

Homeschooling: The Proof Is In the Results

Dr. Jay L. Wile

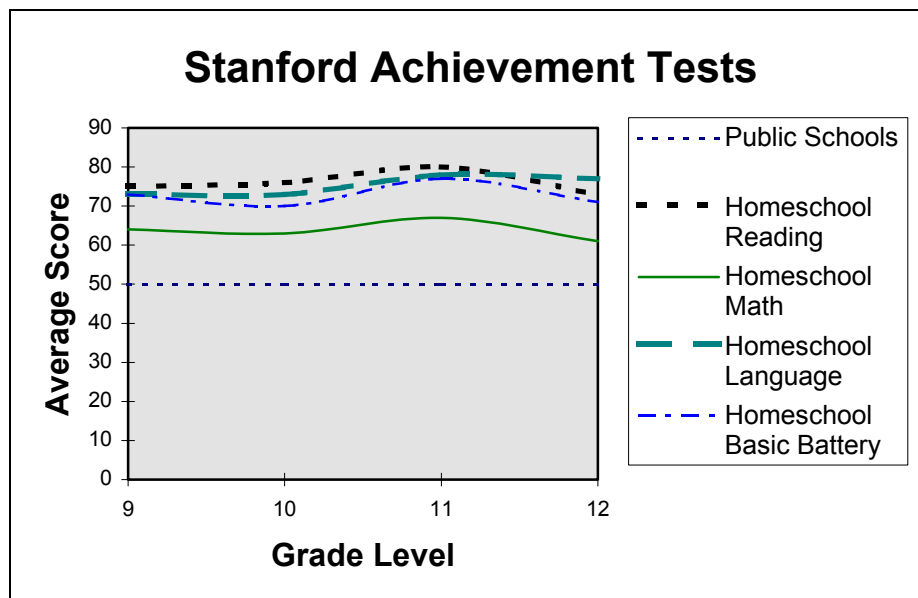
Qualifications

- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- 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 junior high and high school science curriculum for homeschoolers

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!*

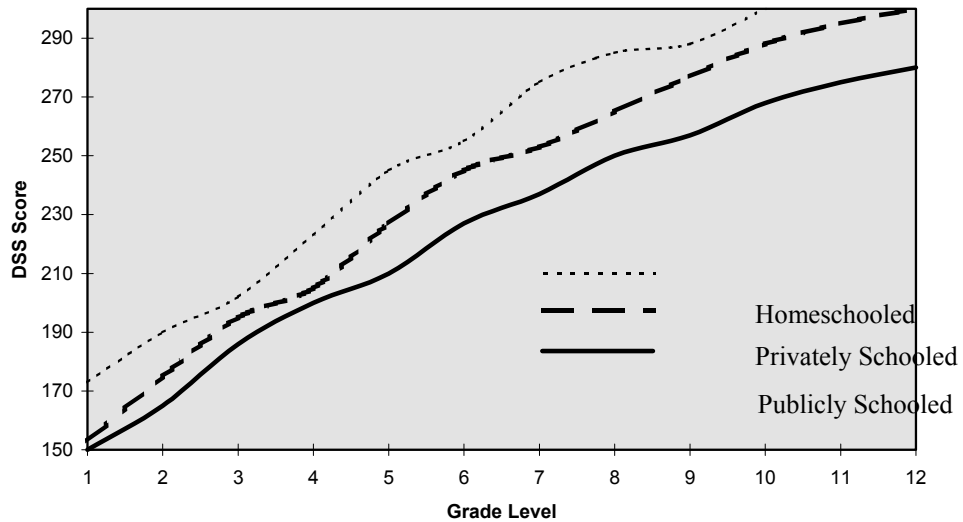
When I Looked At the Research, I Understood Why



