

## What About Socialization?

Despite the name, homeschooling is not limited to cloistered study around the kitchen table. Homeschoolers make good use of the wealth of resources available in Massachusetts. As a group, homeschoolers are civic minded and many volunteer for community organizations, as well as becoming involved with sports leagues, arts groups, nature centers, and museums. Engagement with the world allows development of relationships with adults and peers, making it common for homeschoolers to have friends of various ages. Homeschool support groups offer opportunities to meet other children and enjoy group activities and classes.



**Many homeschoolers find they have to cut back on their social schedule to have time at home!**



*Pictures 1 to 4, from top:* Dancing around the Maypole; Science Fair exhibit; backstage at the ballet; rising to a balancing challenge on a ropes course; discussing the reading in book group; one of a series of regular visits to the Massachusetts State House.

## What About College?

Homeschooled students are welcomed in many institutions of higher learning throughout the country, ranging from local community colleges to Ivy League universities. Most of these institutions value ability and attitude over formal transcripts and diplomas. Colleges place a premium on the life experiences of homeschoolers, as well as on their community involvement.

### Massachusetts Homeschool Guidelines

Oversight of home education is a local function in Massachusetts. Because there are nearly as many ways to homeschool as there are homeschooling families, local oversight enables school authorities to exercise discretion and flexibility in evaluating home education plans and student progress. In using their oversight function, school authorities may ask for certain types of information, but they must remember the limits established by the *Charles* decision (1987) to protect parents' rights in determining how their children will be educated. In the *Charles* case, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts upheld the compulsory attendance statute, General Laws Chapter 76 Section 1, while balancing two basic tenets – the constitutional right of parents to homeschool and the state's interest in the education of its citizenry.

### A sampling of MA colleges that have accepted MA homeschoolers

- Amherst College
- Atlantic Union College
- Babson College
- Berklee College of Music
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Eastern Nazarene College
- Emerson College
- Fitchburg State College
- Gordon College
- Hampshire College
- Harvard University
- Mass. College of Art
- MIT
- Mount Holyoke College
- Northeastern University
- Olin College
- Simmons College
- Simon's Rock Col. of Bard
- Smith College
- Tufts University
- University of Massachusetts
- Wellesley College
- Wheaton College
- WPI



## Why Homeschool?

The U.S. Department of Education currently estimates that there are over a million homeschoolers in the United States, making it an important educational option for families.

**Homeschooling is being adopted by a broader range of families than ever before.**

Families choose to homeschool for many different reasons: educational,

political, religious, or simply because they enjoy being with their children. Diversity in homeschooling is not limited to the wide range of motivating factors. The homeschooling population is comprised of traditional and non-traditional families from various races, ethnicities, faiths, philosophies, and lifestyles.

## About AHEM

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc. (AHEM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, independent, grassroots, volunteer-run, educational organization that gathers and disseminates information about homeschooling in Massachusetts through education, advocacy, and events.

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## Meet Massachusetts Homeschoolers

