

# Homeschooling: Discovering **How** and **Why** It Works

by Dr. Jay L. Wile

## Qualifications

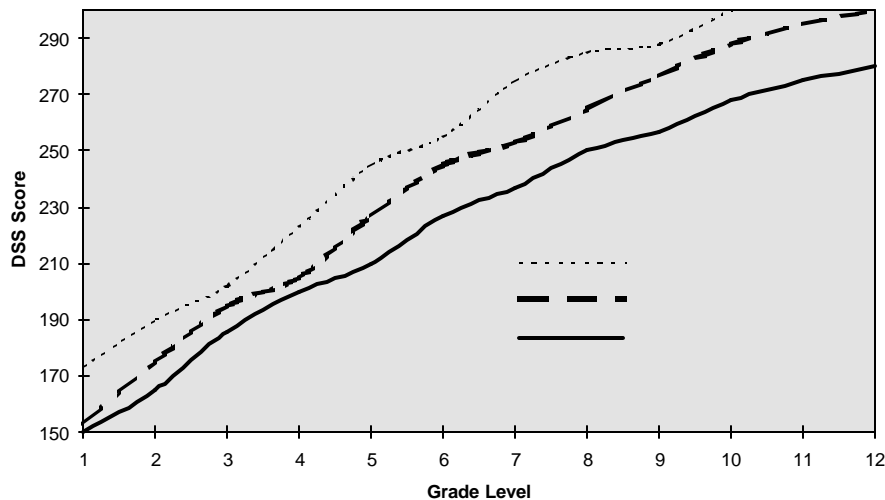
- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes junior high school and high school science courses for homeschooled students

## Homeschooling Works

- More U.S. students are enrolled in homeschool than in charter schools.
- According to studies, the average homeschooled student is better educated and socialized than his peers.
- Homeschoolers get accepted to all major universities.
- Homeschoolers distinguish themselves in the workplace.

## Academically, Homeschooled Students Excel

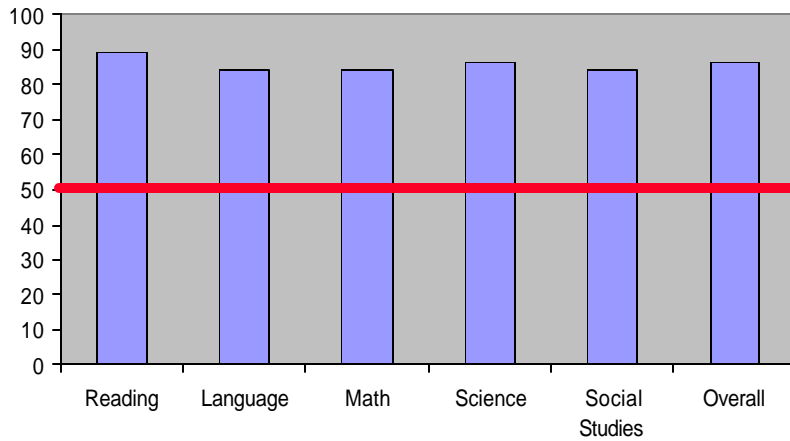
Median Composite Scores



NOTE: DSS is a composite score of the student's entire academic achievement.

[Lawrence M. Rudner, "Achievement and Demographics of Home School Students: 1998," Vol 7 (1999)]

### Standardized Test Scores, K-12



[Ray, Brian, "Homeschooling Progress Report 2009," HSLDA]

