

Homeschooling: The Solution to our Education Problem

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

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

The Problem: Public Schools

- They can be hostile to Christian values.
- They can be unsafe for students.
- They usually expose students to a very bad peer group.
- They usually have incredibly low academic standards.

The Solution: Homeschooling

- You can raise your children with the moral and religious education you want for them.
- You can keep your students SAFE!
- You control peer group! The jails are full of people who listened to their peer group rather than their parents.
- You will hold your students to the highest of standards, because **you love them and want the very best for them!**

Worried that you aren't a "qualified" teacher?

- On every university campus studied, the average SAT score of students in the college of education is lower (usually by about 100 points) than the average SAT score of the entire university.
- On every university campus studied, the college of education gives the HIGHEST grades as compared to all other colleges!

Our WORST students are going into teaching, and they are being held to the LOWEST standard.

Results of a study released by a 19-member commission that was appointed and funded by Louis Gerstner, a former IBM chairman:

- Those who score poorly on college entrance exams are TWICE as likely to go into teaching compared to those who score well on the exams.
- 61% of middle school math teachers do not even have a minor in math!
- At least a third of entry-level teachers quit within five years. In urban schools, the rate is even higher.

As a result, this should not surprise us:

In a test used to screen job applicants, 59% of prospective teachers in Massachusetts failed a test said to be on the eighth grade level.

The mandatory test of basic reading and writing skills was taken by 1,795 prospective teachers in April. A panel of educators recommended 77% as the passing mark. After the results were made know, the passing score was lowered to 66%, so only 44% of the prospective teachers would be denied employment.

Though this attracted much national media discussion, it shouldn't be too surprising. According to a Scripps Howard News Service report, in the 43 other states which also use such pre-employment testing, at least **30% of the candidates have consistently failed.**

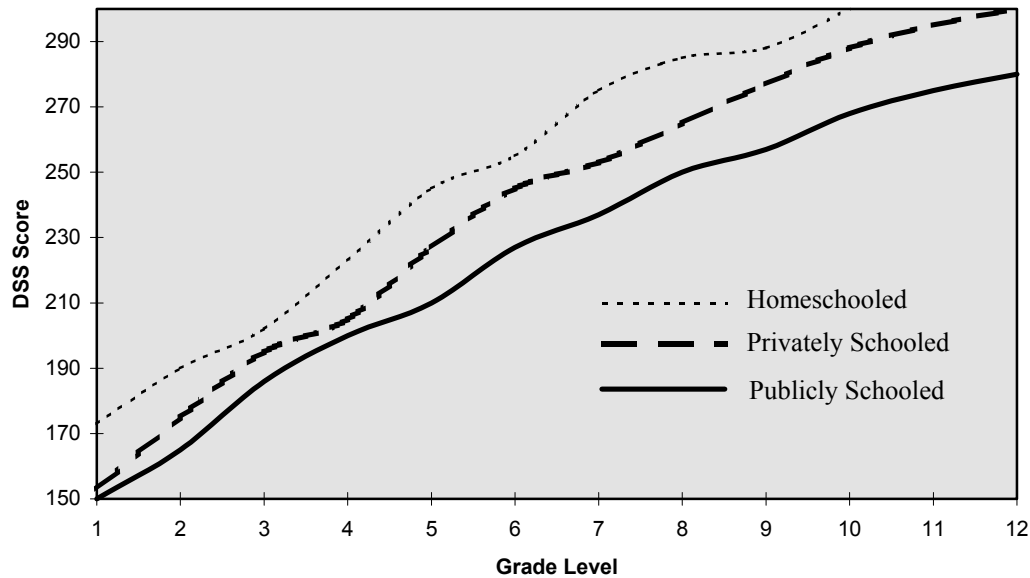
Because of the poorly-qualified teachers, the quality of the materials is also low:

A panel of teachers with teaching backgrounds from junior high to graduate school recently evaluated the most popular physical science texts. They report:

- The books were FILLED with errors. Some were copy errors (a photo of Linda Ronstadt labeled as “silicon crystal doped with an arsenic impurity”), but most were serious science errors! The authors said that they wanted to report all of the errors, but “... **listing all the errors would make this report much too long (over 500 pages).**”
- The books were incredibly confusing. There were experiments that could not work, technical words not defined, and drawings representing impossible situations.
- The books were far too busy. There were complicated illustrations and irrelevant photos that detracted students from learning the subject at hand.
- There is a lot of inconsistency between the text and the notes for the teacher in the teacher’s edition. Sometimes the book will say one thing, and the teacher’s notes will say exactly the opposite.
- All of the authors note: “**Not one** of the books we reviewed reached a level that we would call **scientifically accurate.**”
- **The publishers seem unconcerned:** “We also noticed that publishers, when presented with lists of errors, suggest that their new printing or edition has taken care of those errors. Subsequent looks at these new books showed some corrections and often more errors.”

