



SOVEREIGNMAN BLUEPRINT

Educational freedom: The best places for homeschooling



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If you have children, chances are that over the past few months, you have been homeschooling. For some of you, the transition has been jarring, especially if you've been trying to work at a job while teaching your kids.

Others of you have enjoyed the process, discovering a sense of freedom in teaching your children.

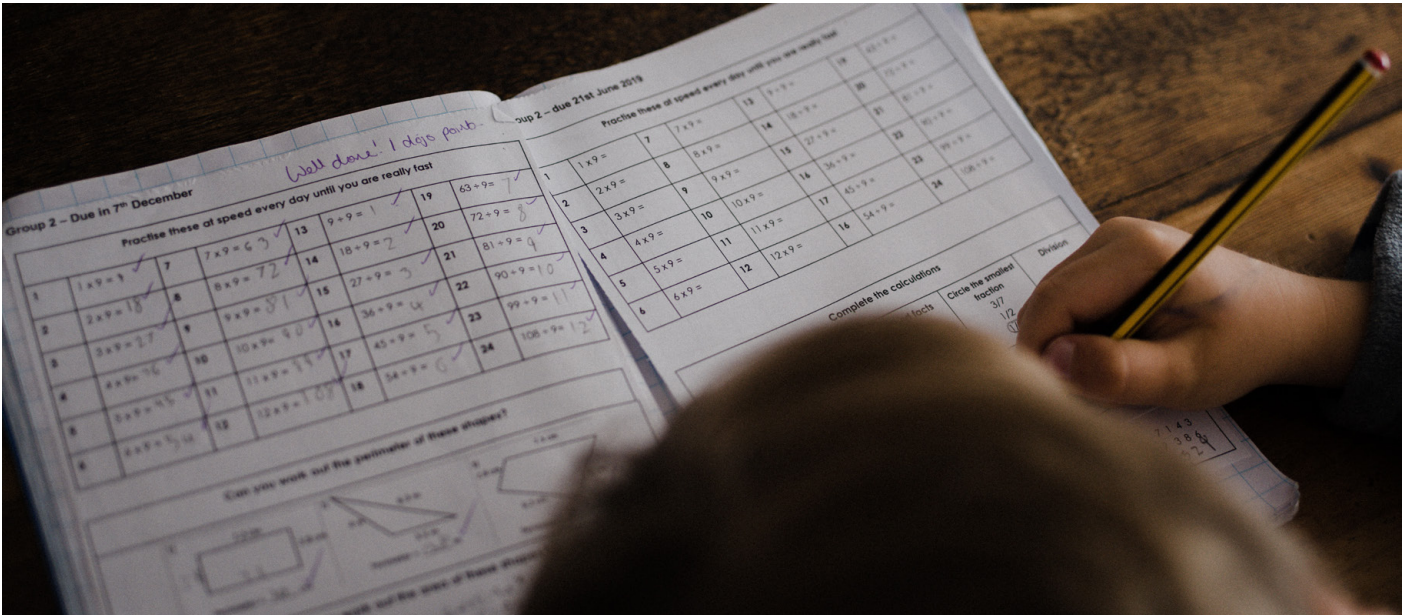
"I love homeschooling for so many reasons," says a friend of ours who used to teach middle school, "but here is just one: **I love the freedom that we have to tailor our children's education to their specific needs and interests**, and to teach other subjects that are a priority for our family as a whole."

That freedom is a longstanding reason why people usually choose to homeschool. We spoke to a number of different families for this piece; all valued freedom. And in a world where you must wear a mask to eat, while having your hair cut, or to go to a yoga class, they also value a 'normal' life.

These days, even people who are on the fence about homeschooling are concerned about what the next school year will look like.

They see images [like this one](#), where children are separated into chalk-drawn squares in France at recess, playing in isolation.

Or [this one](#), which looks vaguely prison-like, of what school might look like in Arizona in the



fall. (We guarantee that a child will poke a pen through that partition during the very first hour.)

Parents worry that to attend school, their children might be required to wear masks all day, or to take an experimental vaccine.

And they **want the ability to set up a work/school family schedule, which public schools are making more difficult.** In Colorado, for example, officials have floated the idea of a “hybrid” school year, where students spend part of the semester at home and part in school.

A high school teacher we know in the Denver area expressed angst over the situation: “Make it one or the other,” she said. “You cannot control a classroom amid chaos. Going back and forth makes it difficult for working parents, makes it hard to create a smooth curriculum, and is especially hard on the students, who need consistency.”