### The Quality of a homeschooled Student's Education is Independent of the Parents "Qualifications" to Teach!

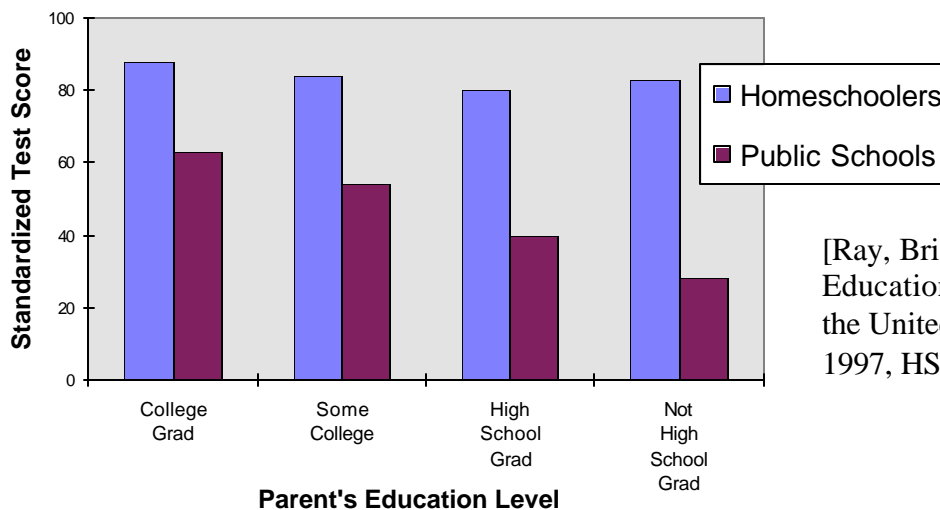
- K-12 Basic Battery for those whose parents are certified teachers: 87
- K-12 Basic Battery for those whose parents aren't certified teachers: 88

This compares to 50% for public schools

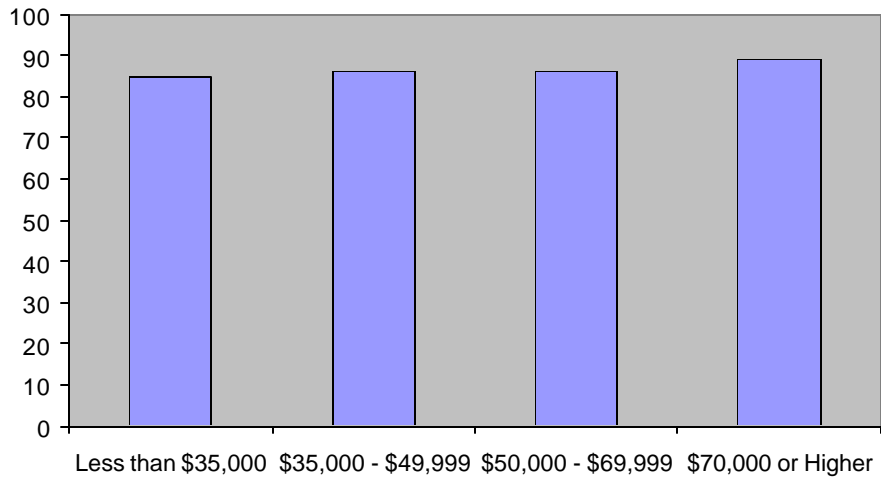
[Ray, Brian, "Homeschooling Progress Report 2009," HSLDA]

