

Who Homeschools?

The homeschooling population is comprised of traditional and non-traditional families from various ethnicities, races, faiths, and lifestyles. Families choose to homeschool for many different reasons: a concern about school environment, a wish to provide moral or academic instruction, or simply because they enjoy being with their children.

How do they do it?

Each family is unique, each child is unique. Some families homeschool without a packaged curriculum while others use a more traditional approach. Some families use different methods for different children in the same family. Take the time to discover what works for you and your child; flexibility is key.

What about socialization?

Homeschoolers have the time and opportunity to interact with adults and children of all ages in the world at large, as well as abundant family time. They also socialize through a wide variety of activities, including field trips, classes, and homeschool networking groups. Many homeschoolers find they have to cut back on their social schedule to have time at home!

About AHEM

Help for Homeschooling in Massachusetts

www.AHEM.info

- FAQ about homeschooling
- Same Education Plan
- News and Events

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, INC. (AHEM) is a nonprofit, independent, grassroots, volunteer-run, educational organization that gathers and disseminates information about homeschooling in Massachusetts through education advocacy, and events.



Become a Friend of AHEM

It's free! Subscribe at www.ahem.info. Subscribers get notice of issues and events of interest to Massachusetts homeschoolers via an announcement-only email list. AHEM respects your privacy and will not share your name or contact information with any other organization.

Donate to AHEM

Contributions to support our work are greatly appreciated. Donate securely online at www.ahem.info or write a check to "Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc." and send it to: AHEM, PO Box 1307, Arlington, MA 02474. Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



Considering Homeschooling?



How do I find support?

Networking groups as diverse as homeschoolers themselves and include loose networks, structured clubs, inclusive and welcoming groups, and groups that cater to particular religions or educational philosophies. Try out a few to see where you feel comfortable, or start your own.

Support from AHEM includes:

- Local Homeschool Networks Listing
- News and Events
- Resource Links
- One on One Email & Phone Help

What about college?

Colleges and universities throughout the country welcome homeschooled students who've been take deep dives pursuing their interests, creating unique resumes. Colleges recognize the contributions that homeschoolers with diverse experiences make to their institutions.

How do I decide?

- Become a friend of AHEM
- Talk to active homeschoolers - meet some through local networking groups or online
- Read About Homeschooling:
 - Teach Your Own by John Holt & Patrick Farenga
 - Free Range Learning by Laura Grace Weldon
 - Home Grown by Ben Hewitt
 - Brave Learner by Julie Bogart
 - Learning All The Time by John Holt
 - College Without High School by Blake Boles



MA Homeschool Guidelines



If you want to homeschool your child in Massachusetts, and they are between the ages of 6 and 16, you must submit an education plan to your local school district. Local school authorities may ask for certain types of information, but they must remember the limits established to protect parents' rights in determining how their children will be educated.

**See AHEM.info
for a sample education plan**

An Education Plan should include:

01. Parental Qualifications

Parents are not required to have any specific credentials, but schools can ask for the academic credentials or qualifications of the parent or parents who will be instructing the children.

Subjects & Hours 02.

Families can list the subjects they plan to cover, which do not have to replicate the public school's curriculum. Parents should provide the equivalent hours of instruction as the public schools. "Instruction" includes independent study, field trips, technology-assisted learning, and presentations by persons other than teachers. Following a schedule is not required.

03. Teaching Materials

Materials can include books and supplies, as well as intangibles such as travel, community service, field trips, and other resources. School officials may not dictate what you use or how you homeschool.

Method of Evaluation 04.

Evaluation may include one of the following approaches: standardized testing, periodic progress report, or dated work samples. Home visits may not be required as a condition of approval.