In Paris, where homeschooling is legal but highly regulated, a friend is considering registering with her *mairie* (district) and pulling her children out of public school. She has found that teaching them at home has led to stronger family bonds, and that **the children are happier without the anxiety of social distancing rules.** (They see friends on the side in a more relaxed fashion.)

Homeschooling is legal in many places — the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and parts of Central and South America (including Chile) — and **illegal in others — Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia, for example.**

In places where it’s legal, requirements vary. In the US, rules are different in different states: **If**

you homeschool in Texas, you don't have to give your local district any notice that you're doing so, although you will need to withdraw your child from public school if he or she has previously been enrolled.

You also have very few teaching requirements (reading, writing, arithmetic, and good citizenship), zero testing requirements, and no immunization requirements.

If you homeschool in the **state of New York, though, it's a different story:**

- By July 1 every year, you must submit your intent to homeschool to your local superintendent;
- By August 15, you must submit an Individualized Home Instruction Plan including:
 - your child's name, age and grade level
 - a list of your syllabi, textbooks, materials and/or other plans of instruction
 - dates for submission of quarterly reports
 - the name of the instructor
 - In some cases, you also must include subjects to be covered.
- You must maintain records of attendance to show that your child meets the “substantial equivalent” of 180 days of instruction per year, and 900 (Grades 1-6) or 990 (Grades 7-12) hours of school. You must also meet the subject matter requirements for each grade level applicable.
- You must file quarterly reports including hours of instruction, descriptions of the material covered, and grades/narrative evaluations.
- You must submit your child (unless in Grades 1-3, when a written evaluation suffices) to an annual standardized test at least every other year. In other years, you must submit written evaluations.

So basically, in New York, you're free to teach 'at home,' but unless you submit one set of documents and do your own thing on the side, as a farmer friend has done for years with her kids, there's not much 'home' in homeschooling.

In general — and this is a broad statement — “blue”, higher-tax states are going to require you to jump through more hoops to educate your own child. Red ones tend to have fewer requirements. If you live in a blue state, you can still navigate the requirements.

That said, and this is important, it's unclear what's going to happen with homeschooling at the federal or state levels (or in countries such as France, where it's already highly regulated).

If more public school children are staying home to be educated, governments may become more heavy-handed in their regulations, requiring certain subjects, certain perspectives on what is taught (such as the idea of dozens of genders), and more testing in those areas.

So, the future — and this doesn't just apply to homeschooling, but to everything — is really unclear at this point.

For now, the following guidelines can help you make good decisions for your family, especially if you're considering moving. **(Many people are looking at getting out of cities and high-tax states).**

But first:

Why do people homeschool?

Homeschoolers are a motley crew.

Some are on the left, some on the right. Some are traditionally religious, some secular, finding religion in things like environmentalism. Some adhere to strict curricula, some take a looser approach... even "unschooling". (We'll delve into ways to homeschool below.)

Some have special needs children, others don't. Some hire out part or all of the teaching; others do it all themselves. Some want to bring the public school experience home; others want to ditch it. Some teach their children in the mornings, others after work. And some meet weekly as an educational group, a co-op, whereas others just want to be left alone to do their own thing.

"They all fit under the umbrella," says a homeschooling dad we spoke to.

Pre-pandemic, some two million children in the US alone were homeschooled — about three percent of school-aged kids. Their parents' reasons varied, but one thing unites them: the desire to teach their children the way they see fit.

"I want the freedom to raise my children full-time, education included," says one mom. "I was listening to Randi Zuckerberg's radio show [*Randi Zuckerberg Means Business*] recently, and she talked about how hard it was for her to homeschool during the pandemic, because

she had this job and she really needed the school to babysit her kids. I don't want that. I want to raise my kids."

Homeschooling used to be illegal in many areas, including in most of the United States, as recently as 1980. And there are many people who would like it to be illegal again.

Most notably and most recently, **law professor Elizabeth Bartholet told Harvard Magazine that homeschooling is "dangerous."** One of her reasons? Schools keep tabs on families. This, in her opinion, is a good and necessary thing.

"Teachers and other school personnel constitute the largest percentage of people who report to Child Protective Services," Bartholet said. By not sending kids to public schools, parents are denying the ability of school officials to report on what's happening at home.

A friend who homeschools points out that if Bartholet thinks parents shouldn't be able to educate their children, "does she think parents should even be able to *have* children? What is our function -- only to feed them? Provide a home for them? Why does she think the *state* needs to parent our children for most of the day, and most days of the year? Because the surveillance culture says so?"