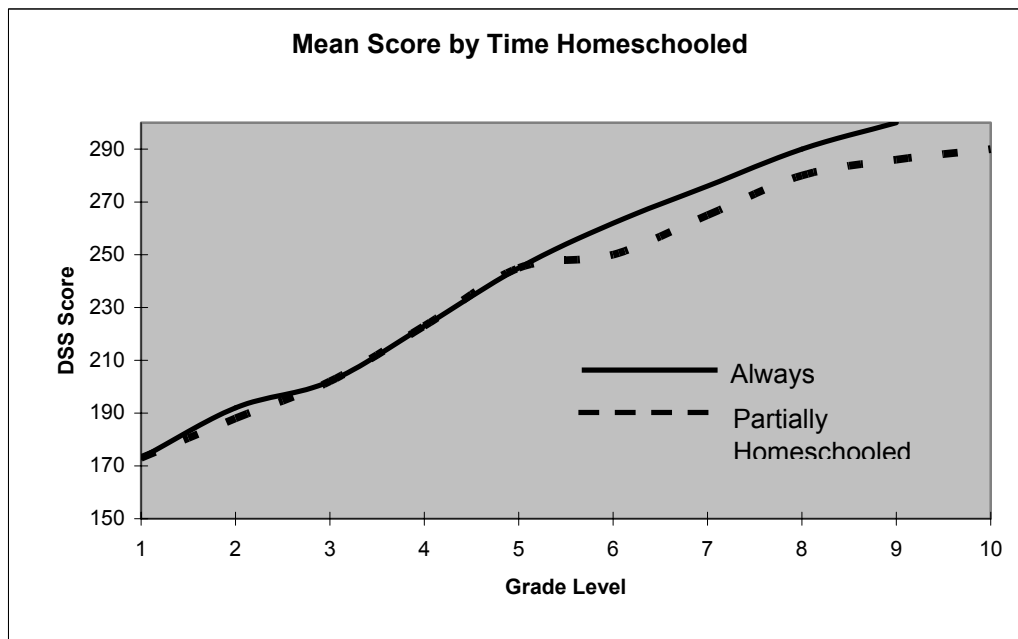
[Brian D. Ray, *Marching to the Beat of Their Own Drum! A Profile of Home Education Results*, 1992, p. 10]

More Recent Research Shows the Same Trends

Median Composite Scores



It Gets Better the Longer You Homeschool!



NOTE: DSS score is a composite score that measures the student's entire academic achievement.

[Lawrence M. Rudner, "Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998," Education Policy Analysis Archives, Volume 7 Number 8, ISSN 1068-2341, 1999]

But What Happens When They Hit the “Real World”?

- If you mean “College or University,” the research shows that they do VERY well compared to their peers.
- If you mean “The Workplace,” indications are that they also do very well.
- If you mean “All The Other Stuff” about life, the data point to a great future for them.

Let’s Start with College or University

- At Boston University, the GPA of Homeschooled Students was 3.3 out of 4.0*
- At Oral Roberts University, the GPA of Homeschooled Students was 3.02, while the GPA of the entire university student body was 2.76*
- Phil Caffrey, Iowa State University's director of admissions, stated, "homeschool students, on average, have higher grade-point averages" than the student body as a whole. Cumulative admissions data show the average ACT score for was 2 points higher for homeschoolers than for all USI students.**

*Klicka, Chris, "Home-Schooled Students Excel in College," in *Home Schooling*, ed. Mur, C., *At issue; Variation: At issue (San Diego, Calif.)* (San Diego, Calif.: Greenhaven Press, 2003).

** December 14, 2004, “Home-schooled do well at Iowa's universities,” Des Moines Register, by Dawn Sagario

In an interesting study, Mary Beth Bolle and her colleagues followed nine homeschooled students as they transitioned to university.

“There was little distinction between the transitional issues experienced by homeschooled students and the issues experienced by traditionally educated students, as described in the literature.”

“One transitional issue...was their need to adjust to traditional academics and teaching styles. Many students found their classes to be easier than their high school course work. Others had difficulty with academics at first...The success of their transition was demonstrated in part by the persistence... from the first semester to the second semester.”

[Bolle, Mary Beth, Roger D. Wessel, and Thalia M. Mulvihill, "Transitional Experiences of First-Year College Students Who Were Homeschooled," *Journal of College Student Development* **48**:637, 2007]

In *Stanford Magazine*, Christine Foster notes that homeschoolers are only 0.2% of Stanford’s applicant pool, but the admissions office recruits them heavily. She quotes Dr. Jonathan Reider, who was senior associate director of undergraduate admissions at Stanford. “The distinguishing factor is intellectual vitality...These kids have it, and everything they do is responding to it.”

[Foster, Christine, “In a Class By Themselves,” *Stanford Magazine* (November/December, 2000)]

Dr. Joyce Reed, associate dean of Brown says this about homeschooled students: “These kids are the epitome of Brown students ... They've learned to be self-directed, they take risks, they face challenges with total fervor, and they don't back off.”