### The Quality of a Homeschooled Student's Education Does not Significantly Depend on the Parents' Level of Education

#### Achievement vs. Parent's Education



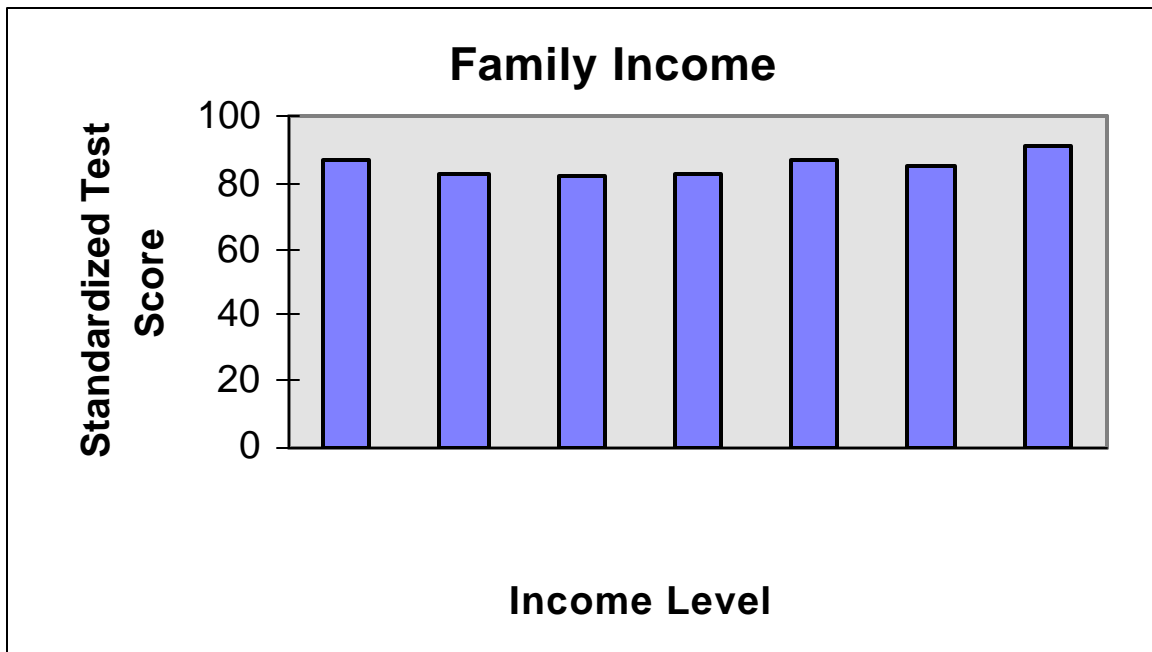
[Ray, Brian, "Home Education Across the United States," 1997, HSLDA]



• This compares to 50% for the national average

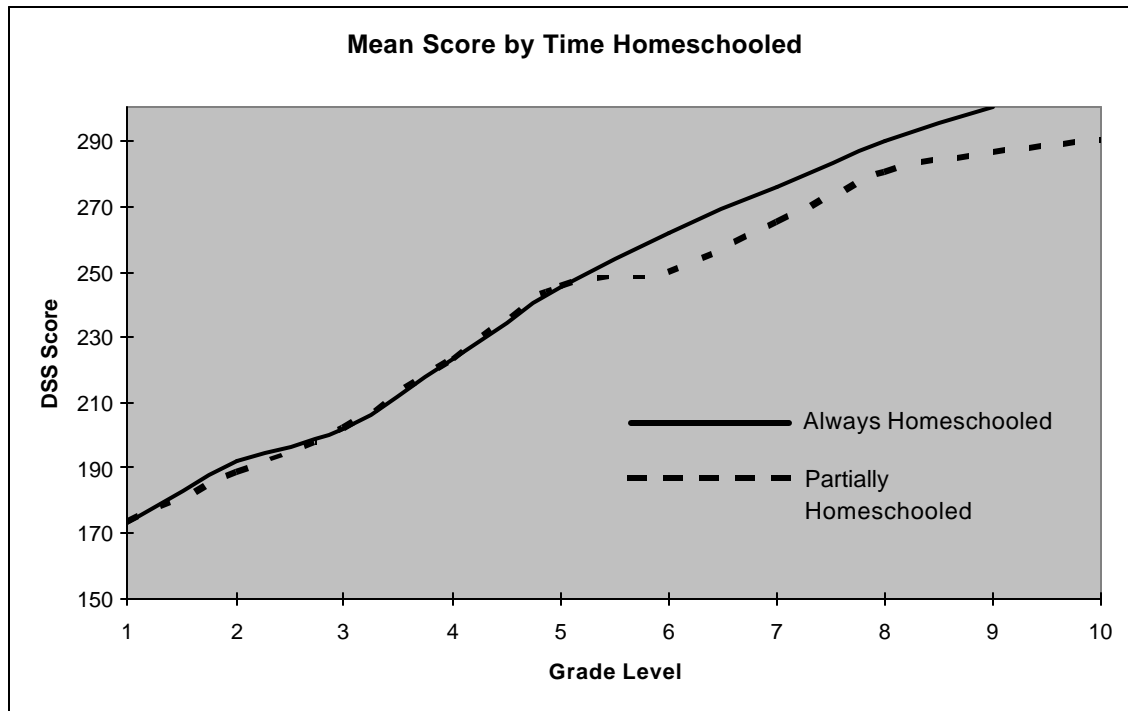
[Ray, Brian, "Homeschooling Progress Report 2009," HSLDA]