Is it any wonder, then, that homeschooled students excel?

Median Composite Scores



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

Why Do Homeschoolers Excel?

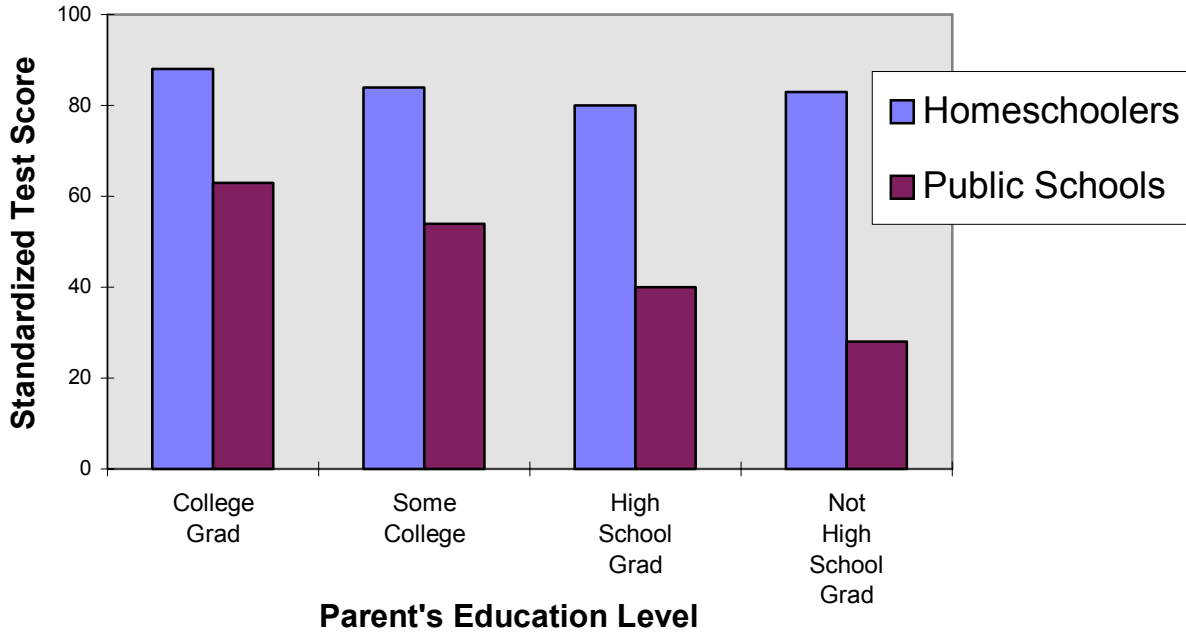
- The Love of Learning is not socialized out of them.
- Learning is generally more interesting for students when the curriculum is tailored directly to them.
- You can't beat the teacher/student ratio!
- Homeschooling teaches independent learning.
- Homeschooling parents impart *by example* that education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

