



No Agenda
H O M E S C H O O L

Defending Your Decision to Homeschool

Using Research
to Respond to
Your Critics



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So You've Decided to Homeschool...



No doubt, there isn't just one reason you've decided to start homeschooling; most parents have several. But providing your child with a better education at home tops the charts as the most frequently cited reason to homeschool, according to the *Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling*, by Dr. Brian Ray (2005).

As you begin learning about homeschooling, you're probably going to be inundated with blogs, newsletters, journals, articles, and books that all aim to assist you in some way. Before you get deep into the logistics, I'd like to provide you with a synopsis of all the major research out there so you can tackle the skeptics in your life with actual data instead of generalities.



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It seems most people know one or more children who have been homeschooled, or have homeschooled their own kids, and they think that makes them experts. I truly value hearing the experience of other homeschooling families; they are on the front line and have great advice on what worked in their family and what didn't. I do not, however, value the coworker (or friend or mother-in-law) who remembers that one kid on their block who was awkward, dependent, and dressed a bit differently than the mainstream.

The reality is: ***opinions don't matter; facts do.*** This ebook will ignore opinions and solitary experiences, relying instead on research-based facts that you may use to defend your decision to homeschool, addressing the most frequent questions that homeschool parents are asked.

"Self-education is the only possible education; the rest is mere veneer laid on the surface of a child's nature."

– Charlotte Mason





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Congratulations! Deciding to homeschool is a bold move, indicative of a daring family that is searching for an alternative. It could be that your child isn't thriving in their school environment; either they're being lost in the shuffle or not challenged as the average pulls them down. Perhaps your child's learning style isn't conducive to their particular classroom and you want to help them learn more effectively. Or, as a parent, maybe you want to incorporate values, character, and a greater worldview in an increasingly complex and connected global landscape. All these reasons are characteristic of homeschool parents and are valid catalysts for taking a break from conventional education.



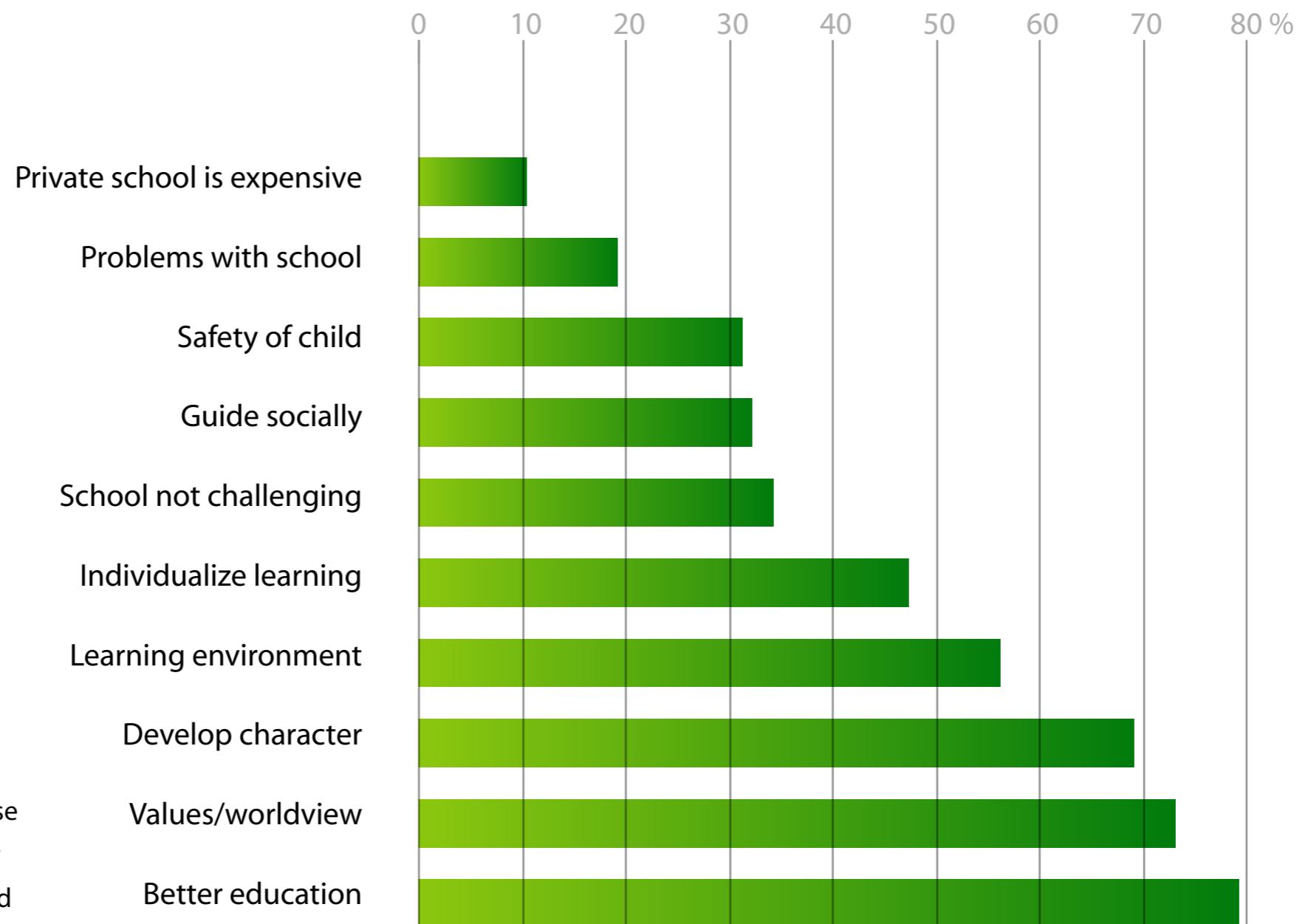
Great read:

Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling

It comes out every few years and is a great snapshot of the homeschool community.



Common Reasons Families Homeschool*



*Respondents could choose more than one answer (for full list, see Home Educated and Now Adults, Table 3)



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First off, as you've made the decision to start homeschooling, you recognize that a better education for your child is in fact possible, instead of "waiting it out" until they get to college to finally begin learning. Second, it may be overwhelming at first, but know that you are not alone. In 2010, over 2 million children were being educated in the home, and that number continues to grow at a rate of about 7-15% every year. **By 2020, over 5 million students will be homeschoolers.** Said differently, 4% of school-aged children are learning from home and this number will only get larger as public schools continue to struggle to accommodate the diverse needs of their students and technology allows you to bring better education to your children, tailored to their needs and interests.

Ken Robinson, prominent author, speaker and international advisor on education, says, "All children start their school careers with sparkling imaginations, fertile minds, and a willingness to take risks with what they think. Most students never get to explore the full range of their abilities and interests... Education is the system that's supposed to develop our natural abilities and enable us to make our way in the world. Instead, it is stifling the individual talents and abilities of too many students and killing their motivation to learn."

As you'll surely discover, homeschooling is one answer to this frightening calamity...



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What About Socialization?

The most common question parents and teachers have is about your child's ability to "be socialized" in a homeschool environment. That's a loaded question. Reflecting on the "misunderstood" teenagers walking around public schools today, who exhibit such concerning behaviors as drug use, pregnancy, lack of respect for elders, and a lack of drive or ambition themselves, it's difficult to look at homeschool children and understand how people question *their* socialization and not the children in public school.

As a homeschool parent, you first must qualify the question because clearly there are problems in public school too. Be sure to start from the same place: what do they mean by "socialization?" Encourage these skeptics to ask exactly what they're tiptoeing around: *Does he have any friends his own age? Will she be able to survive college? Is he "normal?"* Once you know what they're actually hinting at, you can provide concrete answers based on research, which trumps anything they throw at you.



Great read:

Rachel Gathercole, author of ***The Well-Adjusted Child: The Social Benefits of Homeschooling***, makes the distinction between school-based and family- or community-based socialization. You're choosing to focus on the latter. Both have advantages, of course, and you can take this as an opportunity to enlighten your skeptics to the value of other forms of socialization.



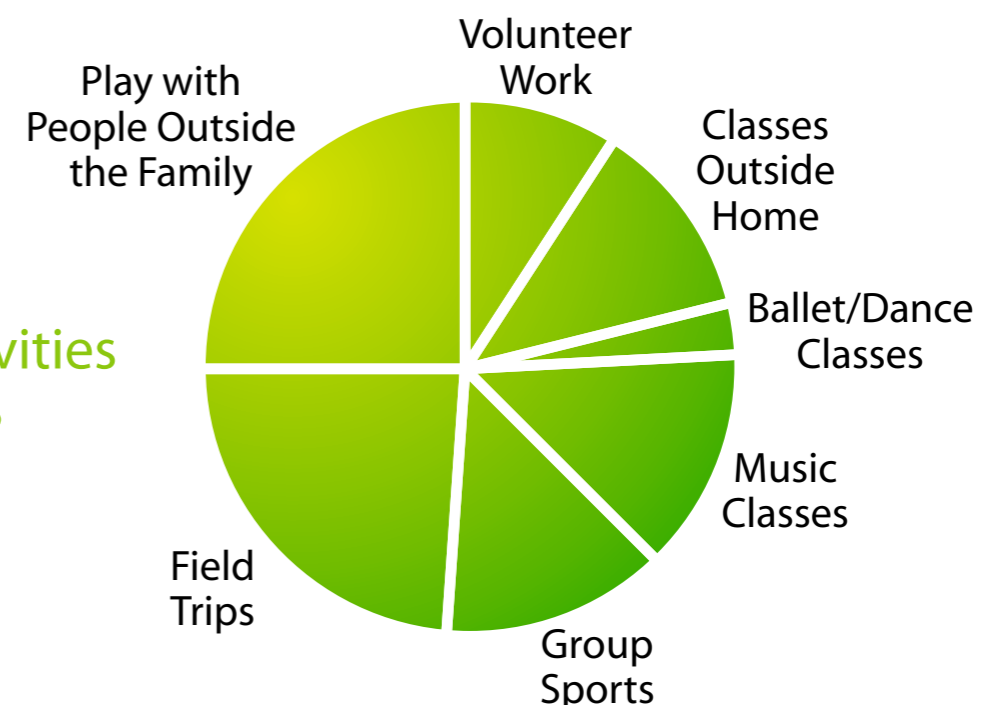
"In homeschooling, your peers are not just the people in your age group; they are people who share your interests," says Patrick Farenga, a leading homeschool advocate and researcher. For this reason, there is less of a barrier between generations as well as greater comfort with questioning those in authoritative positions, such as educators and leaders.