**It Doesn't Even Depend Significantly on Income!**



[Ray, Brian, "Home Education Across the United States," 1997, HSLDA]

## It Gets Better the Longer You Homeschool!



[Lawrence M. Rudner, "Achievement and Demographics of Home School Students: 1998," Vol 7 (1999)]

## Why Do Homeschoolers Excel?

- The Love of Learning is not socialized out of them.
- Learning is generally more interesting for students when the curriculum is tailored directly to them.
- You can't beat the teacher/student ratio!
- Homeschooling teaches independent learning.
- Homeschooling parents impart *by example* that education is important.

## What About College?

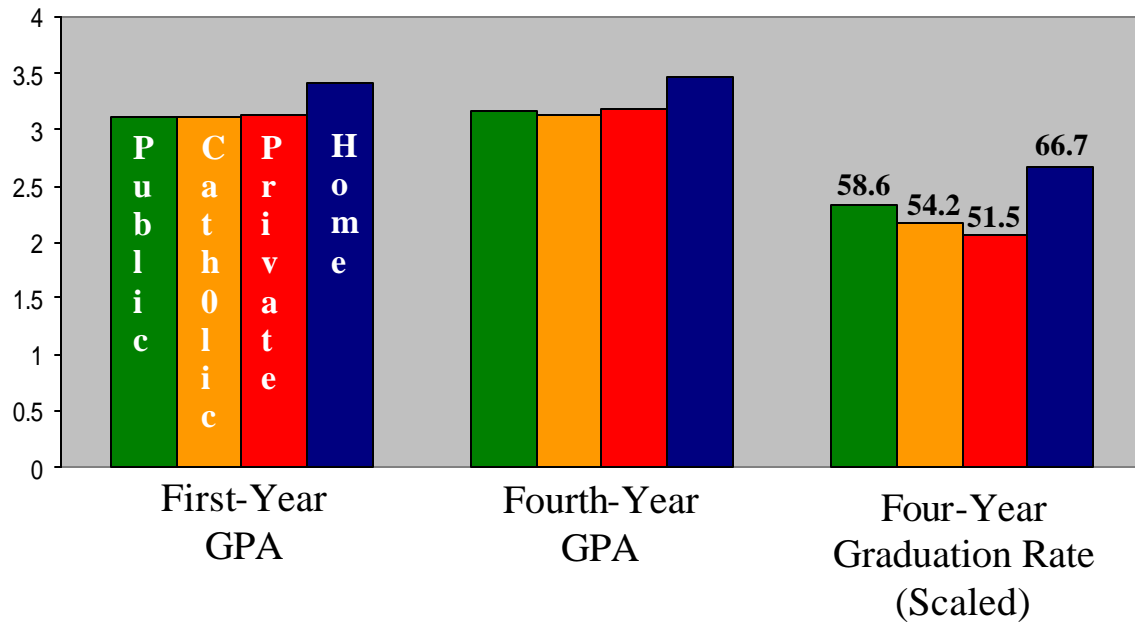
- On the SAT, Homeschoolers score 67 points above the national average. Homeschoolers score 2 points higher on the ACT.
- "With average family incomes of \$40,000 to \$50,000, lower than the \$50,000-to-\$60,000 median rung, the home-schoolers defied the demographic correlation between high incomes and high SAT scores."
- "Home-schoolers bring certain skills -- motivation, curiosity, the capacity to be responsible for their education -- that high schools don't induce very well"  
-Jon Reider, Stanford admissions
- More than 70% of US universities now accept parent-prepared transcripts.

- Stanford University in the fall of 1999 accepted 27% of homeschooled applicants. This is *twice* the acceptance rate of publicly and privately schooled students.
- Homeschooled students at Boston University had an average GPA of 3.3, and Kennesaw State University confirms that the GPA's of their homeschooled students are significantly higher than the average.

