

Home-schooling vs. Public/Private School Education

Argument against Home-schooling

Parents' lack of teaching credentials is often presented as an argument against home-schooling. This document examines the issue of teacher qualifications, along with other proposed reasons why home-schooling is bad.

Most home-schoolers are not professional teachers and do not have professional teaching experience or teaching certificates. Home educators often receive very little teacher training, and many do not even hold college or university degrees. On the other hand, public school teachers spend years training to become effective classroom teachers. They are required to meet *state standards* and undergo continuing education in order to retain the right to teach, and they sometimes have special expertise or advanced degrees in the subjects they are teaching.

Some individuals believe the lack of access to trained teachers who have specialised knowledge in specific subjects' places home-schoolers at a disadvantage. They are also concerned that home school students will not be able to learn in a classroom environment or receive instruction from different types of teachers.

Are Home-school Students at a Disadvantage?

According to home-schooling statistics, home-school students outperform their peers on standardised tests regardless of whether or not their parents are certified teachers or hold university degrees. These results are consistent with private schools, where many teachers are not certified, yet still able to teach effectively.

In addition, most teacher training focuses on teaching classroom management techniques and is not subject specific. While this training can be beneficial for teachers who may be responsible for a classroom full of students, it is unnecessary for parents who are educating their children in a home environment.

Home educators can purchase teaching manuals, lesson guides, and multimedia resources to help them teach any subject. They may also attend support groups, home-school conventions and local seminars that provide information to help them overcome challenges they may face.

Home-schoolers are dedicated to seeing their children succeed, and they often spend time researching learning styles and seeking out the best teaching methods and resources for their children. Their children also have ample opportunities to work independently and gain self-study skills that can be extremely important in university.

In summary, research has shown that parents can successfully teach their children without specialized teacher training or certificates. Therefore, lack of professional teaching experience is not an effective argument against home-schooling.

Academic instruction in a home environment is more efficient and effective than that which occurs in public/private school classrooms. Home-schoolers have the freedom to choose materials and teaching techniques that maximize their children's opportunity for success.

Here are some of the academic advantages of home-schooling vs. public education:

Home-schooling allows for more one-on-one academic instruction. The student/teacher ratio in public school classrooms can sometimes be as high as 50+ to 1. Instruction often caters to students who are average, and students who are gifted or have special needs may fall through the cracks. Home-schoolers have more time to spend instructing children individually, and can focus on the needs of each child, rather than focusing on needs of the class as a whole.

Home schools are parent-directed. Home-schooling allows parents - *not teachers, principals, administrators and school boards* - to choose what and how their children are taught. Parents can make decisions according to what's best for their children, without thought toward the conflicting agendas, financial pressures and professional concerns that schoolteachers and administrators must consider.

Home education is tailored to a student's learning style. Children can be auditory learners, visual learners, hands-on learners, or any combination of the three. Home-schoolers can choose curriculum and teaching methods that fit their children's primary learning styles; thus, minimizing frustration and helping each child reach his or her full academic potential. Home-schooled students progress *at their own pace*. Because instruction takes place in a one-on-one environment, home-schoolers can spend as long as they need to on a particular concept or topic and move on as soon as they have mastered the material. This ability to slow down or move forward as necessary helps students avoid the boredom and undue pressure that come from following arbitrary time lines and striving to meet outside standards.

Home-schooling encourages discovery and love of learning. Home-schooling provides children with more freedom and time to pursue their interests. Children develop as a result of their desire to learn new information, not as a result of external motivators like grades and class ranking.

Home schools provide the perfect atmosphere for educational and emotional development. Here are some of the advantages of learning in a home environment: Adults in a home-school setting are familiar with and committed to the success of each child as an individual. Although most public-school teachers are also committed to seeing children succeed, they have more difficulty getting to know each child on a personal level, and must sometimes sacrifice the needs of individual students to meet the needs of the class.

Home-school students are taught in a diverse, cooperative environment. Unlike public school classrooms, where children are segregated by age and are often in classes with those who share their race and socioeconomic status, children who are home-schooled learn in a multi-age, real world environment. Instead of competing with peers for grades and attention from instructors, children learn to work to their full potential, while encouraging siblings to reach their full potential, as well.

Home is a safe environment. Home-schoolers learn in an atmosphere that is free from the teasing, taunting and bullying that can leave children with lifelong scars. Children who are