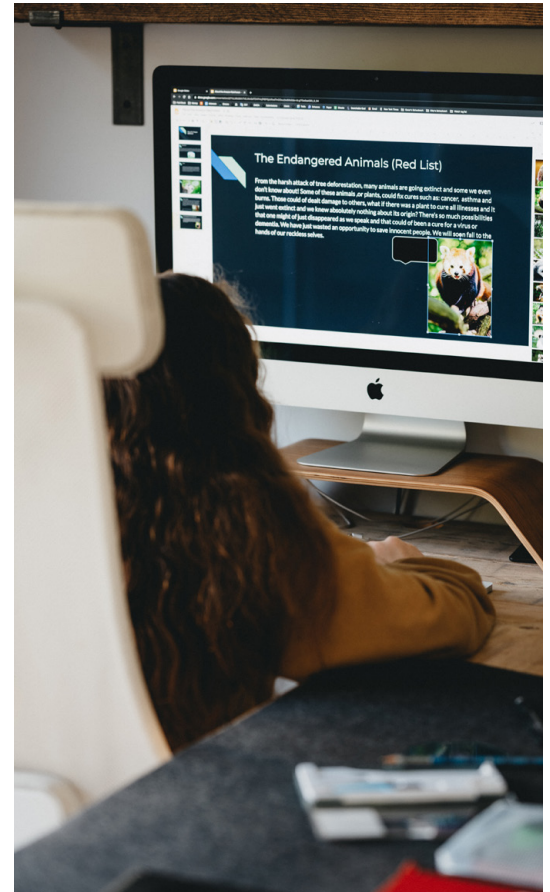
Of course, Bartholet does have a point, and there indeed are cases when abuse at home is meted out by a caring teacher. But **such reports can also be wrong, wreaking havoc on families.** In fact, that's exactly why another friend of ours began homeschooling.

At school on the East Coast, a teacher overheard one of our friend's kids talking about being home alone. She secretly called CPS. For months, the family lived in terror that their children would be taken away.

The kid was simply talking about the movie, Home Alone. The mother had never left her children by themselves.

This happens, folks.

In the US, perhaps **the most prominent organization fighting for homeschooling freedom is the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA).** They take on cases where



government officials overstep their bounds.

Right now, they're helping parents withdraw their children from public schools. There's been an uptick in that since the lockdowns began, but some families are having a hard time getting the official OK from their local districts.

The reasons? Part of it, says HSLDA attorney T.J. Schmidt, could be a lack of staffing and resources to process the applications in a timely fashion. But Schmidt told Fox News that schools were also pushing back.

"School officials are **fearful of losing too many students to homeschooling**," he said. "[Some] attempt to prevent or dissuade parents from pulling their kids out."

How widespread such practices are is hard to estimate, of course, but the story encapsulates the central debate around homeschooling:

Should the state be in charge of your children's education (and, to a large extent, their daily mental and physical welfare)? Or should you be in charge of it?

If you think the answer is "you," then when it comes to homeschooling... living in the "right" place can make a big difference.

As always, we take the perspective of freedom first, hence the following metrics: What states (or countries) are the most "free"? Which ones regulate you most? Which ones leave you alone? In our view, the less interference, the better.

But what about socialization?

"That's the single most common question I'm asked when people hear that I homeschool my kids," says one mother we spoke to. "They think my kids are going to be sitting in the corner, cowering, sucking their thumbs."

And she's not alone — if you homeschool, or are considering it, you'll be asked about socialization at least once (or 50 times).

We know this mom personally and can attest that her three boys are among the most well-adjusted, outgoing kids we've met. They're on sports teams. They participate in Scouts. Their mom forces them to do drama class with an arts-oriented co-op, so they perform in plays with other kids. They go to church and participate in the youth group.

They attend a Christian educational co-op once a week and are friends with dozens of other children there.

They play equally well with kids their own age — and with those many years younger or older. (This is VERY common among homeschoolers.) One of the boys is great with babies.

“We live in a culture obsessed with age-specific socialization,” the mom says. “When, ever again in your life, are you stuck solely with people who are exactly 38 years old, or 62 years old? The Medicare line at the doctor’s office?”

Socialization, she and other homeschooling parents we spoke to, does require more work on the part of the parent than just sending kids off to “the state babysitter.”

“You have to set up playdates, things like that, at least when children are young,” said another mom. “But then they’re in sports or dance or a co-op or two, and it takes care of itself.”

It helps, too, that there are so many homeschoolers these days. Meeting a dozen other kids and parents at the park for lunch on a Monday afternoon isn’t as rare as it used to be.