[Jennifer Sutton, “Homeschooling Comes of Age,” *Brown Alumni Magazine*, January/February 2002]

According to the admissions office at Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis, “Over 150 students have enrolled at IUPUI with home school backgrounds and as a group these students have academically excelled and out-performed the general student population.”

[<http://enroll.iupui.edu/admissions/undergraduate/freshmen/homeschool.shtml>]

According to *Business Week*, “The popular perception is that people homeschool for religious reasons. But the No. 1 motivation, research shows, is concern about school environments, including negative peer pressure, safety, and drugs. In some circles homeschooling is even attaining a reputation as a secret weapon for Ivy League admission.”

[“Meet My Teachers: Mom and Dad,” *Business Week*, February 20, 2006]

Let's Move on and Talk About 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 [<http://www.hslda.org/CourtReport/V18N4/V18N401.asp>]
- “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.”
- Homeschoolers are popping up everywhere, moving seamlessly into college and the workplace, thriving in internships and in entry- and professional-level jobs. They’re also making a mark as entrepreneurs
- “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.”
- “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.”

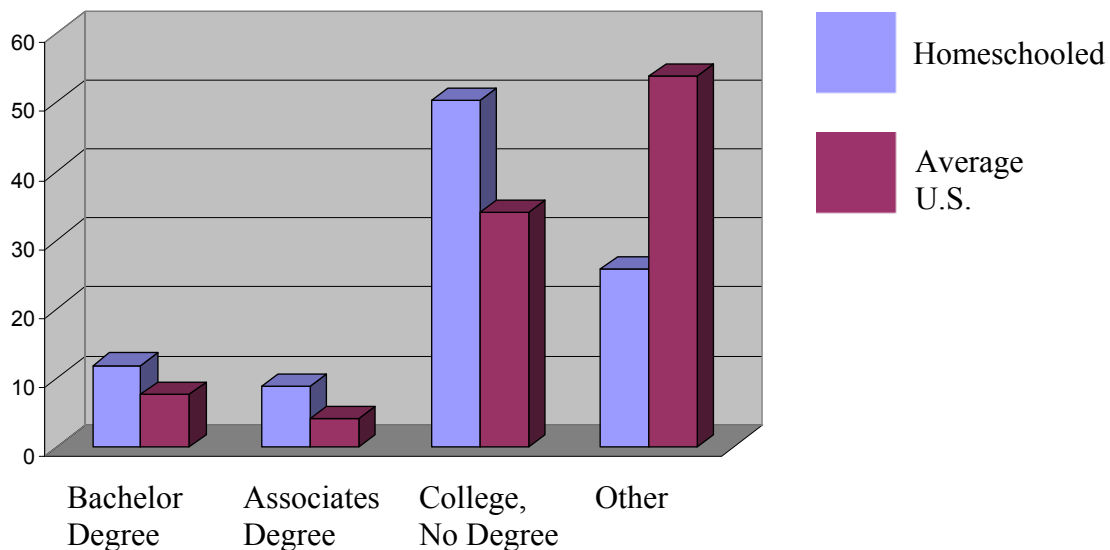
[Robert J. Grossman. "Home Is Where the School Is," *HR Magazine*, Nov, 2001]

Finally, What About All The Other Stuff?

In 2003, Dr. Brian Ray conducted the largest research study ever done on adults who had been homeschooled. Over 7,000 adults who had been homeschooled were surveyed, and more than 5,000 had been homeschooled for at least seven years and were age 18-24. The statistics presented here come from that second group. The title of the study is *Home Educated and Now Adults: Their Community and Civic Involvement, Views About Homeschooling, and Other Traits*

A Few Statistics First

In 2003, Dr. Brian Ray conducted the largest research study ever done on adults who had been homeschooled. Over 7,000 adults who had been homeschooled were surveyed, and more than 5,000 had been homeschooled for at least seven years and were age 18-24. The statistics presented here come from that second group. The title of the study is *Home Educated and Now Adults: Their Community and Civic Involvement, Views About Homeschooling, and Other Traits*



Who answered “YES” to the Questions?

Have you read a book in English in the past six months?

Homeschooled: 98.5% Average U.S.: 69%

Do you volunteer in an ongoing community service?

Homeschooled: 71.1% Average U.S.: 37%

Are politics and government too complicated to understand?