Or, as Gary Knowles, a University of Toronto researcher who has extensively interviewed adults who were homeschooled, put it, "Where did we ever get the idea that 2,000 13-year olds were the ideal people with which to socialize other 13-year olds?"

Back to the real questions your friends and family are asking you about socialization. Let's narrow it down a bit. As a homeschool parent, it's helpful to use concrete examples with those uninvolved in this lifestyle. In fact, the term "homeschool" is pretty misleading. This word choice evokes images of families gathered around the kitchen table, silently working on assignments. This just isn't the case. On the following pages are some examples of actual questions homeschool parents get.

What are Homeschoolers' Activities and Community Involvement?

Source: Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling





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Does he have any friends?

Of course! Homeschooled children interact with the people in their neighborhood, members of their homeschool co-op, other homeschool families, people they meet on field trips, and any activities the children are involved in, such as clubs and sports. As we saw earlier, homeschoolers are involved in many activities, the majority of which are outside the home (Ray, 1999). "Homeschoolers get real-life, down-to-earth, meaningful interactions with diverse people on a daily basis" (Gathercole, 2007). With over 2 million people homeschooling today, there are going to be more and more families to interact with in the years to come.

Does she have any friends *her own age?*

That's a fair question. Because many children meet the majority of their peers through school, it seems like peer interaction would be a challenge with homeschooling. However, no research has found any support for this fear (Lines, 2001). Homeschoolers interact with other homeschool children during the day; and when public school lets out in the afternoon, so does the homeschool academic day, allowing homeschoolers to spend time with their public-school friends. Again, as Dr. Brian Ray and others have found, homeschoolers' involvement in community sports, clubs, music, and volunteering precludes a life of isolation.



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I still have this image of the “social misfit” in my head. Aren’t you worried your child will become one?

As David Guterson, a public school teacher who is also a homeschool parent, describes in his book *Family Matters: Why Homeschooling Makes Sense*, homeschool children are less susceptible to peer pressure, have a stronger sense of self, have healthy relationships with peers and adults, and are being educated in a world that more closely resembles the diversity of the real world. Further, as developmental psychologists, parenting experts, and school counselors will attest, the type of education you provide your child doesn’t create misfits. You will find outcasts in public school, private school, and yes, homeschool, but your child will develop with you to guide them. Make sure they’re around people of all ages, people they find interesting, and people who they enjoy being around, and they’ll do just fine.

These are all research-based answers to socialization questions regarding homeschool in the K-12 years. However, people can easily dismiss these statements once they begin asking about learning beyond K-12 and into the future. Let’s take a look at some research around homeschoolers’ involvement in the community and how they are doing in adulthood.

“My child was already going to be who she was going to be; I just needed to support her along the way.”

– Kelly, VA



Community Involvement

Regarding activities in their local community and style of living, again, it's surprising to hear concern over homeschooler's ability to properly develop the ability to interact with other individuals, when the data flies in the face of such assumptions. Your average homeschooler is involved in no less than *seven* activities within the community (Basham, Merrifield, and Hepburn, 2007). This includes community sports, volunteering, working with a church, and other activities among their peers. In fact, 88% are members of an organization, such as a union, professional organization, or community group, compared to just 50% of US adults. Linda Montgomery (1989) also found that homeschooled students are as involved in out-of-school and extracurricular activities that predict leadership in adulthood as are those in private school, who are more involved than those in public school.

In their preparation for college, homeschoolers also seem to have the discipline and maturity to quickly adopt appropriate college study habits, have more focus and were taught long ago to be independent enough to self-regulate and take responsibility for themselves (Smedley, 1992). Homeschoolers have also been found to have higher self-esteem, demonstrate fewer behavioral problems and be friendlier than general public school students (Taylor, Shyers).

"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."

– C.S. Lewis

"There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."

– Woodrow Wilson



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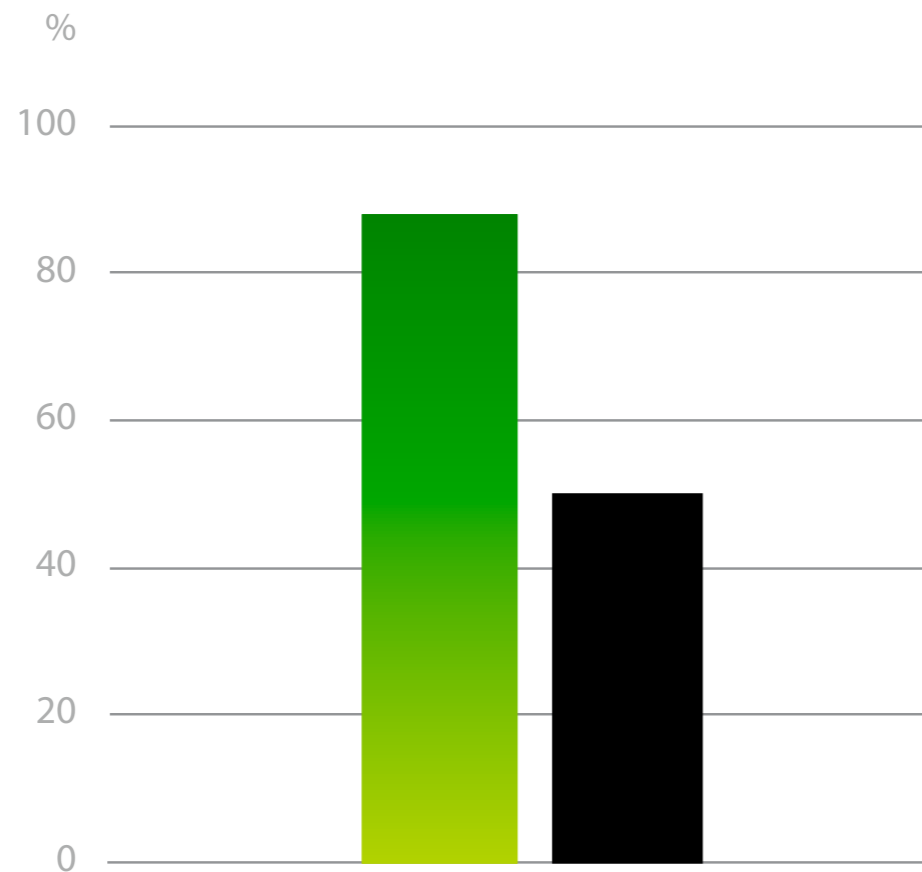
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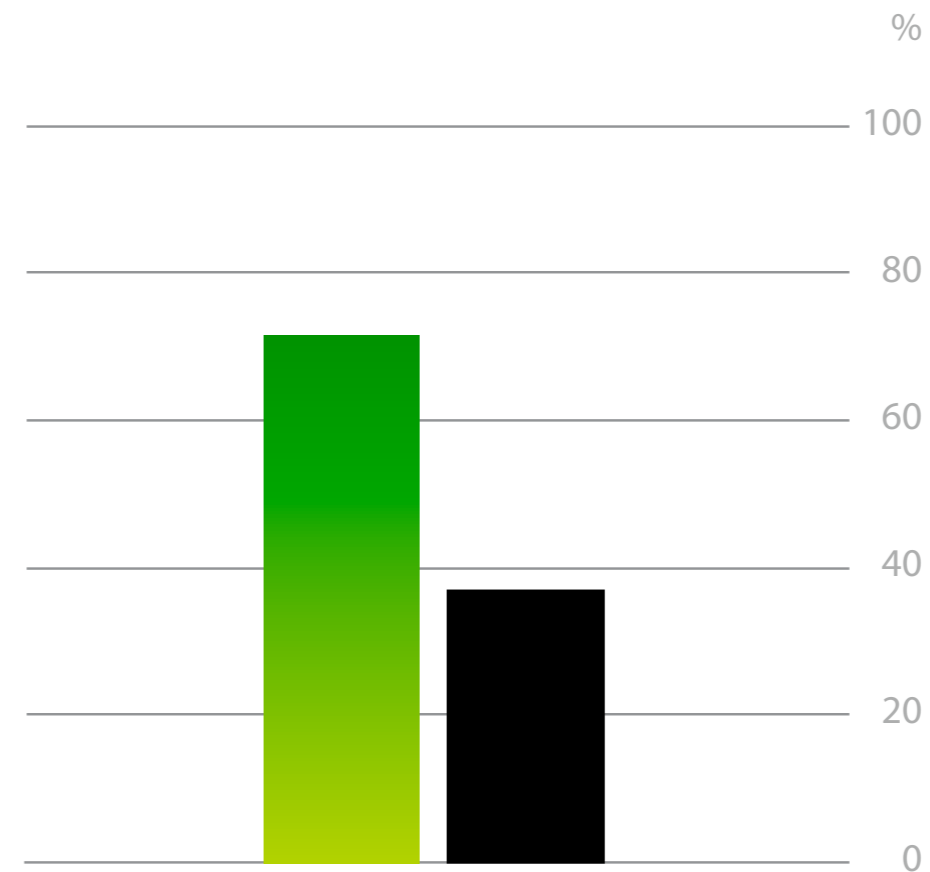
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Are you a member of any organization, like a community group, church or synagogue, union, homeschool group, or professional organization?