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

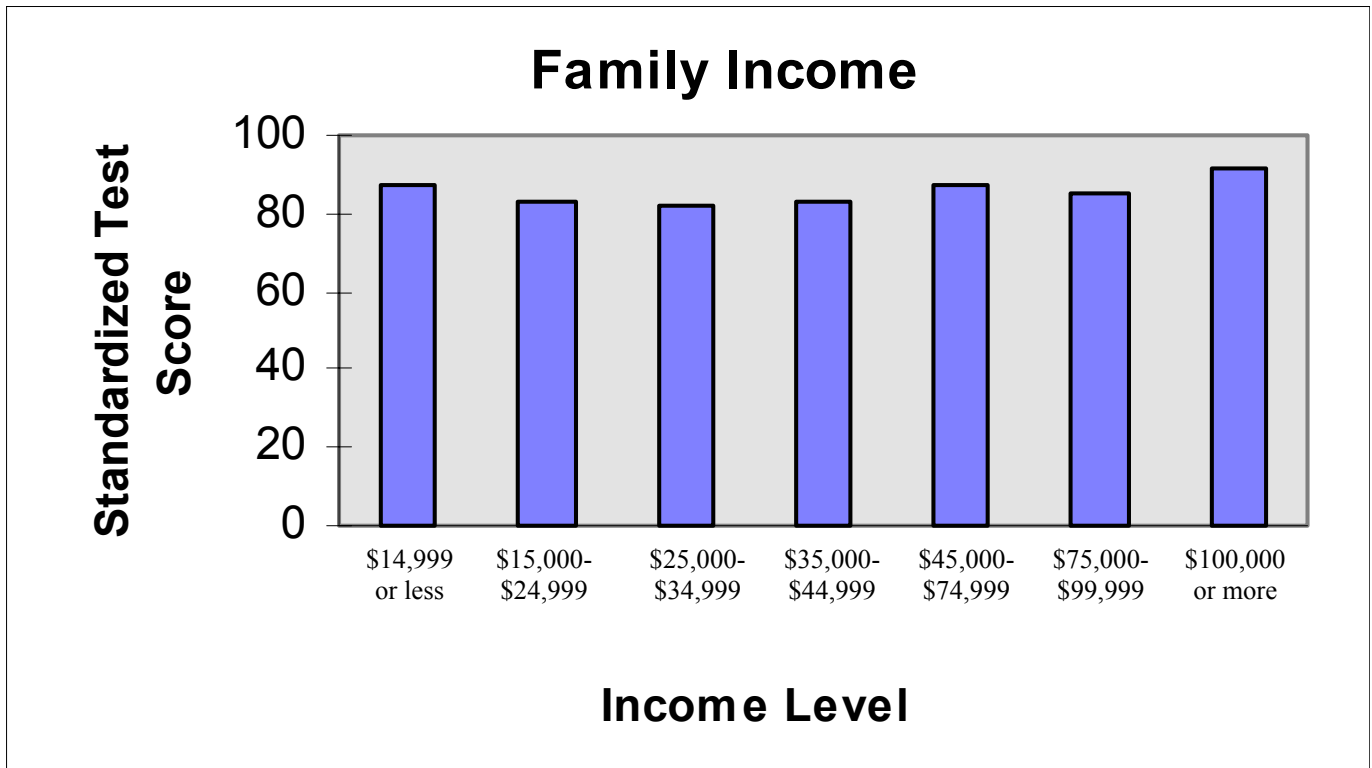
- K-12 Basic Battery for those whose parents are certified teachers: 88
- K-12 Basic Battery for those whose parents aren't certified teachers: 85

