

FACTS SHEET: Research Summary

Typical American Students, Homeschool Students, Family Academy Homeschool Students

Typical American Students

General

Nationally recognized experts on adolescent issues, Dr. Stephen Glenn and Dr. Jane Nelsen authors of *Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World*, assessed the shifting maturity level in adolescents from the 1950s to the 1980s. Maturity measured in regards to judgment (making good choices), learning from feed-back (including mistakes), anticipating consequences, and problem-solving and appropriately adapting to situations showed the following:

Maturity Skills	
1950	1980s
11 years old =	16 years old
18 years old =	26 years old

This research is reflected in our culture where it is evident that the average American teen is taking much longer to grow up, live independently, finish college in four years, hold a job, keep a relationship, and manage their money. A major issue is the inability to practice delayed gratification.

This is confirmed by research by the Barna Group in 2004:

Americans Agree: Kids Are Not Being Prepared for Life

(Source: The Barna Group, Ventura, CA)

	All Adults		Born Again		Not Born Again	
	Well	Not Well	Well	Not Well	Well	Not Well
Intellectually	18 %	50 %	16 %	54 %	19 %	47 %
Physically	16 %	54 %	14 %	57 %	18 %	52 %
Emotionally	12 %	62 %	10 %	69 %	13 %	57 %
Spiritually	8 %	71 %	5 %	84 %	9 %	61 %
Morally	8 %	75 %	6 %	84 %	9 %	68 %

“Ultimately, children get neglected because parents rely upon everyone else to do their job for them,” Barna stated. “The popular notion that ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ has become an accepted excuse for millions of parents to assign away the commitment for their child’s development. Families may not be able to provide everything that a child needs to be successfully launched into today’s world, but they can do a lot more than they are seeking to provide today. Rather than play victim and blame social institutions for inadequate performance of duties, millions of families would be well-advised to rearrange their priorities and reclaim their commitment to preparing their children for life.”



Typical American Students (cont'd)

Academics

- The overall decline in academic performance seen in SAT and ACT scores verify lower academic performance.
- American students are constantly showing poorly against their counterparts in other parts of the world.
- 73% employers and 81% college professors said public school graduates have fair or poor writing skills. College professors see each class of freshmen with lower skills than each class before. (Source: Public Agenda)
- US fourth graders ranked 9th in the world in reading, behind Bulgaria (4th), Latvia (5th), Lithuania (7th). (Source: Reading Literacy Study of 2001)
- US 15 year olds ranked 18th in general literacy skills when compared against other industrialized nations. (Source: UNICEF 2002)

In a 1997 report by Public Agenda “Getting By: What American Teens Really Think About Their School”:

- 50% believed that their school failed to challenge them to do their best.
- 79% would have learned more if the teachers would have enforced required homework completion and being on time.
- 70% felt there were too many disruptive students.
- 13% saw their classmates as very respectful of teachers.
- 68% felt that cheating on tests and assignments is a serious problem.

Social, Character & Spiritual Development

Consider the alarming rates of sexual promiscuity, cheating in high school and college, living without considering the future or the consequences (drug and alcohol, HIV/AIDS, abortions, out-of-wedlock pregnancies), the trend is hardly reversing.

- 70% of kids raised in a Christian home have already made up their minds that once they become independent of their parents, they will abandon church. (Barna)
- 83% of teens said moral truth depends on the circumstances. (Barna)
- Only 9% of born again teens believe in moral absolutes. (Barna)
- Only 7% of teenagers said their moral choices were based on biblical principles. (Barna)
- 32% of students ages 12-17 admit to cheating; peer influence is a factor – those with friends who have cheated are more tempted and more likely to cheat themselves. (Source: ABC News Primetime)

Homeschool Students

General

- Currently approximately 2 million children (grades K-12) are home educated.
- Homeschooling appears to still be the fast-growing form of education.
- Homeschool families save American taxpayers over \$10 billion per year.
- Key reasons for home educating are:
 - √ the transmission of a distinct set of beliefs and values to children
 - √ close family relationships, controlled and positive per social interactions
 - √ quality academics
 - √ alternative approaches to teaching and learning
 - √ safety (e.g. physical, drug-related, psychological, emotional, and sexual) of children and youth.

