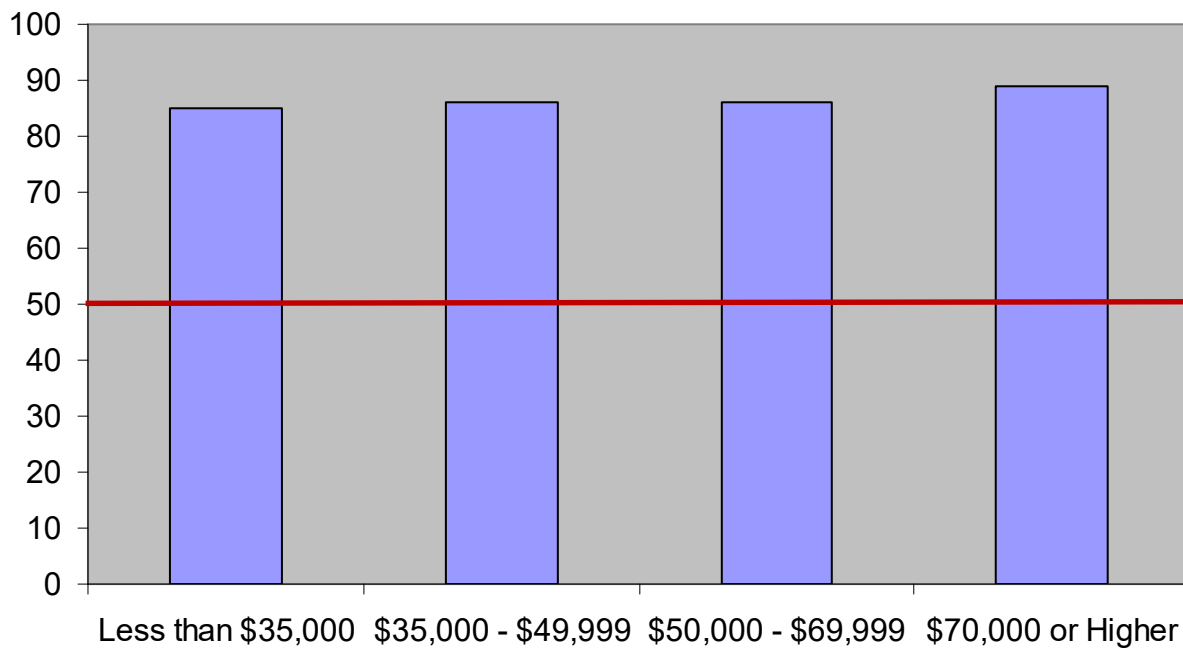
Looking Just at Parental College Degrees

Standardized Test Scores, K-12



(Brian D. Ray, "Homeschool Progress Report 2009: Academic Achievement and Demographics," Home School Legal Defense Association, 2009)

It Doesn't Even Depend Significantly on Income!



(Brian D. Ray, "Homeschool Progress Report 2009: Academic Achievement and Demographics," Home School Legal Defense Association, 2009)

Why Do Homeschoolers Excel?

- ☆ The Love of Learning is not socialized out of them.
- ☆ Learning is generally more interesting for students when the curriculum is tailored directly to them.
- ☆ You can't beat the teacher/student ratio!
- ☆ Homeschooling teaches independent learning.
- ☆ Homeschooling parents impart *by example* that education is important.

A Study of the Childhoods of Geniuses

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

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

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

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

Researchers at National Jewish Health found:

55% of teens who were homeschooled got the optimal amount of sleep per week, while only 24.5% of publicly- and privately-schooled teens did.

44.5% of publicly- and privately-schooled teens got insufficient sleep, compared to only 16.3% of homeschooled teens

(<http://njhealth.multimedianewsroom.tv/story.php?id=549&enter=2#downloadsarea>)

A study published in the journal *Obesity* reports:

“Home-schooled children are thinner, leaner, and report better diets relative to traditionally-schooled children.”

The main reason was because they were eating healthier lunches. Interestingly enough, their activity levels were essentially the same as that of their traditionally-schooled peers.

(Michelle Cardel *et al.*, “Home-schooled children are thinner, leaner, and report better diets relative to traditionally schooled children,” *Obesity*, 2013)

What I Noticed About My Homeschooled Students at the University Level

- They were much more eager to learn.
- They sought me out for help and (mostly) additional instruction.
- They were not afraid to tackle a problem that was not covered in class.
- They were more mature when it came to taking responsibility for their own learning.
- They *actually read the book!*

What Others Have Noticed About Homeschooled Students in the Workplace

- “They’re smart, ambitious and very driven...They have a high level of loyalty to the business, are diligent, and have a good work ethic.”
- Andy Lorenzen, national Chick-fil-A recruiter
- “They’re well-versed in basic business principles...They have the discipline to either run their own business or become quite focused employees.”
- Dr. Gary Knowles, Ontario Institute of Studies in Education
- “...their work ethic and personal qualities [make] an unbeatable combination.”
- *HR Magazine*
- “They have a good sense of humor and know how to act. Lots of kids have trouble with judgment, differentiating what’s appropriate behavior in the work environment and on the ball field. Not these kids.”
- Joe Jeffcoat, Chick-fil-A manager
- “If I didn’t know anything about someone other than their educational background, I’d rather hop into a foxhole with a homeschool kid than one from public school. The homeschool kid will be a little better educated and dependable.”
- Patricia Lines, former US Department of Education researcher

(Robert J Grossman, "Home Is Where the School Is," *HR Magazine*, November, 2001)

What About “Socialization”?

One of the first studies (late 1980s) was a Ph.D. thesis by Larry Shyers. He filmed children from public, private, and home schools in free and structured play. Behaviors were then analyzed by psychologists who didn’t know the schooling of any of the children.

When he studied those analyses, he saw that in nearly all categories of social interaction, the homeschooled children were equivalent to the children from public and private schools. There was only one category in which the homeschooled students scored lower: ***problem behaviors***.

“It can be concluded from the results of this study that appropriate social skills can develop apart from formal contact with children other than siblings.”

(<https://archive.org/details/comparisonofsoci00shye>)

More recently (2013) Dr. Richard Medlin (Professor at Stetson University) wrote a review article on homeschool socialization for the *Peabody Journal of Education*:

“Compared to children attending conventional schools, however, research suggest that [homeschoolers] have higher quality friendships and better relationships with their parents and other adults. They are happy, optimistic, and satisfied with their lives. Their moral reasoning is at least as advanced as that of other children, and they may be more likely to act unselfishly. As adolescents, they have a strong sense of social responsibility and exhibit less emotional turmoil and problem behaviors than their peers. Those who go on to college are socially involved and open to new experiences. Adults who were homeschooled as children are civically engaged and functioning competently in every way measured so far. An alarmist view of homeschooling, therefore, is not supported by empirical research.”

(Richard G. Medlin, "Homeschooling and the Question of Socialization Revisited," *Peabody Journal of Education* **88**(3): 2013)

Drs. Glenda M. Jackson & Rebecca M. English published a study in *Cogent Education* where students who had been both homeschooled and traditionally schooled compared their socialization experiences in each.

“Although opportunities for socialisation has been the most frequent question thrown at home educators these students explained that, although they may have fewer friends at home, these friends were more likely to share common interests and usually came from a wide age range of people. There was an element of choice in their home social connections. They noted that school friendships were usually limited to same aged peers and often with similar ability, **a situation these students found artificial and far from ideal.**”

(Glenda M. Jackson & Rebecca M. English, “Australian home educated students on self-regulation opportunities at home and in school,” *Cogent Education* **3**(1) 2016)