We’ve observed that homeschoolers tend to be articulate and respectful around adults and helpful with younger kids. It’s not utopia — conflicts happen, but based on completely non-scientific, empirical observation, there’s almost zero bullying in the homeschool world. The parents are involved and talk to each other regularly and “make an effort to teach their children conflict management skills when issues come up,” said one mom.

We spoke to more than a dozen homeschooling parents for this piece, some of whom had seen the effects of seven-year-olds only knowing other seven-year-olds, etc., from public school experiences. Each said virtually the same thing when asked about this topic:

“It’s the public school parents who should be worried about socialization!”

Which states/countries offer the most homeschooling freedom?

The [HSLDA's website](#) is a helpful resource for both US-based and international homeschoolers. It has a great interactive feature that will give you detailed information about laws in each place. Much of the information we list here comes from them.

Let's start with the legalities around homeschooling in the US.

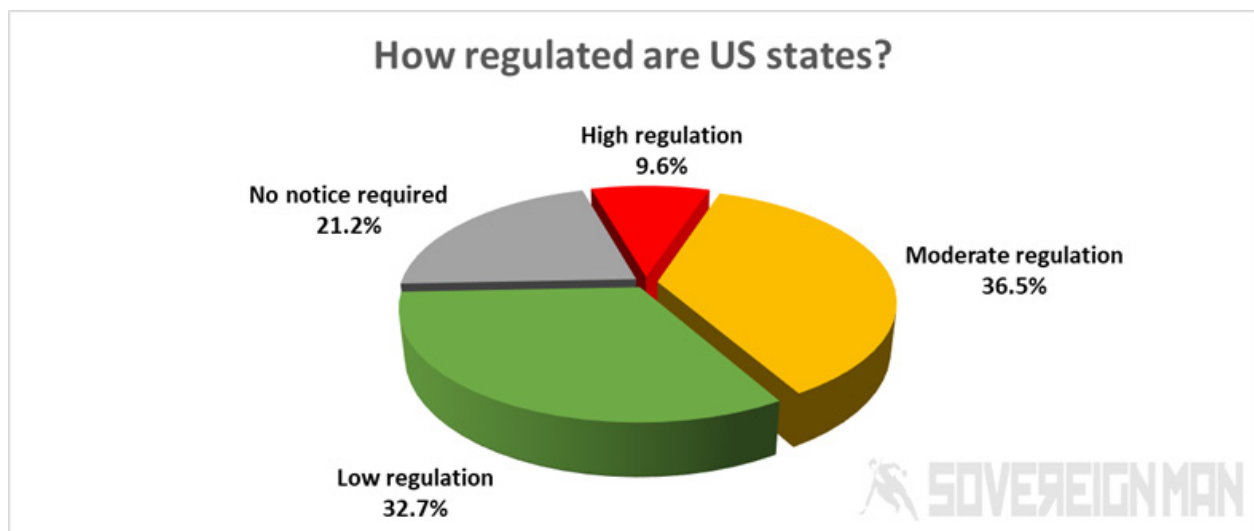
There, you have:

