

Homeschooling in New Mexico and Nationwide: Research Facts and Other Important Concepts



CAPE
**CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF
PARENT EDUCATORS - NM**

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References cited herein are a starting place to a broad picture related to any summary statement in this brief article. The reader may start with the references and comprehensive reviews of research (e.g., Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2017a) and then delve into the studies and sources cited in those to fully understand the summary statement.

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Parent-directed home-based education has been the principal model used to educate children for most of recorded history. Although cultural landscapes have changed over the course of time, the last several decades have seen a strong and steady resurgence. During the school year 2020-2021, there were approximately 3.7 million homeschool students in the United States (Ray, 2021b, 2022). The homeschool population grew extra rapidly, in New Mexico and across the nation, from before to after government restrictions on institutional schools during the era of Covid (United States Census Bureau, 202; Ray, 2021b). Home education is the fastest-growing form of education in the United States.

Reasons for Home Educating

Most parents decide to homeschool for more than one reason (Ray, 2021a; United States Department of Education, 2021). The most common reasons given for choosing parent-directed home education are to:

- customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child,
- accomplish more academically in less time than in traditional schools,
- use teaching approaches other than those typical in traditional classroom settings,
- enhance family relationships that offer the greatest potential in directing the child's future,
- provide a natural and guided social and community life with peers and adults,
- provide a safe environment void of physical violence, drugs and alcohol, psychological abuse, and improper and unhealthy sexuality,
- teach and impart values, beliefs, and a worldview to their children and young adults, and
- address special needs and individual learning challenges.

Academic Performance

Nationwide

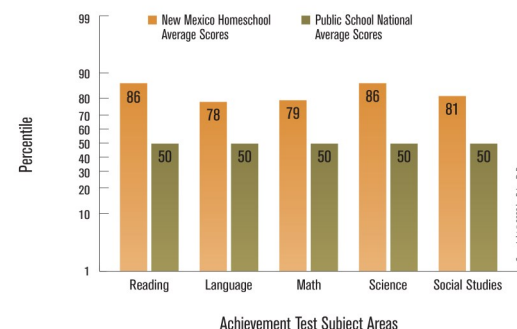
- Studies show that home-educated students average 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2013, 2017a, 2017b).
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the college-admission SAT and ACTs (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2017a, 2017b).
- Colleges actively recruit homeschool graduates. College and university personnel have a positive impression of homeschool graduates (Gloeckner & Jones, 2013).
- The parents' level of education or the family's household income are not notably related to the academic achievement of the home educated (Ray, 2013).
- The degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement (Ray, 2010). Achievement test scores of homeschool students in states with higher regulation are the same as states with lesser regulation.

Whether homeschool parents have ever or never been government-certified teachers is not notably related to their children's academic achievement (Ray, 2013).

New Mexico

A 2021 standardized achievement test data analysis reveals that New Mexico homeschool students scored at the 78th to 86th percentile in reading, language, math, science, and social studies. This is 28 to 36 percentile points above the U.S. public school average.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW MEXICO HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS AND U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS



Note: These statistics are based on findings from the study, Brian D. Ray, (2010, February 3), Academic achievement and demographic traits of homeschool students: A nationwide study, Academic Leadership Journal, 8(1). Retrieved January 29, 2022 from <https://scholars.hhsu.edu/dj/vol8/iss1/7/>.

Social, Emotional, and Psychological Development

- Research measuring peer interaction, self-concept, leadership skills, family cohesion, participation in community service, and self-esteem shows homeschoolers are doing very well. They are typically above average in social, emotional and psychological development (Medlin, 2013; Ray, 2017a, 2017b).
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in common social and educational activities including field trips, scouting, 4-H, political drives, church ministry, sports teams, debate teams, drama, music classes, art classes, apprenticeships, and community volunteer work (Hamlin, 2019).

Homeschool Law and Rights in New Mexico

New Mexico Law

To comply with the New Mexico homeschool law (22-1-2.1.), any person operating or intending to operate a home school shall (see <https://www.cape-nm.org/new-to-homeschooling-getting-started/new-mexico-law/>):

- A) Submit a home school registration form made available by the department and posted on the department's website to notify the department within thirty days of the establishment of the homeschool and to notify the department on or before August 1, of each subsequent year of operation of the home school;
- B) Maintain records of student disease immunization or a waiver of that requirement;
- C) Provide instruction by a person possessing at least a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Legislative Issues of Concern to Home Educators

- *Parental Rights*
CAPE believes that it is a Constitutionally-guaranteed and God-given right for parents to direct the upbringing, care, and education of their children.
- *Educational Rights*
CAPE strongly supports the rights of parents to determine the educational decisions for their families and works to keep up with potential legislation or Public Education Department mandates that might infringe on those rights.

Numbers of Homeschoolers and Tax Savings

There were an estimated 22,000 to 27,000 grades K-12 homeschool students in New Mexico during the 2020-2021 school year (Attanasio, 2021; Ray, 2021b; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). The average public school per-pupil expenditure in New Mexico that same year was \$13,389 (National Education Association, 2021). Therefore, it is estimated that homeschool families saved New Mexico taxpayers approximately \$329 million that year. In addition, taxpayers do not have to pay for capital expenditures on home-educated students.

Success in Adulthood

The research base of adults who were home educated is growing; thus far, studies indicate that they (see references section, e.g., Ray, 2017a, 2017b; Seiver & Pope, 2022):

- participate in local community service more frequently than the general population;
- vote and attend public meetings more frequently than the general population
- go to and succeed in college at an equal or higher rate than the general population;
- by adulthood, internalize the values and beliefs of their parents at a high rate; and
- are more politically tolerant than other adults (Cheng, 2014).

Need More Information About Homeschooling?

IN NEW MEXICO:

Christian Association of Parent
Educators of New Mexico
(CAPE-NM)
P.O. Box 1506,
Moriarty, NM 87035
505-898-8548
www.cape-nm.org
capenm@cape-nm.org

NATIONALLY:

Home School Legal Defense
Association (HSLDA)
P.O. Box 3000
Purcellville, VA 20134
(540) 338-5600
www.hslda.org

National Home Education
Research Institute (NHERI)
P.O. Box 13939
Salem, OR 97309
(503) 364-1490
www.nheri.org
mail@nheri.org

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About the Author:

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D., is president of the National Home Education Research Institute (www.nheri.org). He is recognized internationally for his nearly four decades of research and publishing on homeschooling. He holds a B.S. in biology and a M.S. in zoology, and his Ph.D. is in science education from Oregon State University.