Do you participate in any ongoing community service activity, for example, coaching a sports team, volunteering at a school, or working with a church or neighborhood association?

 Homeschool  US

Source: Homeschooling Grows Up



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Civic Responsibility

To counter the assumption that homeschoolers live isolated lives and are, therefore, ill-equipped to develop and support opinions about the "real world," we see that homeschoolers are actually *much more involved* with their local and state governments than the general US population. Looking at the chart on the following page, notice that more homeschoolers than the average US population (Ray, 2004) believe a person should be allowed to make a speech against churches and religion. Most homeschoolers are not the small-minded families that the stereotype may suggest. Further, unlike the US population, the homeschool community feels that they are able to understand politics and government *and* could contribute to politically-themed interactions.

With only 4.2% of homeschooling adults indicating they consider politics and government "too complicated to understand," compared with 35% of US adults, it is clear that homeschoolers are familiar with politics from both historical and current perspectives. The ability to actively and, more importantly, knowledgeably participate in one's government is a valuable skill, allowing them to assume a deeper role of involvement in shaping the world.

**"Be the change you want
to see in the world."**

—Mahatma Ghandi



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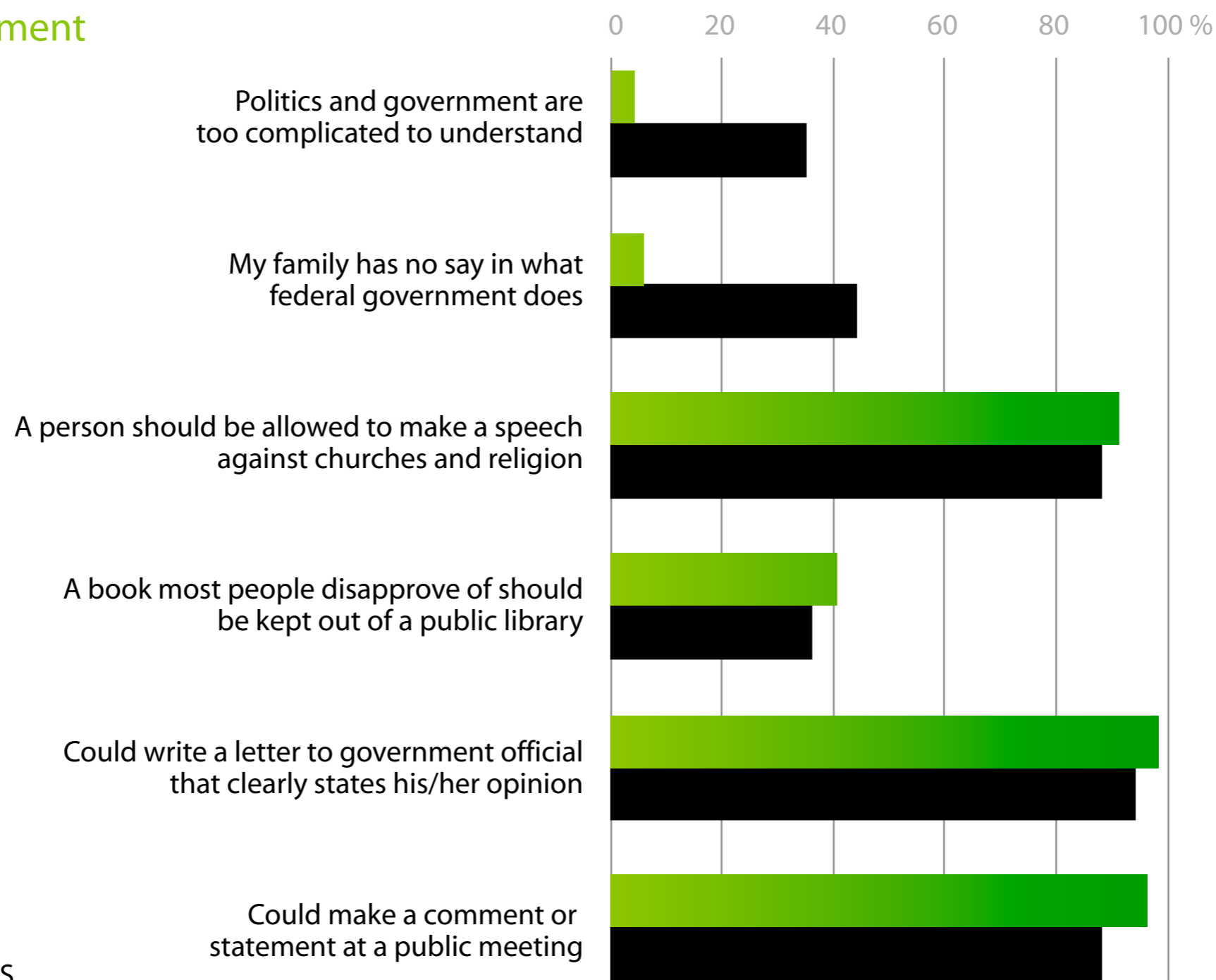
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Government Involvement



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Source: Home Educated and Now Adults



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Developing a Love of Learning

As a homeschool parent, you can take the time to follow your child's learning "rhythm." As public school students, children are regularly grouped together, most often by age, and encouraged, for example, to start reading at the same time, despite research that indicates girls are usually ready to read earlier than boys. Leonard Sax, author of *Why Gender Matters*, explains that boys learn early that they are slower than girls. Combine that with the types of books that boys are encouraged to read, chosen by their predominantly female teachers, such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Wuthering Heights*. It's not surprising that many boys do not develop a love for reading the way many girls do.



Furthermore, kids who are immersed in a book don't have to stop reading when the bell rings. If she wants to finish a chapter, nothing in homeschool precludes it.

With homeschooling, you can wait until they're ready and once they are, you can choose books that engage your children appropriately. Boys like action books; girls like emotional books. If you find books that your child is interested in, they won't have to "suffer" through it and learn to think of reading as "boring." Given this option, the statistics indicate that homeschoolers read books and magazines more frequently than the general US population.



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Homeschooling has the added benefit of allowing you to tailor curriculum to your child's interests (Holt, Griffith, Duffy). This freedom, unavailable in other forms of education, means you can dive deeply into subjects when there's the fire of interest and lets you help your child discover their passion at their own pace. Because of this constant discovery and autonomy beyond school schedules and materials, homeschoolers spend a lot of time at the library, over twice that of the general US population (Ray, 2003) .



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"Education is too important to be left solely
to the educators."

– Francis Keppel

"My son wanted to read books about war
and crime. I thought he was troubled and
considered counseling. He just wanted to
read about blowing stuff up."

– Melanie, OH





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Developing a Love of Learning

Used a public library
in the past month

Used a public library
in the past year

Reading Behavior

Have you read any books
in the past six months?

Read a newspaper at
least once a week

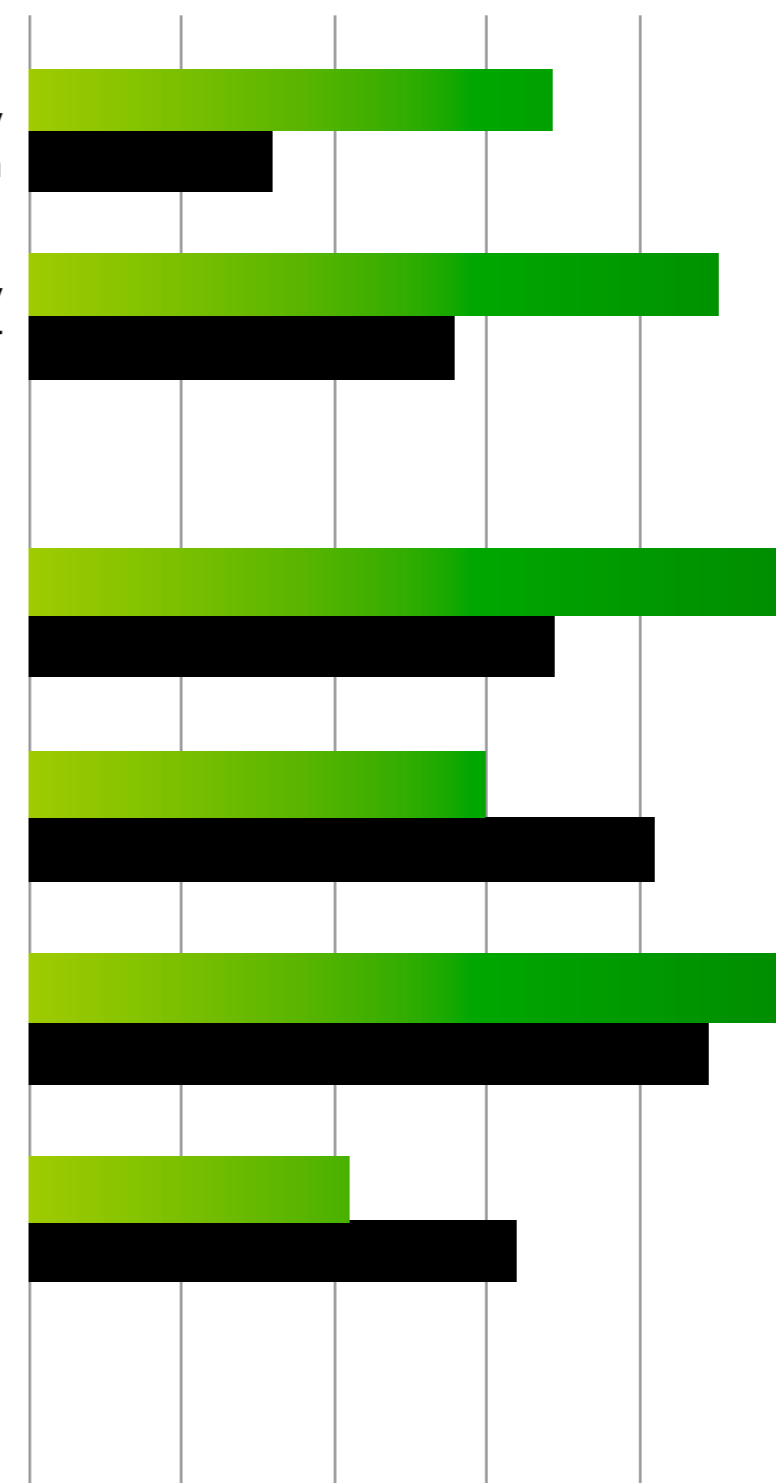
Read one or more magazines
on a regular basis

Watch national news on TV or listen to
national news radio almost every day

Homeschool

US

0 20 40 60 80 100 %



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What About Academics?