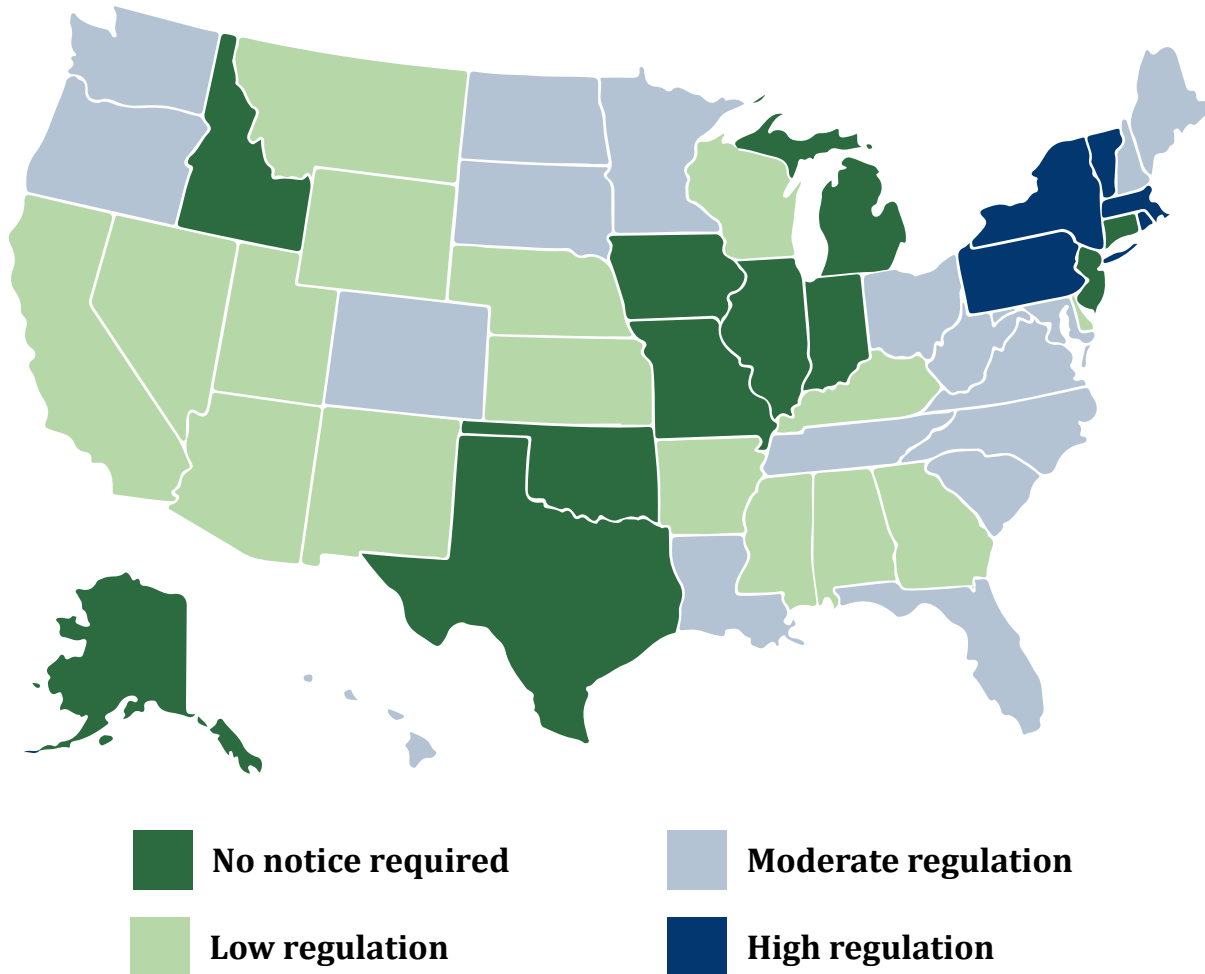
States that allow **No Notice/Regulation**. This means that if you never enroll your children in school, you don't have to inform the state that you are homeschooling. Generally, though, you *do* have to formally withdraw your child from public school if you intend to *switch* to homeschooling.

States with no notice are:

Alaska	Illinois	Michigan	Oklahoma
Connecticut	Indiana	Missouri	Texas
Idaho	Iowa	New Jersey	

So if you move from Massachusetts, a state with many regulations, to Iowa, then you don't have to tell officials in Iowa that you are educating your children at home. But if your child is in the third grade in Iowa and you decide to start homeschooling, then you do have to tell the district and withdraw her.





States with “low” regulation

These states generally require that you register your intention to homeschool with a school district (usually your local one) before the school year that your child turns 6 or 7, depending on the state.

In other words, you’re on the grid, even if you never enroll your child in public school. But there generally are very few other requirements.

States that require “moderate” regulation require registration, often every year. They also generally have testing requirements.

States with “heavy” regulation generally require registration, testing, submission of an annual syllabus that aligns with subjects taught by the state, and sometimes proof of immunizations.

This chart, based on information provided by HSLDA and other sources, breaks it down for you:

	Regulation/Notice	Teacher Qualifications Required?	State Mandated Subjects?	Testing Required?	Vaccines Required?
Alabama	Low regulation	Generally, no	No	No	Generally, no
Alaska	No notice required	Generally, no	No	Generally, no	Generally, no
Arizona	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	No
Arkansas	Low regulation	No	No	No	No
California	Low regulation	Generally, no	Yes	No	No
Colorado	Moderate regulation	Generally, no	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No notice required	No	Yes	No	No
Delaware	Low regulation	No	No	No	No
Florida	Moderate regulation	Generally, no	No	Generally, no	No
Georgia	Low regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hawaii	Moderate regulation	No	No, but there are other reqs.	Yes	No
Idaho	No notice required	No	Yes	No	No
Illinois	No notice required	No	Yes	No	No
Indiana	No notice required	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No notice required	Generally, yes	Generally, no	Generally, no	Generally, yes
Kansas	Low regulation	Yes	No	No	No
Kentucky	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	Moderate regulation	No	Yes	Depends on how you homeschool (e.g. through an umbrella group, etc.)	Yes
Maine	Moderate regulation	Generally, no	Yes	Depends on how you homeschool	No
Maryland	Moderate regulation	No	Yes	No	No
Massachusetts	High regulation	No	Yes	Yes	No
Michigan	No notice required	Generally, no	Yes	No	No
Minnesota	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Low regulation	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No notice required	No	Yes	No	No
Montana	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	Yes
Nebraska	Low regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	No
New Hampshire	Moderate regulation	No	Yes	Yes	No
New Jersey	No notice required	No	No, but there are other reqs.	No	No
New Mexico	Low regulation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
New York	High regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Moderate regulation	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes, w/exceptions	Yes

