

Homeschooling Across West Virginia

Academic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics



Academic Performance
Family Demographics
Expenditures

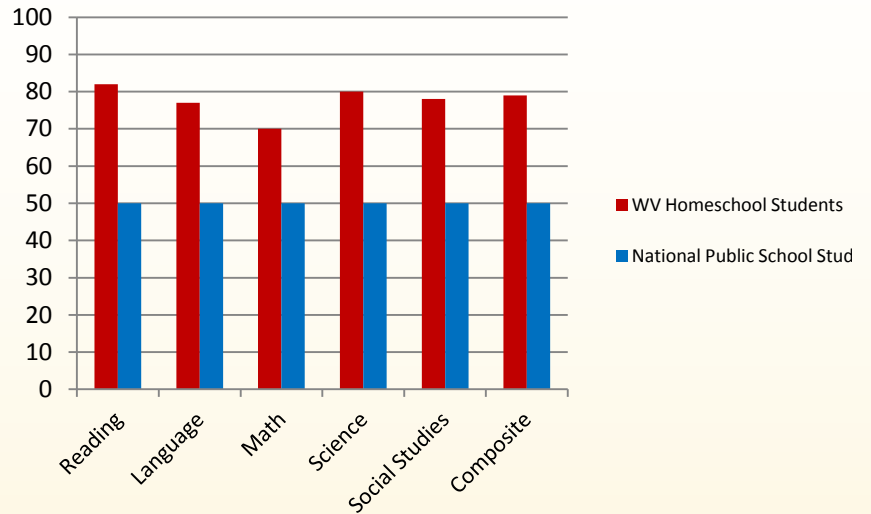
National Home Education Research Institute and
Christian Home Educators of West Virginia



Academic excellence

“...academic achievement test scores are very high.”

WV Homeschool Achievement Test Scores



*Factors that do NOT matter:

- Family income.
- Amount of money spent on educational materials.
- Whether either parents has ever been a certified teacher.
- Student’s gender.
- Number of children living at home.
- Age at which formal instruction began.
- Whether the student has been home educated all of his or her academic life.
- Whether the student is enrolled in a full service curriculum.

“No matter how you look at the data, homeschoolers are doing quite well.”

David Richman, CHEWV

A successful educational environment

“...parents choosing to make a commitment to home schooling are able to provide a very successful academic environment.”

Summary of Results

In 2011, Christian Home Educators of West Virginia funded a research study of West Virginia’s homeschooled students. The statewide study assessing the academic achievement of homeschooled students found that “academic achievement test scores are very high” among the state’s homeschooled students. The study evaluated scores on national standardized tests in areas of reading, language, math, social studies, and science. On average, the state’s homeschooled students scored in the top twenty to thirty percent of all students nationwide in every academic area measured.

- Reading 82
- Language 77
- Math 70
- Science 80
- Social Studies 78

* There are no statistically significant correlations (p-value <0.01) between these factors and student achievement test scores.

Stable Families

- 97% of homeschool parents are married.
- 95% of homeschool families identify themselves as Christian.
- 97% of homeschool fathers work for pay; only 4% of mothers work full-time.
- The median income for homeschool families is over \$70,000 per year.

“For most of our families, homeschooling is not just an educational choice; it’s a way of life.”

Wendy Summers, CHEWV

Other Demographics

- 60% of homeschool parents have a bachelors or advanced degree.
- 97% of students have a computer at home that the student uses.



A way of life

“It appears that these parents and their children are motivated to teach and learn.”

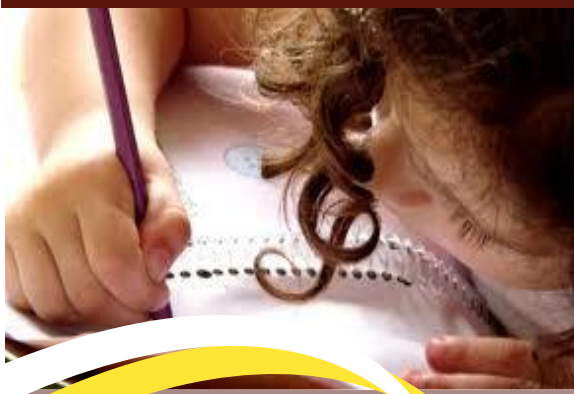
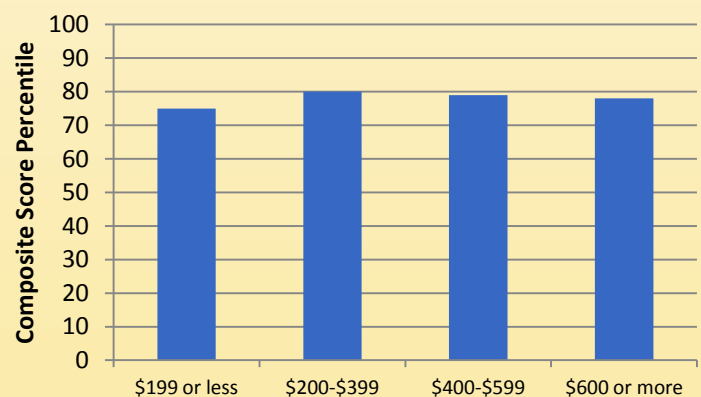
West Virginia Homeschool Families

