

OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS

Many parents are alarmed when they discover what government schools are teaching their children, while also failing them in academics. There are better Christ-centered options that prepare children for life and service to God.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am unhappy with my child's education. What can I do?

Step one is to make the decision to remove your child from public school. This may shock you, but it will be one of the best decisions you ever make in your life. Next, you need to decide what sort of education you want your children to receive. Then you need to decide how to make it happen. Illinois Family Institute and Public School Exit are here to support you at every step of the way.

I cannot afford to put my child in a private school. What can I do?

Your children are priceless! You can NOT afford to leave them in an institution that programs their minds to think the opposite of your worldview and is brainwashing and sexualizing them. In addition, the lowered standards of education may leave your child underprepared for the workforce in a highly competitive society. Research shows that many of the graduating seniors from public schools are functionally illiterate.

If a private school is not an option because of the cost of tuition, consider homeschooling or approach your church to provide a location for several families. You could also start a homeschool co-op. We can help with the details.

Is homeschooling legal in Illinois?

Yes! Illinois is one of the best states for homeschooling with the fewest regulations. Illinois law requires that all children ages 6 – 17 attend a public or private school. Homeschools are considered private schools.

Do I need to contact the public school when I begin homeschooling?

There is no need to contact the public school unless your child has already been enrolled there. If that is the case, you need only send a letter to the school to inform them that you will be teaching them at home. Sample letters are available.

How much does it cost to homeschool?

Homeschooling is much less expensive than you realize, especially in a dual-income household where simple cost-saving techniques can be applied to raise wonderful, healthy children. The cost of curriculum varies, but there is something for everyone.

I don't have a college degree. Am I qualified to homeschool?

God qualified you when He blessed you with children. Statistics show that there is little or no difference between homeschooled children whose parents attended college than those who did not. The bottom line is this: no one is more vested in the success of your child than you are and, given that, you will do everything that you can to see them succeed.

ADVANTAGES OF HOMESCHOOLING

For Christians, one of the major advantages of homeschooling is the freedom for parents to choose curriculum that supports their faith and Christian worldview that they will then be able to pass down to their children. This would include teaching creation science, history from a biblical timeline, and incorporating prayer into their daily routine. Christian parents can fulfill their responsibility in Proverbs 22:6.

Homeschooling offers curriculum that helps parents meet the personal needs of their child's specific learning style.

Academic Performance

- A 2016 (from Ray, 2010) analysis reveals that Illinois homeschool students are scoring at the 81st to 87th percentile across the subjects of reading (87th), language (82nd), math (83rd), science (84th), and social studies (81st). This is 31 to 37 percentile points above the U.S. public school average.
- Multiple studies by many researchers show that home-educated students average 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests (Murphy, 2012).
- These students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents' level of education, family's household income, or whether their parents were ever certified teachers.
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the college SAT and ACT tests and are increasingly being actively recruited by colleges.

Social, Emotional, and Psychological Development

- The home-educated do very well, typically above average, on measures of social, emotional, and psychological development. Research measures include peer interaction, self-concept, leadership skills, family cohesion, participation in community service, and self-esteem.
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in social and educational activities outside their homes and with people other than their nuclear-family members. They are commonly involved in activities such as field trips, scouting, 4-H, political drives, church ministry, sports teams, and community volunteer work.

“Christians and Jews always understood the purpose of education as coming to know God – the scriptures say fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom – yet God is banned in government schools.”

– Israel Wayne is an author, columnist, the director of Family Renewal, and a widely recognized authority on homeschooling.

MORE REASONS TO HOMESCHOOL

Most parents and youth decide to homeschool for more than one reason. The most common reasons given for choosing home-based education are:

- customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child,
- accomplish more academically than in schools,
- use pedagogical approaches other than those typical in institutional schools,
- enhance family relationships between children and parents and among siblings,
- provide guided and reasoned social interactions with peers and adults,
- teach and impart a particular set of values, beliefs, and worldview,
- provide a safer environment for children because of physical violence, bullying, drugs and alcohol, psychological abuse, racism, and improper and unhealthy sex ed taught in many government schools,
- a temporary decision due to a move, health or family situation.

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” – Deuteronomy 6:6-7

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