Homeschooled: 4.2% Average U.S.: 35%

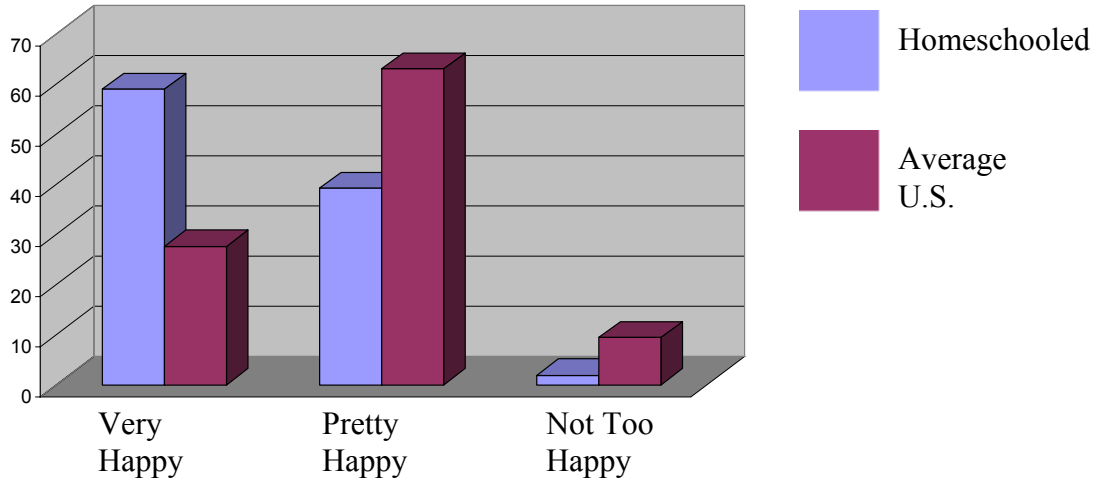
Do you know how to use the internet?

Homeschooled: 99.6% Average U.S.: 31%

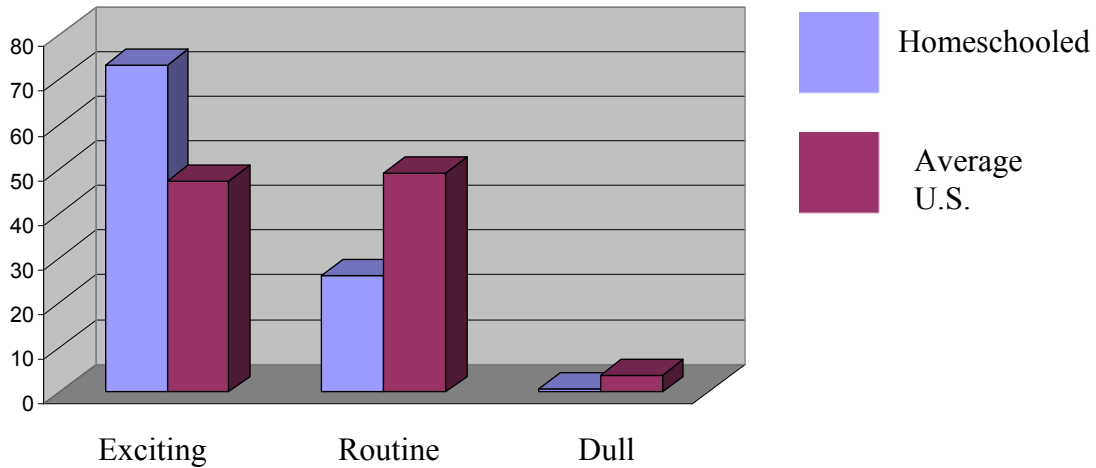
Have you used a public library in the past year?
 Homeschooled: 90.3% Average U.S.: 56%

Do you attend religious services once a month or more?
 Homeschooled: 93.3% Average U.S.: 41%

Taken all together, how would you say things are these days —would you say that you are:



“In general, do you find life exciting, pretty routine, or dull?”



I am glad that I was homeschooled:
 St. Ag. **75.8%** Ag. **19.4%** Nther. **2.8%** Disag. **1.4%** St. Disag. **0.6%**

Having been homeschooled was an advantage:
 St. Ag. **66%** Ag. **26.4%** Nther. **5.7%** Disag. **1.5%** St. Disag. **0.4%**

I would homeschool my own children:
 St. Ag. **54.8%** Ag. **27.3%** Nther. **13.5%** Disag. **2.8%** St. Disag. **1.6%**