According to a 1997 study entitled "*Strengths of Their Own: Home Schoolers Across America*," homeschoolers, on average, perform better than their public school counterparts by 30 to 37 percentile points in all subjects. Think about that for a second. The *average* homeschool student performs 30 to 37 percentage points higher, which speaks volumes over what homeschooling can do for your gifted children who aren't challenged or your struggling children who are merely being "passed along" by the system. Further, in this same study and confirmed in a subsequent study, evidence was found that homeschoolers who are homeschooled for two or more years score substantially higher than students who have been homeschooled for a year or less. The "new" homeschoolers scored, on average, in the 59th percentile, compared to students who had been homeschooled for the last two or more years who scored between 86th and 92nd percentile.

The take-away:

While committing to two or more years of homeschool can significantly improve your child's academic performance, homeschooling even for a year can have a marked effect.



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Race and Homeschooling

Another significant finding in *Strengths of Their Own* was that race *had no impact* on the academic performance of homeschoolers.

There appeared to be no difference in the academic performance of white and minority homeschool children. The table on the following page provides reading and math scores among white, black, and Hispanic students in public school, followed by scores among white and minority homeschoolers. Shocking, isn't it?

Race is one more way we all learn differently and different isn't bad. It's just that: different. As of 2007, 23% of homeschoolers are minorities and this data indicates that, regardless of race, homeschoolers outperform public school kids.



Factoid:

Almost 25% of homeschool students perform one or more grades above their age-level peers in public and private schools.



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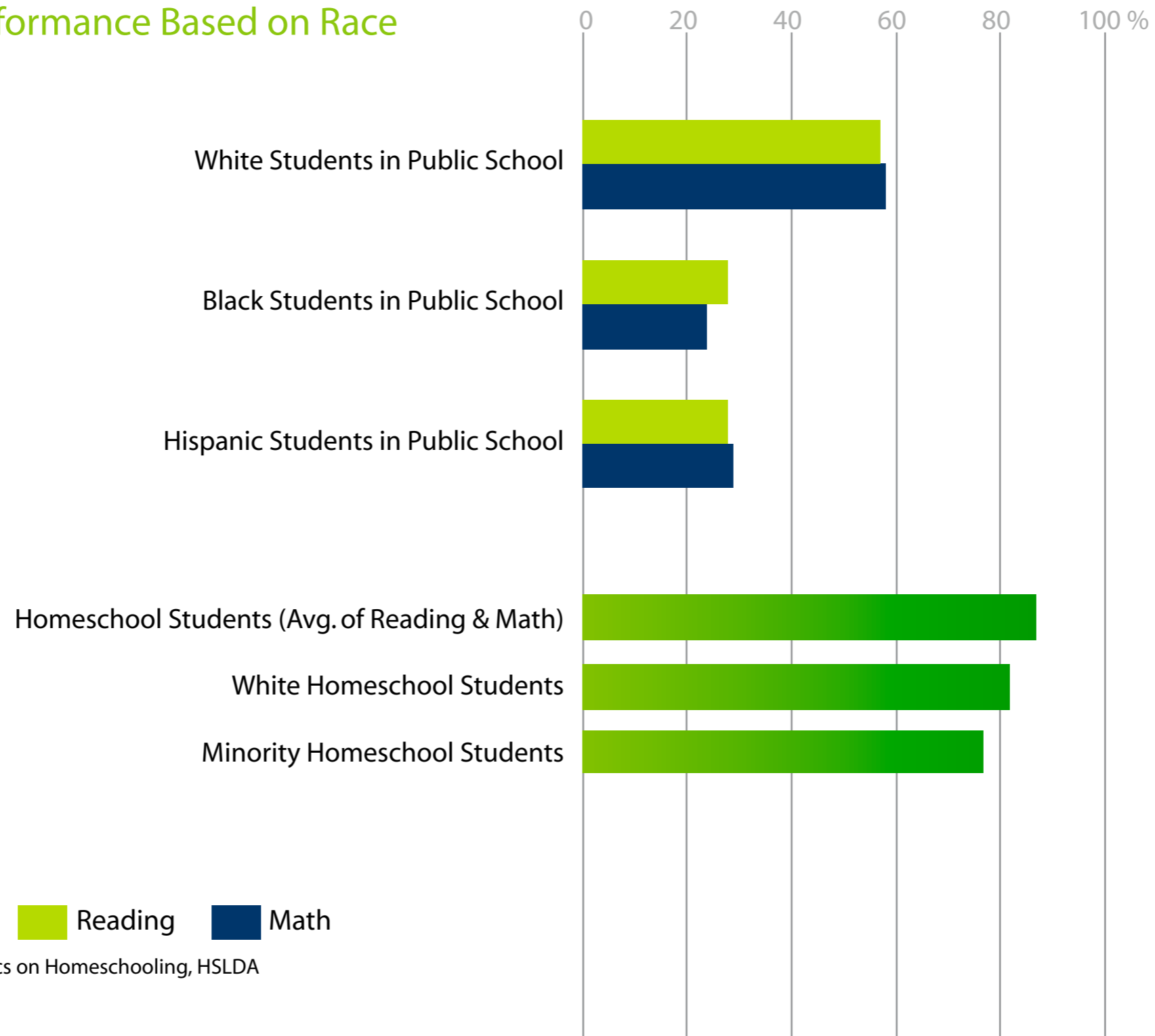
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Academic Performance Based on Race



Homeschool Reading Math

Source: Academic Statistics on Homeschooling, HSLDA



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"How do they do after high school?"

Home Educated and Now Adults, a study on adults who were homeschooled, found that homeschoolers earned twice as many college credits prior to their freshman year when compared to the general student body, 14.7 and 6 credits, respectively (Ray, 2004). Homeschoolers also earned a higher GPA when compared to other freshman students (see chart on the following page). Further, their graduation rate is almost *10% higher* than other students (Cogan, 2009). This could be a coincidence, but perhaps homeschool parents are preparing their children to be independent and be more responsible at a younger age, enabling their children to be more successful when they first leave home and discover a life without supervision.

Homeschoolers typically report feeling more independent, feel more responsible as they hold more responsibility within the house, and greater comfort with people of all ages (Gathercole, Guterson, Ray). A result of this early character development, they are likely to talk to their professors for academic assistance. Because of the oft-chosen method of independent study in the later homeschooling years, they are experienced with self-reliance and time management, easing the transition to college where many other students are having to manage their own study schedules and assignments for the first time.



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such young nitwits
are produced in our
schools is because they
have no contact with
anything of any use in
everyday life."