Homeschool Students (cont'd)

Academics

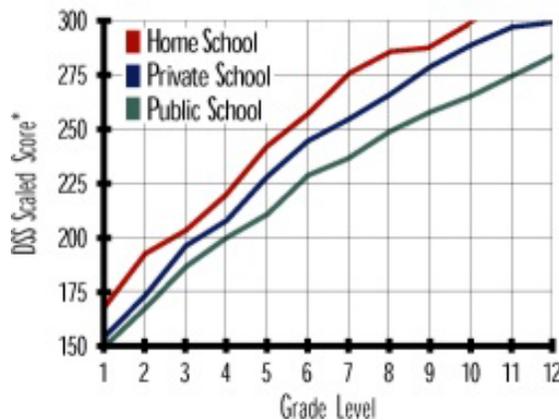
Research findings are consistent that the home educated typically do better than conventional school students on achievement tests

- 16,311 students from across the country were tested with Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The 1st chart compares the results between traditionally educated students (public and private combined) with homeschool students. The 2nd chart shows the research details of the homeschool student by grade level. The 3rd compares achievement of homeschool, private school, and public school students.

Comparison of Traditionally Educated & Homeschool Students			
	Reading	Language	Math
Conventional Schools	50%	50%	50%
Home Education	79%	73%	73%

Average Homeschool Test Scores by Grade Level				
Grade	# of students studied	Percentile Rank		
		Reading	Language	Math
1	1504	88	82	81
2	2153	89	80	85
3	2876	83	62	78
4	2625	83	67	78
5	2564	83	69	76
6	2420	82	73	76
7	2087	87	77	79
8	1801	86	79	76
9	1164	82	77	68
10	775	89	84	72
11	317	84	83	68
12	66	92	85	66

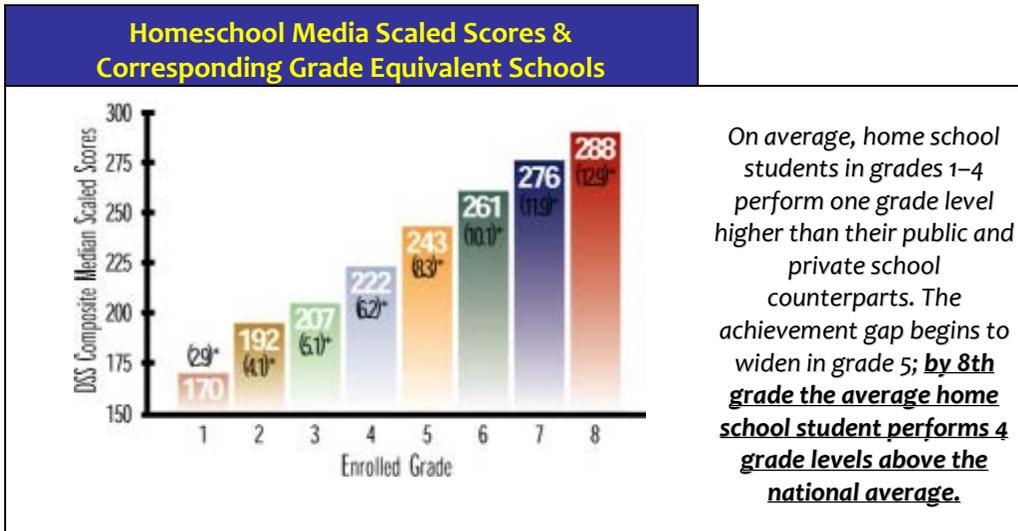
Comparison of Home School, Private School and Public School Students



Note: Because home education allows each student to progress at his or her own rate, almost one in four home school students (24.5%) are enrolled one or more grades above age level (Figure 2). It should be noted that home school scores were analyzed according to the student's enrolled grade rather than according to the student's age level. In other words, a 10-year-old home school student enrolled in 5th grade would have been compared to other students in the 5th grade, rather than to his age-level peers in the 4th grade. Thus, the demonstrated achievement of home schoolers is somewhat conservative.

Homeschool Students (cont'd)

Academics



- There was no significant difference between minority and white homeschooled students in their academic performance.
- Canada's largest study of its kind revealed similar findings on the academic success of the home educated. Dr. Brian Ray found the students scoring, on average, at the 80th percentile in reading, the 76th in language, and the 79th in math. Students whose parents were certified teachers did no better than the other students.⁶
- Dr. Steven Duvall compared the academic engaged time (AET) and basic skill development of learning disabled students who were home educated to those in public school special education programs. Higher rates of AET and greater academic gains were made by the home educated. "... parents, even without special education training, provided powerful instructional environments at home..." (p. 11).
- Repeatedly, across North America, the home educated score as well as or better, on average, than those in conventional schools.
- In the general U.S. population who were 18 to 24. In the general U.S. population in this age range, 46.2% had attained some college courses or higher; 74.2% of the home-educated had attained some college courses or higher.
- SAT scores average 100 points above the national average.