	Regulation/Notice	Teacher Qualifications Required?	State Mandated Subjects?	Testing Required?	Vaccines Required?
Ohio	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oklahoma	No notice required	No	No	No	No
Oregon	Moderate regulation	No	No	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	High regulation	Generally, no	Yes	Generally, no	Yes
Rhode Island	High regulation	No	Yes	No	No
South Carolina	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	Generally, no	No
South Dakota	Moderate regulation	No	Yes	Yes	No
Tennessee	Moderate regulation	Yes	No	Generally, no	Yes
Texas	No notice required	No	Yes	No	No
Utah	Low regulation	No	No	No	No
Vermont	High regulation	No	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia	Moderate regulation	No	No	Generally, no	Yes
Washington	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Washington, D.C.	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	No	No
West Virginia	Moderate regulation	Yes	Yes	Depends on how you homeschool	No
Wisconsin	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	No
Wyoming	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	No
Puerto Rico	Low regulation	No	Yes	No	No

Now, if you live in a state with heavy regulation, you can still homeschool, and you can even do so your way.

For example, some states require annual or biennial testing. If you go the way of a standardized test, you're likely assessing your child's grasp of Common Core (centrally mandated curriculum rules and tests for what children are to learn in each K-12 grade).

In some states, you can ask a certified teacher to evaluate your student(s) in lieu of taking a standardized test. We were surprised to learn how many former K-12 teachers decided to homeschool when they had their own children; you can find some in your community.

Some people join what are called umbrella schools — essentially private organizations operating in the state — to avoid having to register as homeschoolers in their school district every year.

In Florida, for example, the state recognizes public schools, private schools and homeschools as valid. If you homeschool, then you register via a letter of intent with the county... rendering



you, the parents, the school officials. You therefore have the right to approve the curricula, the transcripts and the diplomas of your students.

If you choose to go through an umbrella school — essentially a private school — then you don't have to register every year with the district as a homeschooler, but you do have to go through a private school official to have those curricula and diplomas approved. That said, many people still operate through an umbrella organization to protect their privacy from the district.

You can also read the rules very carefully to figure out ways to comply and still teach what and how you wish.

We do not provide legal advice here, but we'll share this story:

As we alluded to earlier, a friend of ours who farms in Upstate New York has been homeschooling her children for years. She submits her curriculum to the state, has her kids tested and makes sure to follow the rules.

That said, she noticed that the rules didn't specify how *long* she had to teach the specifics within each subject. Sometimes 30 seconds suffices on a subject she disagrees with. And this woman, who is an ardent Marxist and environmentalist, also makes sure to teach her children her take on capitalism (bad), the founding of America (it shouldn't have happened), and war (never, ever OK).

She calls her homeschool "the private school we can't afford." And she has homeschooled for more than ten years without incident.

International

If you are living abroad with your family, you may or may not be able to legally homeschool: *a country's education laws apply to all children who reside there, regardless of whether or not those children are citizens.*

That means that if you're in Germany, you cannot homeschool. The state is in charge, period.

If you're in Italy, you can, but you'll find few other homeschoolers in your midst. It's simply not very common to educate at home in Italy. (In that case, we recommend finding a co-op. Homeschooling can be lonely if taken on alone.)

Most people we know who move their families abroad do want their children to attend the local public or private schools — to learn the host country's language — **so we'll focus here on homeschooling laws in English-speaking countries.**

Please note that the following were deemed accurate and current at the time of publication, but that laws can and do change.

Australia

It is legal to homeschool in Australia, and about 30,000 families reportedly do so there.

Just as in the US, the regulations around homeschooling depend on your local state or territorial government. And you *do* need to register your child with the local education authorities.



Officials from the state's Education Department will inspect your curriculum, propose a study program and will monitor your child's academic work. (The details around that depend on where you live.)