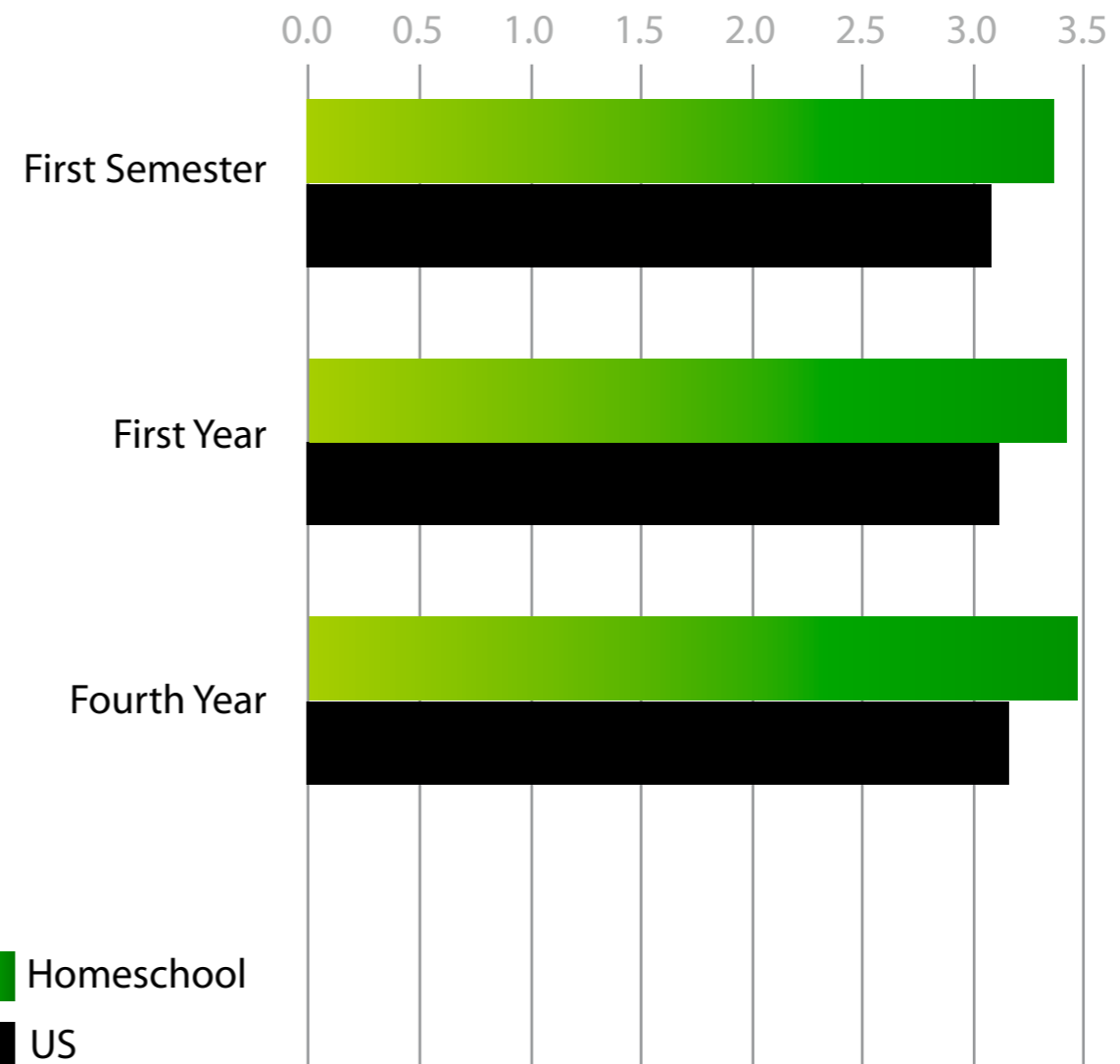
– Petronius, 66 CE



Factoid:

As of 2007, more
than 1000 colleges
and universities
have admitted
homeschool students.

Attained GPA in Higher Education





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And after college...

For the first time since home education has been adopted in any significant measurement, we have facts about a generation of homeschoolers who have made it through the college years and entered adulthood. The questions on whether or not they could get a job, contribute through active involvement in the community, and demonstrate general success in life have been addressed in the aforementioned study from NHERI, an organization whose mission is to produce and distribute high-quality homeschool research.

Looking at the educational attainment after the homeschooling years, over 74% of home-educated adults (ages 18-24) have taken college-level courses, compared to 46% of the general US population. Additionally, at the time of this study, nearly half (49%) of the respondents were still full-time students, indicating a potentially higher rate of degree attainment. Extrapolate the percentage of college graduates to the increasing rate of adults who are homeschooling their children and, over time, the number of college graduates will surpass our wildest expectations, a source of concern as India, China, and Japan continue to give the US a run for their money in the area of academic achievement.



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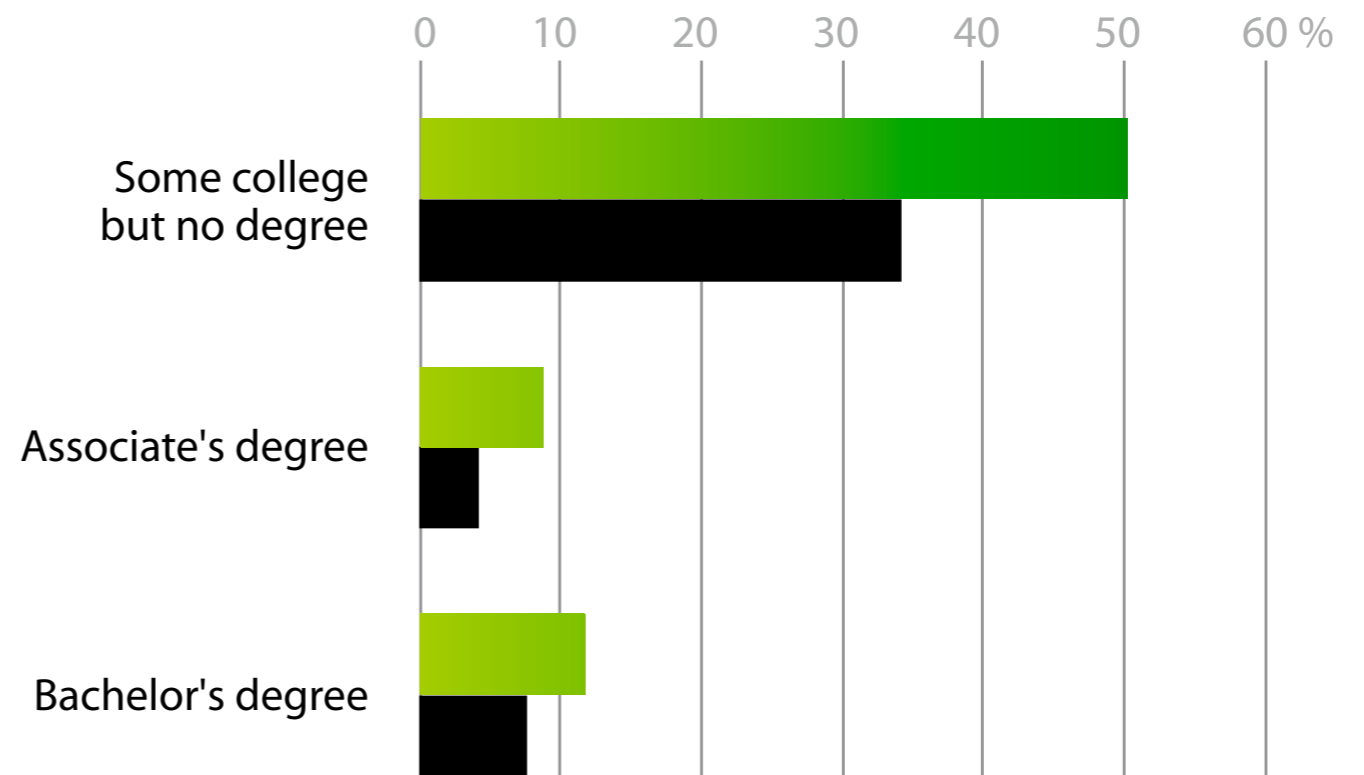
"I have never let my
schooling interfere
with my education."

– Mark Twain

"The teacher who
is indeed wise
does not bid you
to enter the house
of his wisdom, but
rather leads you
to the threshold of
your mind."

– Kahlil Gibran

Educational Attainment of Homeschoolers (ages 18-24)



Homeschool US

Source: Home Educated and Now Adults

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What about the "real world"?

Homeschooled students are better prepared to attend and complete college, participate actively in their communities, and feel competent in areas of civic engagement. *One question lingers: are they happy?* According to the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

When indicating important factors for success, homeschoolers thought hard work most important (85% compared to 68% in the US). Almost more importantly, 10% of the US population thought luck or help was the most important factor for success, 20 times more than in the homeschool population. With two-thirds of homeschooled adults becoming self-employed after graduation, this form of education reveals a desire to break the mold, think creatively, and find a passion.

As early as 2004, a whopping 99.6% of homeschooled adults knew "how to use the Internet," compared to just 37% of the non-homeschooled adult population. As technology increasingly finds its way into people's everyday lives, this evidence indicates that homeschoolers in particular are introduced to computers, online learning, and other forms of technology early on. They feel confident using such technology, and developing social networks as well as a myriad of other skills. A study on "new media" highlighted teenagers' use of the Internet, text messaging, and social media as ways youth connect with each other (Lewin, 2008). Not only is this higher use of the internet good for exploring areas of interest and a stepping stone towards potential job skills, but one other way in which homeschoolers actually have an advantage to public school children in the area of socialization.