[Daniel Golden, *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb 11, 2000, pg. 1]

### University of St. Thomas Study

#### GPAs and Graduation Rates



[Michael F. Cogan, "Exploring Academic Outcomes of Homeschooled Students," *Journal of College Admission*, Summer 2010]

#### What I Noticed About My Homeschooled Students at the University Level

- They were much more eager to learn.
- They sought me out for help and (mostly) additional instruction.
- They were not afraid to tackle a problem that was not covered in class.
- They were more mature when it came to taking responsibility for their own learning.
- They *actually read the book!*

#### What Others Have Noticed About Homeschooled Students in the Workplace

- "They're smart, ambitious and very driven...They have a high level of loyalty to the business, are diligent, and have a good work ethic." - Andy Lorenzen, national Chick-fil-A recruiter
- "They're well-versed in basic business principles...They have the discipline to either

run their own business or become quite focused employees.” - Dr. Gary Knowles, Ontario Institute of Studies in Education

- “...their work ethic and personal qualities [make] an unbeatable combination.” - *HR Magazine*
- “They have a good sense of humor and know how to act. Lots of kids have trouble with judgment, differentiating what’s appropriate behavior in the work environment and on the ball field. Not these kids.” - Joe Jeffcoat, Chick-fil-A manager
- “If I didn’t know anything about someone other than their educational background, I’d rather hop into a foxhole with a homeschool kid than one from public school. The homeschool kid will be a little better educated and dependable.” - Patricia Lines, former US Department of Education researcher

[Robert J. Grossman, "Home is where the school is," *HR Magazine*, Nov, 2001]

### **But What About “Socialization?”**

- Dr. Gary Knowles studied more than 1,000 Michigan adults who had been homeschooled. None were unemployed or on welfare (compared to 5.6% and 11.2%, respectively for the average population). A full 94% said that homeschool helped prepare them to be independent persons, and 79% said that it helped them to interact with those from other levels of society. [J. Gary Knowles, "Now We Are Adults: Attitudes, Beliefs, and Status of Adults Who Were Home-educated as Children," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, April 3-7, 1991.]
- Dr. Shyers reports studied the behavior of homeschooled and publicly schooled students in free and structured play. Homeschoolers have significantly lower problem behavior scores. Other than that, there was little noticeable difference. [ Larry Shyers, "Comparison of Social Adjustment between Home and Traditionally Schooled Students" (Ph.D. diss., University of Florida, 1992).]
- Dr. Delahooke showed that homeschooled students are significantly less peer dependent. [Dr. Mona Delahooke, "Home Educated Children's Social/Emotional Adjustment and Academic Achievements: A Comprehensive Study," unpublished doctoral dissertation, California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles, 1986, 85.]
- Dr. Montgomery showed that homeschooled students are just as active in extracurricular activities that promote leadership as were privately-schooled students. [Dr. Linda Montgomery, "The Effect of Home Schooling on Leadership Skills of Home Schooled Students," *Home School Researcher* (5) 1, 1989.]
- Andrews University in Michigan showed that the average home schooled student scored in the top third of the PIERS-HARRIS SELF CONCEPT SCALE, a standard test of social adjustment, and over half scored in the top 10 percent. [Dr. John Wesley Taylor, *Self-Concept in Home Schooling Children* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: University Microfilms International), Order No. DA8624219.]
- Thomas C. Smedley used The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale as a diagnostic tool to assess the competence and/or "mental age" of a subject. The mean Adaptive Behavior Composite score of 115.55 for the home schooled children puts them in the top 16%! In terms of the socialization subcategory score, the home schooled students rank in the top 27%. [Thomas C. Smedley, M.S., "Socialization of Home Schooled

Children: A Communication Approach," thesis submitted and approved for Master of Science, Radford University, Radford, Virginia, May 1992.]

### **Why Are Homeschoolers So Well Socialized?**

- ? They are forced to interact with multiple ages groups regularly.
- ? They avoid many of the negative role models you find in schools.
- ? They are supervised much more closely.
- ? They are taught morals.
- ? Their role models demonstrate sacrificial love on a daily basis.