



WHY WE DON'T NEED NEW HOMESCHOOL LEGISLATION

Research on Homeschooling Supports Positive Outcomes. “30 years of research by about 45 scholars in peer-reviewed journals has revealed significantly positive things related to homeschooling. There are very few pieces of empirical evidence from studies indicating that homeschool students or graduates of homeschooling are not doing as well as others; there is no body of research showing that they are being harmed at any higher rate than others.... To date, the clear majority of research done on homeschooling finds positive things associated with the method of education.”¹

African American Parents are turning to homeschooling for more education opportunity. “The number of African American families choosing to homeschool has increased substantially as concern over the plight of American Black students has grown. Reportedly, 8-15 percent of all homeschoolers are African American (Anderson 2018; Ray 2011). Since 2003, the number of Black children being home educated has doubled to about 220,000 (Weber and Kargbo 2018).”²

Homeschooled children are not more likely to be abused. At this time, what little empirical evidence there is actually reveals the opposite – “that homeschooled children are abused at a lower rate than are those in the general public, and no evidence shows that the home educated are at any higher risk of abuse.”³

Summary:

The practice of private "home schooling" (i.e. parents teaching their own children privately at home) under the private school exemption has a long history of working exceptionally well in California. There are already very specific and adequate laws dealing with truancy and holding all private schools, including those based in the home, accountable. Private homeschoolers should be left to continue successfully educating their children without additional mandates or requirements. No new "home school" laws are necessary.

Parental supervision of K-12 home-based private education has historically worked extremely well. “The SAT 2014 test scores of college-bound homeschool students were higher than the national average of all college-bound seniors that same year.... These relatively high SAT scores of home-educated students are consistent with their high SAT scores in preceding research and with research findings on the overall success of college students who were home educated.”⁴ Research demonstrates that students in home-based private schools on average score significantly better than the average public school student on academic tests.⁵ Home educated students continue to successfully graduate from colleges and universities across the nation and enter the job market, military service, and society at large as very responsible citizens.⁶ It is unnecessary to spend time, money, and energy trying to fix something that isn't broken.

Parents have the right and responsibility to direct their child's education. A Supreme Court decision in 1925 held that children are not creatures of the state, that those who nurture them and direct them have the right (and the responsibility) to instruct them, and that the state does not have the power to force children to learn from public school teachers exclusively.⁷

NATHAN B. PIERCE

P.O. Box 730 · Lincoln, CA 95648-0730 · (916) 415-9480 · contact@pheofca.org

© February 2021



PRIVATE & HOME EDUCATORS OF CALIFORNIA

¹ Ray, Brian D. "A Homeschool Researcher Responds to Harvard Professor's Criticism." HSLDA, Home School Legal Defense Association, 1 June 2020, hsllda.org/post/a-homeschool-researcher-responds-to-harvard-professors-criticism. Accessed 4 August 2020.

² Frommack, Heather. "Bridging the Academic Achievement Gap." HSLDA Second Quarter 2020: 7-12. Print.

³ Ray, Brian D. "Child Abuse of Public School, Private School, and Homeschool Students: Evidence, Philosophy, and Reason." National Home Education Research Institute, NHERI, 21 Feb. 2019, www.nheri.org/child-abuse-of-public-school-private-school-and-homeschool-students-evidence-philosophy-and-reason/. Accessed 3 August 2020.

⁴ Ray, Brian D. "Homeschool SAT Scores for 2014 Higher Than National Average." National Home Education Research Institute, NHERI, 27 June 2016, www.nheri.org/homeschool-sat-scores-for-2014-higher-than-national-average/. Accessed 4 August 2020.

⁵ Lawrence M. Rudner, "The Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998," Educational Policy Analysis Archives 7(8), retrieved April 9th, 2018 from <https://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/543/666>.

⁶ Dr. Brian D. Ray, Home Education Reason and Research, (Salem, OR: NHERI Publications, 2009), Pg. 6, Figs. 14 and 15.

⁷ "Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925)." Justia Law, Justia, supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/268/510/. Accessed 4 August 2020.

NATHAN B. PIERCE

P.O. Box 730 · Lincoln, CA 95648-0730 · (916) 415-9480 · contact@pheofca.org

© February 2021