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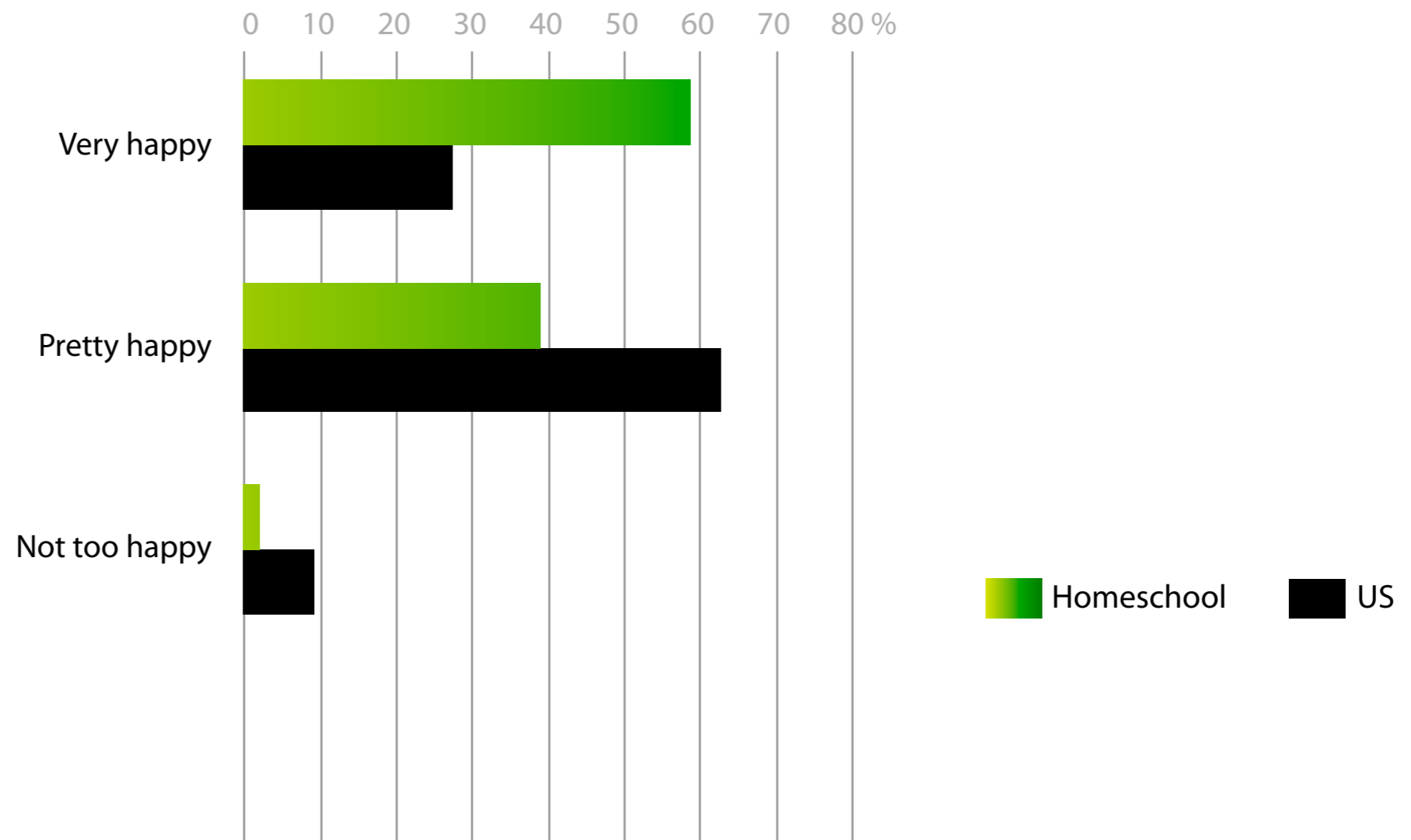
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Happiness Quotient:

"Taken all together, how would you say things are these days—would you say that you are..."



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"The principal goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done."

– Jean Piaget

Homeschoolers have a significantly more positive perspective on their lives, with over 30% more indicating that life was "exciting" instead of "routine" or "dull." Possible reasons could be anything from being allowed to experience the world on their terms, to having a social network that spans ages and contexts, to strong support and guidance from their family. Whatever the reasons, data shows that homeschoolers find life exciting and full of possibility!

Shouldn't all children feel this way?

Two-thirds of homeschool children go on to start their own business, with only a small percentage in "solitary" occupations; the vast majority work in group settings, providing employment to others (Knowles). Given this demonstrated propensity to create instead of conform, it makes sense that over 60% are very satisfied with their job. Being your own boss, in charge of your success, brings challenges and pride!

Yet again, homeschoolers seem to have a notably more positive outlook on their lives, proving once more that something remarkable is happening in homeschool families.



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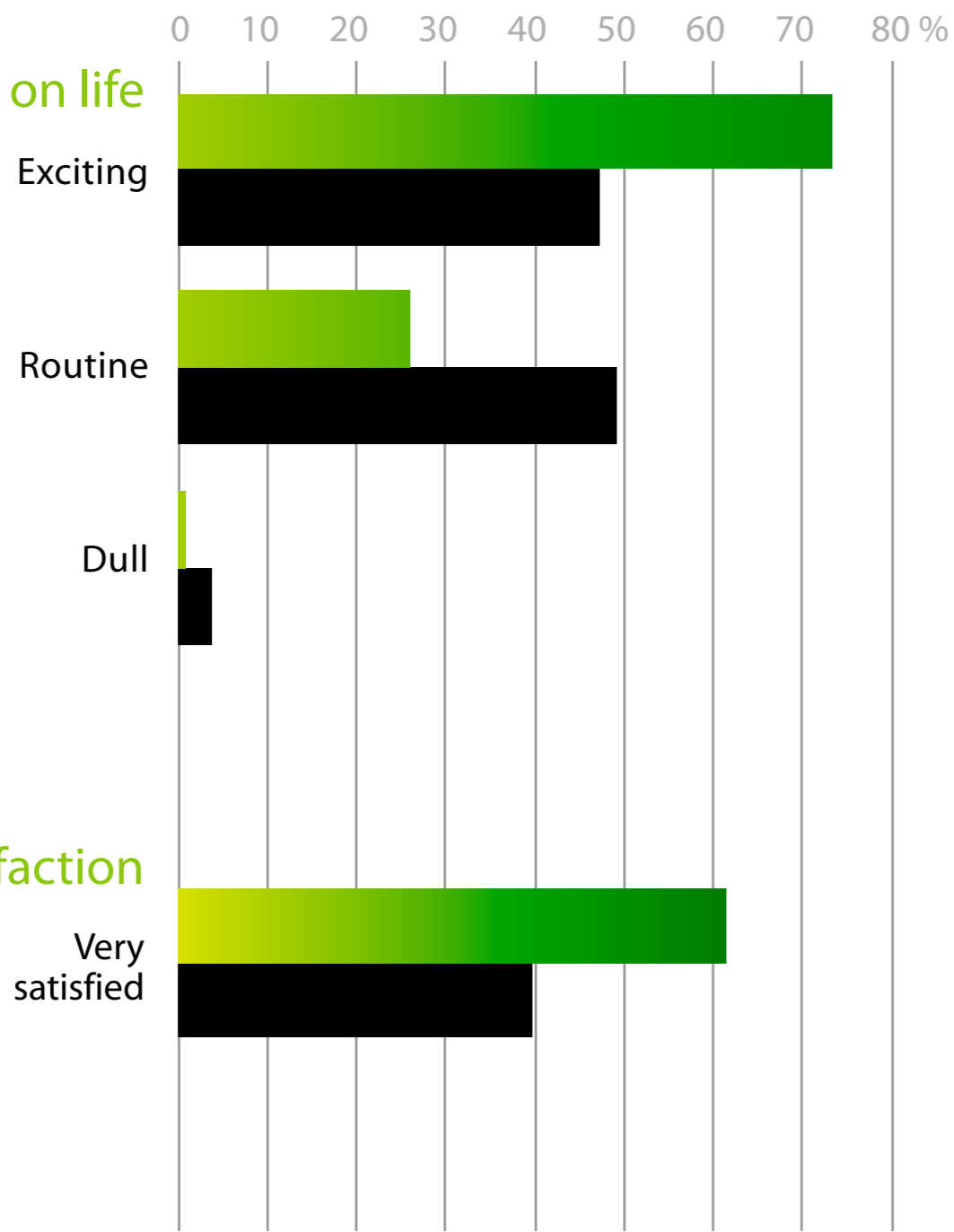
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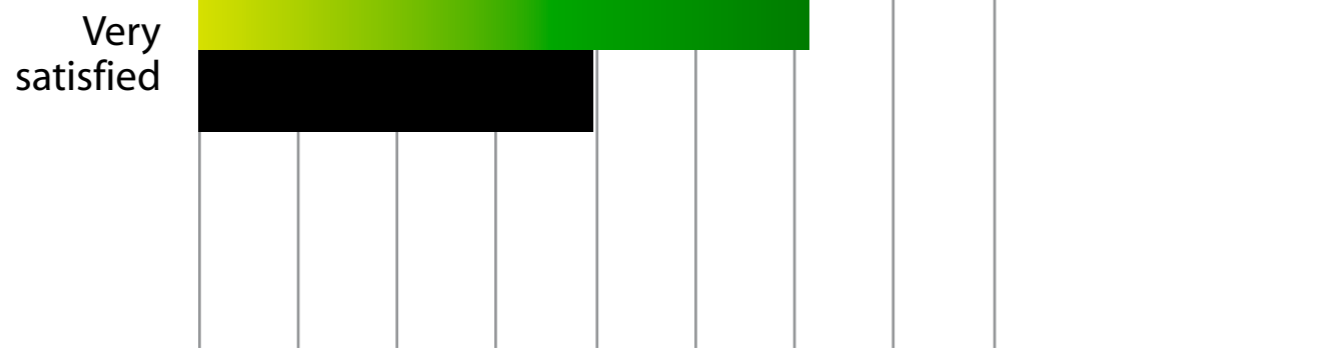
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Source: Home Educated and Now Adults