Social, Character & Spiritual Development

- Home educated students have significantly lower problem behavior scores than do their conventional school age mates.
- With children in free play and group interaction activities, conventionally schooled children had significant more problem behaviors than did the home educated.
- Home educated children are more mature and better socialized than are those sent to school.
- In studying adults who were home educated, none were unemployed, none were on welfare, 94% said home education prepared them to be independent persons, 79% said it helped them interact with individuals from different levels of society, and they strongly supported the home education method.
- Multiple studies show that the home educated students have positive self-concepts.
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in field trips, scouting, 4-H, and community volunteer work and their parents are significantly more civically involved than are public school parents.

- 94% strongly agreed/agree with and practice the faith of their parents.
- 71% are participating in ongoing community service (only 37% of the general population does, debunking the myth of anti-social behavior among homeschoolers).
- 59% are very happy with life (general population is 27.6%).
- 82% strongly agree/agree that they will homeschool their own children.



This fact alone, should encourage all Christian families to consider homeschooling, at least for a while.

Source for all the data on Homeschool: National Home Education Research www.nheri.org



Facts on Family Academy

General

Based on the previous data, it is apparent that homeschool typically surpassed the academic, social, character, and spiritual development for traditionally schooled students.

So why is Family Academy important? Consider these issues:

- The research shows that the longer you homeschool, the better the results.
- However, not everyone is a “pioneer” willing to try without support so they never get started.
- Many get tired out on their own and quit homeschooling altogether.
- As children move into adolescence, they begin to “individuate” – mature from being their parents’ child to their own person. Consequently, many find homeschooling through high school too challenging and quit.
- Learning occurs best within the context of relationship. The Family Academy model maximizes the maintenance of a positive parent-student relationship. The FA teacher can “play the heavy” on the parent’s behalf; thus taking some of the burden of helping the student become individually responsible.

Academic

- Our students can “package” their homeschooling experience to optimize scholarships (other homeschoolers typically only have their SAT/ACT scores without an official transcript; Scholarship Awards for our students include hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships each year (graduating class size averages 140 students))
- Accredited by NWAC/AdvancEd and Washington State Board of Education
- Several National Merit students (top .5 % in the nation) and semi-finalists (top 5%)
- West Point, Annapolis, and ROTC appointments
- 1st place National History Day (national contest); numerous 1st -3rd place in regional and state contests also
- WA State Honors awards and several hundred thousand dollars in scholarships are awarded each year
- Annual Outdoor School: Families go on organized extended on-site experience in scientific and historical field studies for 2-7 days (depending on event). Past experiences have included:
 - Victoria (world and Canadian history, comparative govt)
 - Olympic Peninsula (examined multiple marine, forest, alpine, sub-alpine ecosystems)
 - Oregon Trail
 - Lewis and Clark
 - Nez Perce (Idaho – native culture, history, pioneer missions, mining)
 - Geology (Central Washington, Mt. Saint Helens, and Mt. Rainier)
 - San Juan Islands (regional history, orienteering, and habitat studies)
 - East Coast tours to Washington DC, New York City, and New England.

Facts on Family Academy (cont'd)

- Contract learning allows a collaborative approach to instruction where the parent, student, and teacher establish the objectives and expectations to the course while blending traditional and real-life resources. This requires implementation of academic standards (students can't just do whatever they want, and parents aren't just "buying credit). We put the bar higher to empower the student to do their best.
- Learning Center environment creates a regular (typically weekly) time for students to work together with other students in a teacher-created structure for group activities and instruction. Some learning needs a group (public speaking, debate, just practice speaking informally in a group setting) and some learners do better in group or need to learn how to function in interactive learning without having to go a classroom everyday for all the courses.
- Credit acceptance by NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) that determines student eligibility for college sports and college sports scholarships.
- Our Family Academy teachers network with one another and receive on-going training and inservices to keep their skills sharp and up-to-date and aligned with accreditation requirements.

Social, Character & Spiritual Development

- The bios of each graduating senior shows numerous graduates with successes in economic enterprises, jobs, "redemption" stories where there had been great defeat and discouragement with traditional school. 80% of our students go on to higher learning, many include missions and ministry in their homeschooling and future plans.
- Our Biblical Worldview course helps students move from their parents' faith to their own faith. They ask the hard questions and find the answer to: Is the Bible real truth? Who is Jesus? What am I here for?
- Our Life Practicum course helps students consider key areas that will positively or negatively affect the direction of their life particularly in the "Critical Decade" (ages 15-25). This course examines relationships, money management, goals, time management, and personal strengths and weaknesses, and character development.



**Our Mission:
Family-Directed Education**

Family Academy equips teachers holding a biblical worldview to partner with parents in training the next generation of leaders in faith, character, and academics.