Parents who do not wish to submit to this can instead register their children with a "distance education" school, a bit like an umbrella co-op in the US. That means following at least some of the distance education program, but it also means that government scrutiny will be aimed at the organization, and not at your family.

New Zealand

Homeschooling is legal there, but you must register children between the ages of 6 and 16 by applying to the Ministry of Education for an **'exemption from enrolment at a registered school'** for each child. **The application usually takes 4-6 weeks to process, so do it well before the official school year is underway. Otherwise, your child legally must be enrolled in a registered school while the application and approval process is underway.**



Canada

Homeschooling is legal — and popular — in Canada, but here again the rules vary by province. Some provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nunavut, and Yukon) **even offer funding to homeschooling families to offset educational expenses**, which isn't the case in most of the world.



Here's a brief description of what homeschooling entails in some of the more populated provinces:

British Columbia

You can *enroll* your child into what's called a *Distributed Learning* program under the supervision of a teacher, or you can *register* your child with your local school board as a homeschooler. Depending on the board and on what option you choose from the above, certain funding is available.

Alberta

Here, you must register with a 'willing' school board somewhere in the province, submit your plans, and have them approved. You can create your own plans, follow a government outline, or adhere to school board plans. You will be assigned a supervisor who will visit you twice per year. You may be eligible for funding.

Ontario (the freest major province for homeschooling)

Ontario is the most relaxed of the major provinces when it comes to homeschooling. You must submit an annual letter of intent to your local school board. Other than that, you're on your own. No funding.

Quebec

You must notify your local school board and submit your curriculum/plans every year. You'll also need to send in a mid-year report and have an evaluation done at the end of the year. You must meet with the school minister at some point in the year to discuss your progress. No funding.

South Africa

Homeschooling has been legal in South Africa since 1996, but as with many things in South Africa, it's complicated.

The South African Schools Act No. 84 of 1996 gives each province the authority to set its own standards, and homeschoolers are supposed to register with their provincial education departments.



But most of the estimated 100,000 families who educate at home do so under the radar, unregistered. Why? Because they don't want to comply with the mandated national curriculum precepts. (Obviously, there may be legal consequences to not registering.)

The curriculum standards include required lessons in sex education, interfaith studies and other ideological lightning rods, so many parents simply choose not to register their students.

Ireland

Homeschooling is legal in Ireland but not widespread. Fewer than 1,000 children are thought to be home educated there.

The government maintains a register of all homeschooled children; parents must apply to have a child registered. The Education Welfare Board assesses the parents' proposal, materials, etc. and either accepts or rejects it. If the board rejects the proposal, the parent must send the child to a recognized school.

HomeSchool.ie
Ireland's Online Secondary School



The United Kingdom

England

People do educate their children at home in England — the House of Commons estimates that some 55,000 children are homeschooled there — but laws are not as codified as they are elsewhere.

Registration in England is voluntary. (That means there may be many more homeschooled children than officially thought.)



Parents do not have to follow the National Curriculum, and they do not receive any funding or reimbursement for educational expenses.

Local authorities do not have the power or duty to monitor families, but they can intervene if they think children are not receiving a suitable education. (We're not sure how that works in the real world; does that mean neighbors or friends are supposed to call the government?)

In April 2019, the government published [this guide](#) for parents. They're also considering more regulatory powers and requirements at the state and local level.

Scotland

Homeschooling is legal in Scotland. Sending children (ages 5-16) to school is not compulsory, but making sure a child receives an "efficient, full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude" is. Most parents send their children to public school to fulfill this obligation, but homeschooling also counts.

Northern Ireland

Homeschooling is iffy here. Parents have to ensure a child's education by "regular attendance or otherwise."

The "or otherwise" part leaves open the idea of homeschooling, and people do educate at home in Northern Ireland, but the rules around it vary according to local school board requirements.

Wales

As in Scotland, Welsh children must receive an education, but not necessarily in school. Parents are not required to follow a national curriculum, and unless they are withdrawing children from public school, do not seem to be required to register them with the state, either.

Homeschooling curricula and other resources

There are as many ways to homeschool as there are homes; however, a few tried-and-true methodologies remain popular.

If your family is thinking about homeschooling, but you don't know where to start, then the following resources might help you in your search. (Due to space constraints, we can't go into detail about each style of learning, but we'll introduce you to them and list some further resources.)

Classical education

A "classical" education is heavy on the basics: reading, writing, and arithmetic... plus history, languages (including Greek and Latin), and often religious studies. It also emphasizes critical thinking, debate, and persuasive communication.

This type of education was normative for centuries. Thomas Jefferson enjoyed a classical education.

