

# Contents

Foreword	11
Introduction	14
<b>Chapter 1: Why Do Parents Choose to Homeschool?</b>	
Chapter Preface	18
Homeschooling Helps Black Children Gain Educational Equality	20
<i>Jennifer James</i>	
Increasing numbers of black families are homeschooling. Homeschooling helps African Americans ensure a quality of education equal to that afforded everyone else, a high level of achievement, and greater exposure to a full range of black history.	
Homeschooling Enables a Rightly Ordered Life	28
<i>Sally Thomas</i>	
Homeschooling is an efficient way to teach and learn. It is successful because it enables a rightly ordered life that eliminates the boundaries between learning and the rest of life.	
Homeschooling Allows Parents to Teach Their Religious Convictions	33
<i>Mark Field and Christine Field</i>	
Religious faith is a strong motivator for many Christians to homeschool. For these Christians, homeschooling is a calling that strengthens family ties, clarifies values, and prepares children for life as committed, passionate Christians.	
Homeschooling Provides the Best Education	39
<i>W.A. Pannacker</i>	
Faculty members who homeschool their children share common motives, beliefs, and circumstances. The overriding goal for all is the best education for their children.	

Homeschooled Children Learn Life Lessons 46

*Christina Rosales*

Parents homeschool because they believe school should be more than just curriculum. Homeschooling makes it possible to incorporate a Christian education and instill goals, character, and a love of learning.

Homeschooling Benefits Special Needs Children 50

*Meg Grooms*

Homeschooled special needs children receive the best possible education. They do not need to attend public school to receive all the services they require.

## **Chapter 2: Is Homeschooling a Good Option?**

Chapter Preface 55

### **Yes: Homeschooling Is a Good Option**

Homeschooling Works Better than Traditional Public Education 58

*Kate McReynolds*

Homeschooling represents a real alternative to traditional public education and to the ideology of consumerism, conformity, and competition that permeates an increasingly standardized society. Homeschooling encourages creativity, learning, and academic freedom.

Homeschooling Is a Widely Misunderstood Movement 67

*Rachel Gathercole*

Hard facts refute many of the prevailing myths and stereotypes commonly associated with the homeschooling movement. Parents choose to homeschool for a variety of reasons and succeed in developing well-socialized, high-achieving students.

Homeschoolers Are Excelling 84

*Andrea Neal*

Homeschoolers get excellent academic results and gain exceptional honors. The homeschooling structure and flexibility lend themselves to a multitude of enrichment opportunities that foster learning and achievement.

**No: Homeschooling Is Not Always a Good Option**

Homeschooling Is Not for Everyone 90

*Carole Moore*

There are valid reasons why homeschooling is not right for all families. Some parents feel that life skills are best developed by exposure to real world environments.

**Chapter 3: Should Homeschooling Be Regulated?**

Chapter Preface 95

**Yes: Homeschooling Should Be Regulated**

States Must Maintain Control and Oversight of Education 98

*Louis A. Greenfield*

Religious and nonreligious homeschoolers and government often disagree on how much homeschools should be regulated and monitored. At the very minimum, annual standardized testing, teacher certification, and portfolios should be required.

Educational Welfare Must Be Monitored 106

*Meg Jalsevac*

The state of New Jersey needs a more stringent homeschooling law. The existing law is unsatisfactory because it ignores the need for the educational welfare of children to be monitored.

## **No: Homeschooling Should Not Be Regulated**

More Regulation or Oversight of Education  
Is Not Needed **109**

*Anne Basso*

Homeschoolers do not need more regulation. There is no proof that problems exist within or relative to the home-schooling community that require government intrusion.

Homeschooling Freedoms Must  
Be Maintained **114**

*Larry Kaseman and Susan Kaseman*

Homeschoolers must work to ensure their freedoms are not infringed upon or limited. They can achieve their goal by following eight principles, including doing only the minimum required by statute or regulation and not ignoring violations of their rights.

Parents Can Legally Instruct Their Children **122**

*Deborah Stevenson*

Instructing one's own children has never been illegal. Government has been able to impose regulations on homeschoolers because people believe the lie that instructing their own children is not legal.

## **Chapter 4: Should Homeschooled Children Have Access to Public School Resources?**

Chapter Preface **129**

### **Yes: Homeschoolers Should Have Access to Public School Resources**

Participation of Homeschoolers in  
Public School Extracurricular Activities  
Should Be Allowed **131**

*State of Pennsylvania*

The governor of Pennsylvania has come out in favor of homeschoolers. A bill passed into law in Pennsylvania permits homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular activities in their local school district.

Homeschoolers Deserve Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities 134

*Alabama EqualAccess*

Alabama homeschoolers are being penalized for choosing an alternative to a public school education. The state of Alabama should pass legislation to permit homeschoolers to participate in public school extracurricular activities.

Homeschoolers Have the Right to Participate in After-School Activities 142

*Provo Daily Herald*

Homeschooled students in Utah are entitled to take part in extracurricular activities at schools they might have attended. Third-party monitoring of grades should not be required for proof of academic eligibility.

**No: Homeschoolers Should Not Have Access to Public School Resources**

Allowing Access to Public School Resources May Harm Homeschooling 146

*Valerie Delp*

Homeschoolers should not use public school resources. Eligibility requirements may open the homeschooling community to additional academic testing and other unwelcome and unnecessary intrusions.

Homeschoolers Should Be Denied Access to Public School Resources 148

*Sherry F. Colb*

Homeschoolers' arguments for why they should be allowed to participate in public school extracurricular activities are flawed. Participation in public school extracurricular activities should be limited to public school students only.

Sports Are an Extension of the Classroom and Should Thus Exclude Homeschoolers 156

*Preston Williams*

In many states, only public high school students may play on public high school sports teams. This is fair because high school sports are supposed to be an extension of the classroom.

Organizations to Contact	160
Bibliography	165
Index	169