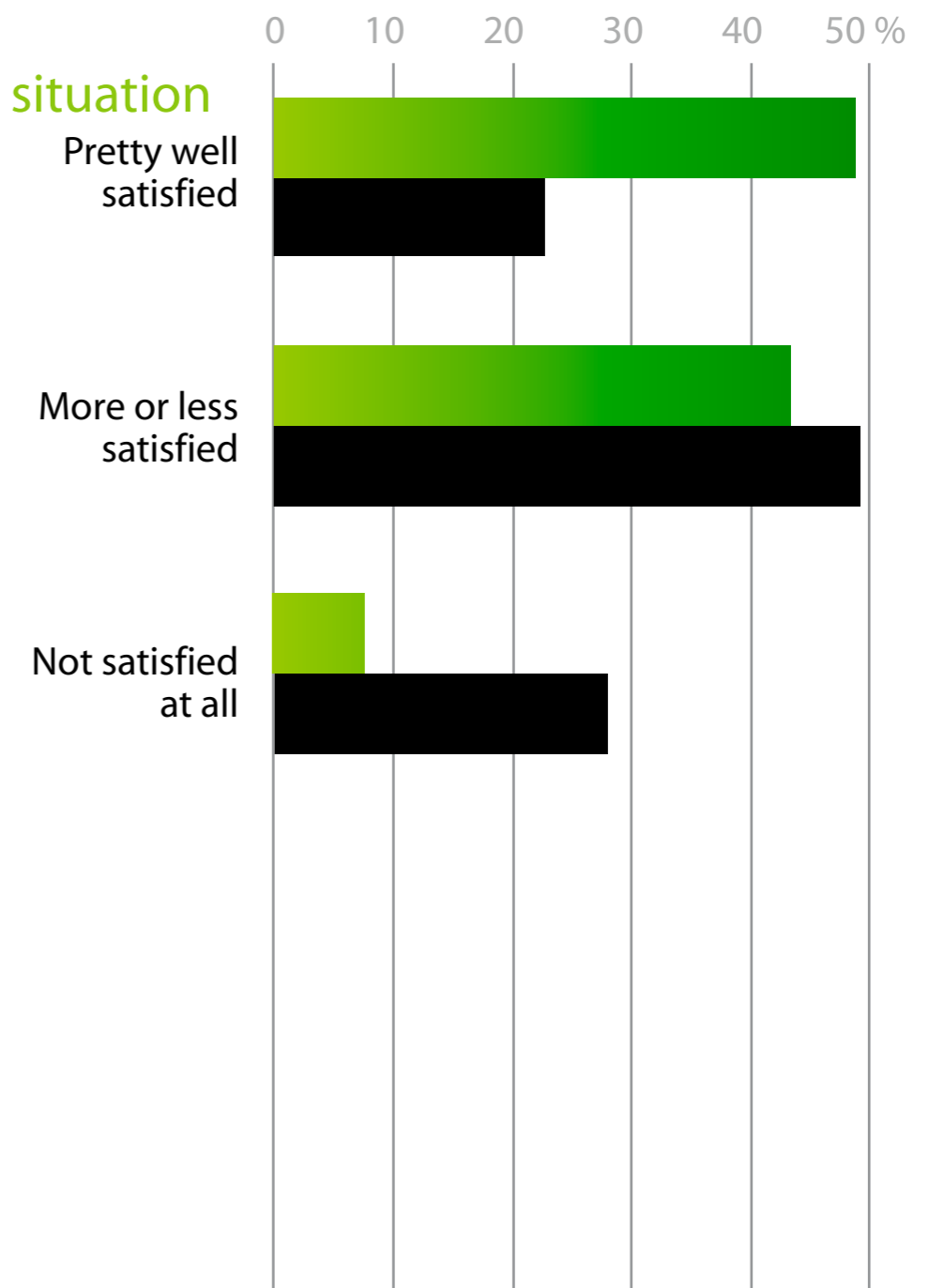
Perspective on life



Job satisfaction



Financial situation



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Oh, I didn't know you were religious!

There is a perception that the majority of homeschool families are strongly religious, particularly in the Christian faith. A more accurate statement would be that homeschoolers have strong family values and want to incorporate those values into their children's education. True, over 75% of homeschool families list religion as *one* reason they educate at home, but this includes the full spectrum of religious beliefs, not just extreme views (Ray). Significant numbers of Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and agnostics/atheists are beginning to homeschool as well. Many families would like to study world religions, from both historical and faith perspectives, or discuss the morality and values found in religious studies. These options are often unavailable in other educational settings. The term "religious" means different things to different people and one should be cautious assigning one label to such a large group.



Factoid:

1 in 4 do not homeschool for religious reasons



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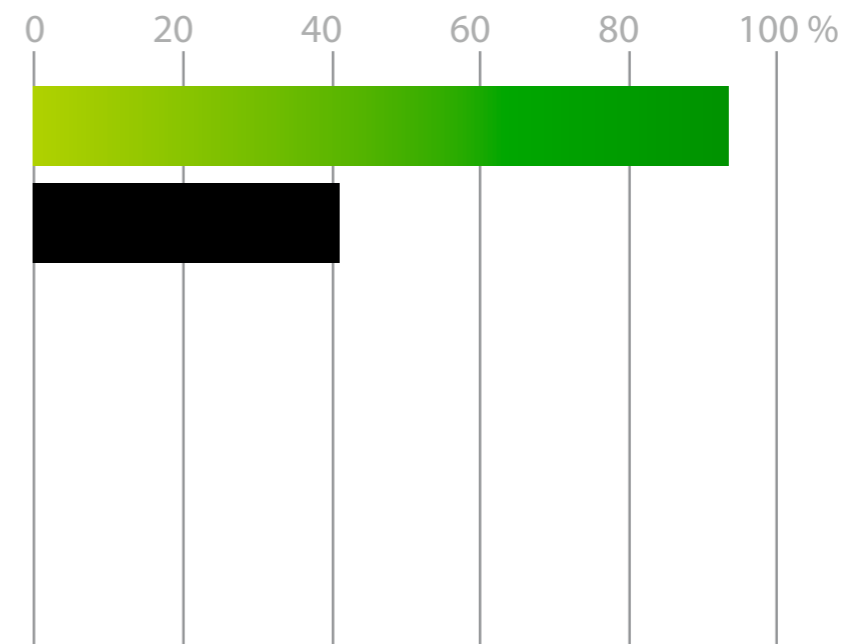
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Looking at the religious question more from a family values perspective, it is clear that homeschool families model positive lifestyles and values. Because of the nature of homeschool, typically requiring one parent to stay at home full time, a staggering 98% of homeschooling families are two-parent households (Ray). This serves as a positive model for children on relationship-building, compromise, trust, and communication. As homeschooling is still fairly young, data is sparse on what this means for the future of homeschooled children and marriage rates. However, from general research, we know that married parents are more likely to have children who go on to achieve higher levels of education, more

likely to get and stay married, and less likely to live in poverty, become teen parents, and experience health, behavioral and mental health problems (CLASP). According to a study done by Gary Knowles of homeschooled children in adulthood, two-thirds were married, though, again, the largest generation of homeschoolers is only recently coming of age. Let's look at this data again in a few years to get a better picture.

Attended Religious Services Once a Month or More



Homeschool US

Source: Home Educated and Now Adults



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"But you're not a teacher...!"

Before we start thinking of all the PhD's who are homeschooling their children, let me point out that PhD's who homeschool, as in the general US population, are not in the majority. The typical homeschooling parent has attended or graduated from college. About half have earned a bachelor's degree or higher while the remaining half have completed high school or some college.



Further, a study in 1990 found that only 13.9% of mothers, who are typically the primary educators (88%), have ever been certified teachers (Ray, 1997). This supports the claim that while homeschool parents are slightly more educated on

average than parents in the general US population, they aren't all academics. Their children's academic performance isn't dependent on the parents' levels of academic achievement or whether or not they are certified teachers, confirmed again later by Belfield and Levin in 2005.

Be sure to provide this data to anyone questioning your ability to educate your child and the inquisition will end. Before compulsory education was implemented nation-wide in the mid-nineteenth century, the family was the primary source of education. In the information age, teachers are no longer the sole keepers of knowledge. While parents might find having a teaching degree helpful, it is by no means necessary. In child-driven education, you are acting more as a facilitator of knowledge, not a teacher.



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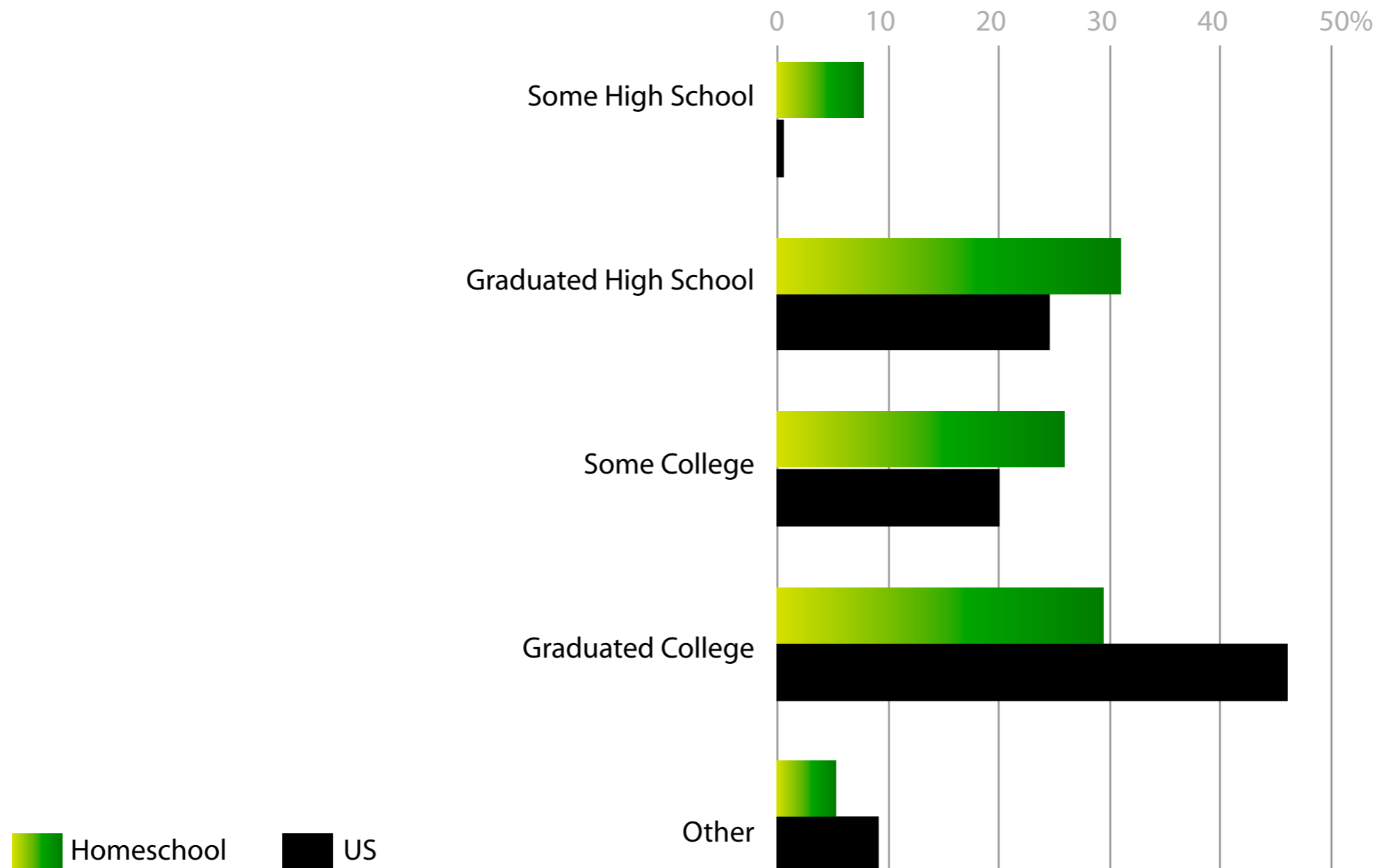
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Level of Education of Homeschool Parents



 Homeschool  US

Source: Strengths of Their Own

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To give you an idea of what matters

It doesn't matter how much money you spend, how much you earn, how much education you have, or how long you homeschool your children.