The style embraces three stages of learning, called the trivium.

The Grammar Stage (ages 6-10) emphasizes rote memorization through songs and stories, the idea being that you're planting seeds that will grow later.

The Dialectic Stage (ages 10-12) emphasizes logical discussions and debates. Here, you introduce higher math and more complicated science.

The Rhetoric Stage (ages 13-18) emphasizes systematic, rigorous thinking, clear communication, and persuasive use of language.

The book, *The Well-Trained Mind*, by Susan Wise Bauer (herself homeschooled by her pioneering mother, Jessie Wise, when few were doing so) is a great introduction to providing a classical education at home. Bauer's [website](#) is another great resource that includes classes and curricula.

Christian-based [Classical Conversations](#) is a popular co-op/curriculum that offers a classical



education. Local CC groups meet weekly, divided by trivium levels. Their debaters are some of the best we've seen in action.

Charlotte Mason

The Charlotte Mason style of learning leans heavily on classical precepts but emphasizes “living books” over textbooks and a gentle style of learning (no tests, but lots of “narration” — where students write or recite back what they’ve read or learned.) There are private schools based on CM’s methodologies, such as [this one near Austin, Texas](#).

Mason was an English educator in the late 19th/early 20th century who revolutionized the way children were taught. She studied her students to see how they learned best and presented a broad curriculum of study. She called most textbooks and bad literature “twaddle” and focused on creating a lifelong love of learning and self-motivated study.

[Ambleside](#) is based on Charlotte Mason’s actual curriculum.

[Simply Charlotte Mason](#) is another resource.

[Charlotte Mason Community](#) is a collection of community groups, podcasts, and other CM resources.

Unschooling

Unschooling is a no-method method of education, based on the idea that children learn best when they're interested in a subject. You might spend a few weeks obsessing over dinosaurs, or space travel, or French verbs.

The idea behind unschooling is to lay out “invitations” — books and other objects or videos about a wide range of subjects, and see what inspires your child.

As you can imagine, there's controversy about this learning method and its potential gaps, but proponents argue that we need to reevaluate how we see standardized education. We personally know people who enjoy great success -- happy, engaged, enthusiastically learning kids -- with unschooling. And we know people who combine unschooling with [Waldorf](#) or [Montessori](#) techniques (group learning strategies popular in private schools) to create a holistic education.

[Wild and Free](#) is a popular group that incorporates unschooling strategies.

Other resources

This list is not comprehensive but should give you a push in the right direction for conducting your own research.

Math and Science curricula:

[Mammoth Math](#)

[Right Start](#)

[Saxon Math](#) (similar to Singapore Math)

[Home Science Tools](#)

[Reviews of Science Kits](#)

Teaching Reading:

[The Ordinary Parent's Guide to Teaching Reading](#), by Jessie Wise

[Oxford Owl](#) readers

[Ron Paul's curriculum](#) (Yes, by the former Congressman. I'll be talking to him about this in an upcoming Total Access podcast.)

Podcasts:

[The Mason Jar](#) (leans towards Charlotte Mason)

[Read Aloud Revival](#) (premium membership lets you ask questions of popular children's book authors)

Books our homeschooling friends recommend for parents:

[For the Children's Sake](#), by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

[For the Family's Sake](#), by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

[The Core](#), by Leigh Bortins (founder of Classical Conversations)

[The Call of the Wild and Free](#), by Ainsley Arment (founder of Wild & Free)

Conclusion

Homeschooling is a big topic, and not one without controversy. We've tried to approach it through the lens of freedom, and we hope that the information provided here helps you make a wise and sound decision about your child's education.

I'll leave you with a few quotes from friends who homeschool:

*Homeschooling is **much more than merely "schooling at home."** It is a way of life. It is teaching your toddler to stay away from stinging nettle, but explaining to your older kids that it is edible when cooked, then researching recipes. It is dissecting the irises that your toddler picked from your yard to observe how they are pollinated. It is reading a book about Leonardo da Vinci, then attending the local exhibit, and buying more books to share with the littlest learners to appreciate. It is turning life itself into one massive classroom, waiting to be explored.*

"I'm not much of an activist," says another homeschooling mom, "but this is my stand for intellectual freedom. If my government is educating my children in a way I find unsuitable, then I stand up to my government. My loyalty is to my children, not the state."

Lastly, as Jennifer Lade, whom we profile here, says, **"If I want freedom for the whole world, I feel like I should start with my children.** So to give them freedom to pursue their learning in the manner that they want, that seems like the first step."

May you find your own version of intellectual freedom, for both you and your children.

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