

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc. Library Workshops

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts (AHEM) is a nonprofit, independent, grassroots, volunteer-run, educational organization that gathers and disseminates information about homeschooling in Massachusetts through education, advocacy, and events. We believe that informed and active homeschoolers are their own best advocates in maintaining the right to independently homeschool. We welcome and value the participation of anyone interested in homeschooling in Massachusetts. We do not discriminate based on age, race, family status, religious belief, or sexual orientation.

As part of our mission, AHEM volunteers—all experienced homeschooling parents—are available to facilitate workshops or guide discussion groups in public libraries on a variety of topics related to homeschooling. Sessions are typically one-and-a-half to two hours in length and are conducted informally with ample opportunity for questions and discussion. Availability of a specific topic is dependent on which AHEM volunteers are able and willing to present.

AHEM asks for a donation of \$100 (or more, if you are able). We also require reimbursement of the cost of mileage (14 cents/mile) if the speaker must travel further than 20 miles from home. If this presents a hardship, please contact AHEM with your particulars. We are a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is tax-deductible.

AHEM is happy to provide a press release for library use. We recommend pre-registration for all events. We will gladly publicize these library events through AHEM channels. We do ask that attendees refrain from soliciting at these events.

Topics – or let us customize a workshop to meet the needs of your patrons, both those that currently homeschool and those that would like to learn more about homeschooling.

Presentations (max 40 attendees)

Getting Started Homeschooling—most popular

The nitty-gritty of how to get started for those new to homeschooling or just considering it. Topics to be covered include an overview of homeschooling, deciding whether or not to homeschool, getting started, methods for teaching, resources for teaching, and homeschooling support. Informational handouts will be available and an opportunity for questions will follow the presentation.

Homeschooling High School

This presentation is intended for those currently homeschooling, as well as parents and teens interested in homeschooling high school. Topics to be covered include examples of what homeschooling high school can look like when you operate without an outside curriculum and keep your own records; why it can be a smart choice; resources and support; a timeline for homeschooling high school with college in mind, including figuring out where to apply, keeping records, grades, testing, and preparing a portfolio, resumé, and transcript. Handouts will be available and an opportunity for questions will follow the presentation.

What is Homeschooling?

This presentation is intended as an overview of homeschooling for the general public. Reasons people homeschool, methods, common questions and a brief overview of regulations regarding homeschooling in Massachusetts.

Workshop (max 15 attendees)

Nuts and Bolts of Homeschooling in Massachusetts—for those writing an education plan for the first time

This workshop will cover Massachusetts homeschool guidelines; the history of homeschooling in MA; writing your education plan; choosing a form of evaluation; and local homeschool policies. Plenty of time for specific questions.