Homeschooling in the United States

Who’s Homeschooled?

About 1.8 million students were homeschooled in the United States—more than twice as many as in 1999.¹

- The majority were white.
- They were most likely to live in rural and suburban areas.
- 4/10 had parents with at least a bachelor’s degree.
- 89% lived in households with incomes above the poverty line.

Why Are Parents Homeschooling Their Children?

9/10 parents reported concerns about schools’ environments—such as safety, drugs, or negative peer pressure—as important reasons to homeschool their children.

- Other important reasons for homeschooling include:
  - Dissatisfaction with academic instruction at other schools (74%)
  - Providing moral instruction (77%)
  - Providing religious instruction (64%)
  - Providing a nontraditional approach to child’s education (44%)
  - Child has a physical or mental health problem (15%)
  - Child has other special needs (16%)
  - Child has other special needs (15%)
  - Providing a nontraditional approach to child’s education (44%)

How Do Parents Prepare for Homeschooling Their Children?

25% of parents prepared by taking a course.

- 11% in person only
- 10% online only
- 4% in person and online
- 75% did not take a course

What Sources Do Parents Use for Curriculum?

Most parents used curriculum materials from a homeschooling catalog, publisher, individual specialist, or from websites.

- 77% Homeschooling catalog, publisher, or individual specialist
- 77% Websites, excluding retailers
- 70% Public library
- 69% Retail bookstore or other store
- 53% Education publisher not affiliated with homeschooling
- 45% Homeschooling organization
- 38% Church, synagogue, or other religious organization
- 17% Local or public school district
- 13% Private school

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¹ Homeschooled students are children age 5–17 (with a grade equivalent of K–12) who receive instruction at home instead of at a public or private school and at least part-time. This excludes students who were enrolled in public or private school more than 25 hours a week and students who were homeschooled because of temporary illness.

Source: The National Household Education Survey (NHES), sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).