The vast majority of West Virginia’s homeschool students come from what would be considered very traditional families, with a high degree of stability. Less than two percent were either single or divorced. Both the educational level of parents and the family income was higher among homeschool families than for the general population. The average number of children in West Virginia homeschool families is 3.26, compared to the national average of 2.0 children per family. The vast majority identify themselves as being Christian.

Expenditures

The amount of money spent on educational materials ranges from less than \$200 to more than \$2,000 for each student annually. About two-thirds of homeschool families spend less than \$600 annually per student, with the median annual expenditure per student being about \$500. However, the study found no correlation between the amount of money spent on educational materials and the students’ performance on achievement tests.

Achievement by Dollars Spent per Child

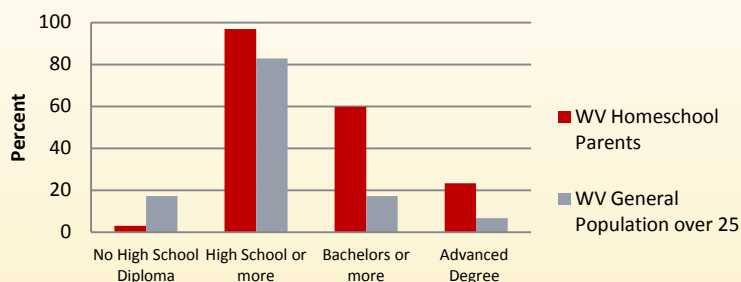


Solid performance across the board

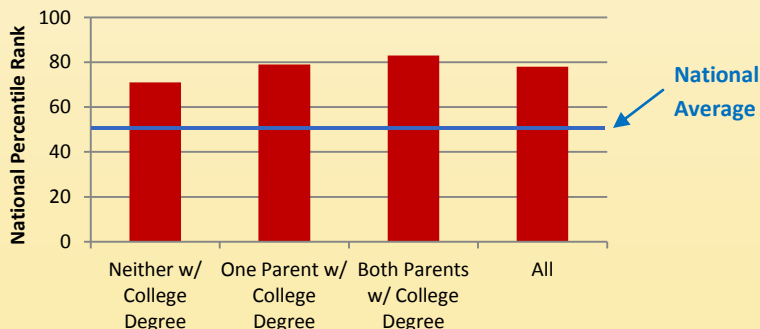
“West Virginia homeschool students of parents of all educational levels score well above average...”

While this study found a “moderately significant” relationship between the parents’ level of formal education and student achievement test scores, it noteworthy that students of parents with the lowest level of formal education posted test scores 20 points higher than the national average. Also, the formal level of education among West Virginia’s homeschool parents was much higher than among the general population of the state.

Level of Formal Education of Homeschool Parents



Test Performance by Parental Education Level



Degree of Regulation:

“West Virginia has been considered for some time to be a state with a medium level of state control over homeschooling.”

“Whether homeschool families are free from state control...subject to medium control or regulation... or subject to much control or regulation, the home educated children are doing very well in terms of academic achievement.”

About the study

Homeschooling Across West Virginia: Academic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics was completed in 2011 by Brian D. Ray, Ph.D., of the National Home Education Research Institute. It is a cross-sectional study of 375 homeschool students from West Virginia. The background survey of demographic questions was designed by the researcher. The standardized academic achievement tests used to measure student performance were the Iowa Tests (ITBS and ITED), California Achievement Tests (CAT), and the Terra Nova. The study was funded by the Christian Home Educators of West Virginia.

Nation Home Education Research Institute

A complete copy of the report *Homeschooling Across West Virginia: Academic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics* can be purchased from Brian Ray, Ph. D., National Home Education Research Institute mail@nheri.org, (503) 364-1490.

To be kept up-to-date on new homeschool research, sign up for free with Dr. Ray and NHERI at <http://www.nheri.org/connect.html>