This compares to 50% for public schools

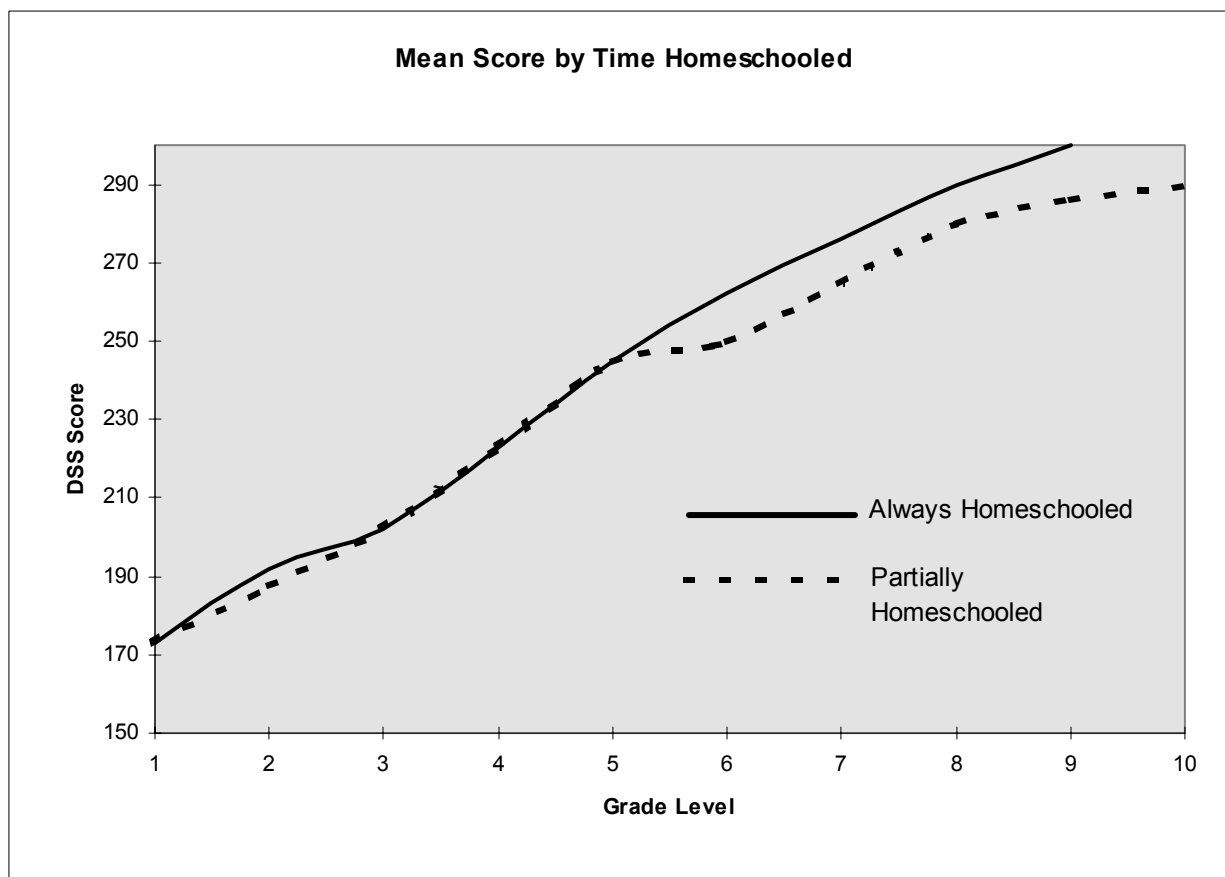
Achievement vs. Parent's Education



It Doesn't Even Depend on Income!



It Gets Better the Longer You Homeschool!



What About College?

- On the SAT, Homeschoolers score 67 points above the national average. Homeschoolers also outperform all other students on the ACT.
- “With average family incomes of \$40,000 to \$50,000, lower than the \$50,000-to-\$60,000 median rung, the home-schoolers defied the demographic correlation between high incomes and high SAT scores.” -Daniel Golden, *Wall Street Journal*
- “Home-schoolers bring certain skills -- motivation, curiosity, the capacity to be responsible for their education -- that high schools don't induce very well” -Daniel Golden, *Wall Street Journal*
- The conclusions of Dr. Rhonda Galloway, BJU English professor, after researching 180 first-time, homeschooled BJU students:

In my study, they did as well as, if not better than, the other students...I think the edge home schooled children have over conventionally educated students - whether Christian or public - is that they're not afraid to ask questions; they speak their minds and they have to be readers because they're so involved in the self-teaching aspect. They're more independent. When they have a question not answered in the classroom, they'll go out and find out more or they'll pester the teacher until she finds out.”

- 68% of US universities now accept parent-prepared transcripts.
- Stanford University in the fall of 1999 accepted 27% of homeschooled applicants. This is *twice* the acceptance rate of publicly and privately schooled students.

- Homeschooled students at Boston University had an average GPA of 3.3, and Kennesaw State University confirms that the GPA's of their homeschooled students are significantly higher than the average.

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

But What About “Socialization?”

- Dr. Gary Knowles(1991) studied more than 1,000 Michigan adults who had been homeschooled. None were unemployed or on welfare (compared to 5.6% and 11.2%, respectively for the average population). A full 94% said that homeschool helped prepare them to be independent persons, and 79% said that it helped them to interact with those from other levels of society.
- Dr. Shyers (1992) reports studied the behavior of homeschooled and publicly schooled students in free and structured play. Homeschoolers have significantly lower problem behavior scores. Other than that, there was little noticeable difference.
- Dr. Delahooke (1986) showed that homeschooled students are significantly less peer dependent.
- Dr. Montgomery (1989) showed that homeschooled students are just as active in extracurricular activities that promote leadership as were privately-schooled students.
- Andrews University in Michigan showed that the average home schooled student scored in the top third of the PIERS-HARRIS SELF CONCEPT SCALE, a standard test of social adjustment, and over half scored in the top 10 percent.
- Thomas C. Smedley used The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale as a diagnostic tool to assess the competence and/or "mental age" of a subject. The mean Adaptive Behavior Composite score of 115.55 for the home schooled children puts them in the top 16%! In terms of the socialization subcategory score, the home schooled students rank in the top 27%.