The fact that **you're there** is all it takes. (And don't sell yourself short: that's a lot.)

On average, parents spend between \$300 and \$600 per year per child, compared to about \$9500 for public school students (Ray, 2002, US Census 2010). As we learned earlier, this amount, even as minimal as it is, does not have any influence on your child's academic success.

Homeschool parents and children spend 53% more time together than those in public school. This means more time to go on field trips, cook dinner together, discuss life and goals, generally have family time, which is one of the strongest predictors of success (Feirling & Lewis, 1987). Homeschooling allows you to be more efficient, dedicating between 3 and 4 hours to academic work and another 2 to 3 hours of enrichment (Ray, 1997). The remaining time is spent with friends and family. Because your children haven't worked around someone else's schedule all day or have the burden of homework, they're not exhausted at the end of the day and have more "usable time" (Basham, Merrifield, and Hepburn 2007).

And if you need any more proof that what you're doing is right for your child, almost 80% of them go on to homeschool their own children (Ray, 2004). You're modeling education and parenting based on respect, creativity, patience, commitment, and above all, love.

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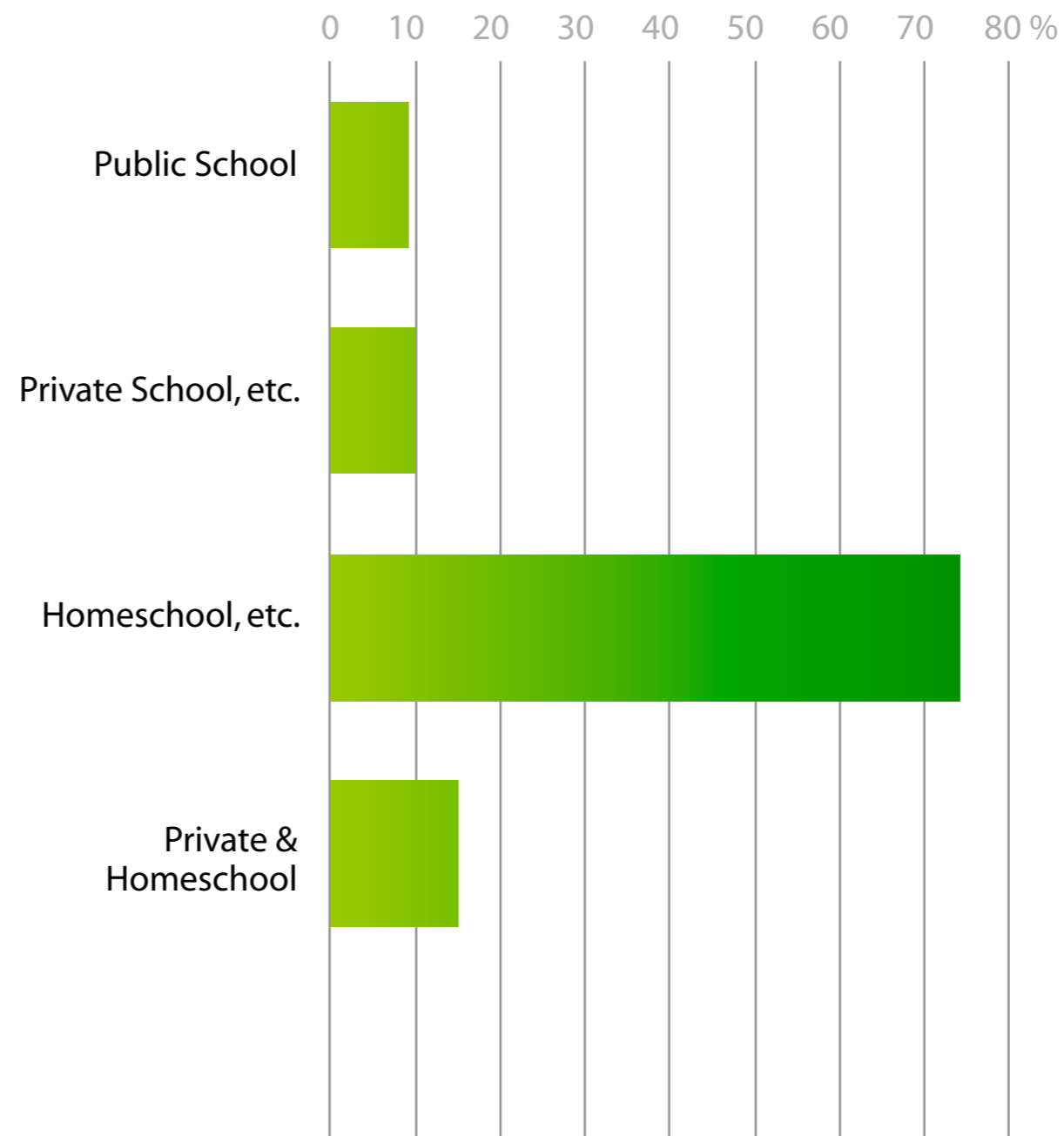
"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."

– Neil Postman

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life all about."

– Angela Schwindt

Type of Education Adults who were Homeschooled Provided for their Children



Source:
Home Educated
and Now Adults



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Final Thoughts

What answers do we now have for the cynic who questions your decision to homeschool? Your income, educational background, dollar amount spent, or race have no influence on the academic achievement of your child—he or she will still perform significantly higher than your average public school student. Homeschoolers are proven to be *better* socialized than those coming from an environment where they are only surrounded by people in their age group. They grow up to be happy, intelligent, passionate, and active citizens who contribute to their communities, not just in college, but long into adulthood.

Ultimately, your child is able to succeed because of a supportive family, an education that allows them to think, explore, and dream, and the freedom to choose their own future. Because of the structures set up in a standardized institution like the public school system, educators are forced to spend much of their time teaching your child to conform, to be micro-managed and set relatively short-term goals. Homeschooling, on the other hand, allows you to design a program that is as individual as your child, knowing that everyone learns differently and has different dreams (check out [Ken Robinson's TED talk](#) on Gillian, the dancer).

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For those who learn differently, are not fortunate enough to have quality public education available, or desire a broader curriculum, homeschooling has proven to be a notably successful solution.

Having said that, let me clarify that this ebook is about defending your decision to homeschool. No Agenda Homeschool supports effective, child-driven education, which is usually best provided in small classrooms with individualized approaches. The research provided in this book is not meant to disparage teachers or parents of public school children; it is meant only as a basis of comparison, not judgment. Many children experience great success with a public school education and go on to lead great lives.

I wish you the best of luck in your journey and thank you for daring to try something unconventional and potentially extremely rewarding. Homeschooling poses a great opportunity to take an active role in your child's academic, social and emotional development, arming your children with a love of learning and the freedom to discover themselves and their place in the world.





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The Facts

- Perform 30 to 37 percentile points higher on standardized testing
- Participate in 5 - 7 activities outside the home (on average)
- More likely to attend college and finish with high GPA
- Disproportionately say they're happy (compared to US)
- More likely to feel capable of changing the world





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About the Author

Christa Johnson is an experienced educator, with a background in English as a Second Language (ESL), language education and technology, education of children with special needs, and non-formal education. She has her Masters in Education from George Washington University, focusing on International Education, and received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the College of William and Mary.

She has also traveled extensively (working, studying and traveling to 24 countries, with many more to go), enjoys photography, cooking, reading, Apple products, Ted Talks presentations, and language learning.

No Agenda Homeschool? What does *that* mean?

The first question is always why. Why do you homeschool? The answers span academic integrity and safety of public schools, desire for individualized curriculum, integration of values and beliefs in the academic development of your child. Whatever your reasons are, they are yours and yours alone. *We have no agenda here.* We believe in the value of homeschooling, regardless of the motivation behind the decision. We believe that dedicated parents who guide and facilitate the education of their children raise intelligent, inquisitive, and creative individuals who think outside the box and see

the world through their own eyes, instead of those constructed by an outdated system. We believe that everyone can be a teacher, both inside and outside the school system. We believe that homeschooling can change the American presumption that education only happens between 8am and 3pm. Finally, we believe that homeschooling can save a world where the population is growing up hungry, ignorant, poverty-stricken, facing environmental destruction, economic collapse, and resource depletion, armed only with the ability to sit in a cubicle.

As Margaret Mead put it, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."