

Newsletter

Homeschooling since 1984

wpa@homeschooling-wpa.org • www.homeschooling-wpa.org

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What Just Happened Here?

What a year 2020 has been! (As of this writing, it is mid-September.)

COVID-19 has upended many of our plans and has put some of us in a position that we never thought we'd be in.

For the first time in Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association's history, we were required to make the difficult decision to not hold either a conference or member event in 2020 due to the pandemic shutdowns. Sadly, we have had to make the equally difficult decision to cancel the 2021 conference as well (see "2021 Annual Conference and Resource Fair" on page 5).

Once schools closed in the spring due to the pandemic, we monitored the situation through the summer, and the WHPA Board of Directors anticipated an increase in new homeschool families. Accordingly, we reviewed the law and WHPA's long-

standing guidance going back to 1984, and continued to advise families, as we have for decades, to file their PI-1206 Homeschool Report between the third Friday in September and October 15. We updated our website with a new interactive decision tool, tightened up the guidance language for clarity, and brought back and updated sample letters for families to use in giving a courtesy notification to their school that they were now homeschooling.

What we didn't expect was what would come next.

While some districts honored families' notifications, we were alarmed to learn of families being harassed, bullied, and threatened by their districts for trying to follow the law. WHPA reached out to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) asking for leadership for districts, and

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WPA is Now WHPA!

Wisconsin Parents Association's Board of Directors has voted to change our name. We are excited to announce that WPA's name has evolved to **Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association (WHPA)**.



We feel this change respects our organization's history, while also acknowledging the contemporary needs of homeschoolers in Wisconsin. We believe it will help homeschoolers find us, as the addition of "homeschooling" to our name makes us more searchable online. We believe the addition of "homeschooling" will also make it easier for legislators to recognize our

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QAC Corner: We are the QAC

- We are the Question Answering Committee (QAC).
- We are experienced homeschoolers.
- We enjoy encouraging others.
- We are located all over the state.
- We are a team, often working together to answer your question.
- We don't always have all the answers, but we know where to find them! When we are befuddled, we turn to our fearless leaders (the WHPA Board) for guidance.
- Some of us are more comfortable answering voicemail, and some are more comfortable answering emails.
- Typically, we answer about 300 questions a year. During August and September of 2020 alone, we answered well over 200 questions!
- We are in different seasons of life. Some of us are “empty-nesters,” while others are still homeschooling.
- Each of us use/used different curricula and approaches. Our families have different needs, but we speak with one voice for WHPA.
- As WHPA members, all of us are fully invested in Wisconsin's law and the work to maintain it just as it is.
- We volunteer our time because we believe in the value of homeschooling. We have seen it work in our families.
- You can reach us with your questions by voicemail at (608) 283-3131 or by email at questions@homeschooling-wpa.org. 🏠



Legislative Watch Update

WHPA's Legislative Watch Committee continues to monitor state and federal legislation that threatens our homeschooling freedoms. In most of 2020, legislators' efforts have been focused on COVID-19 related issues.

WHPA's Legislative Watch Committee is watching for and will monitor any legislative efforts that aim to provide tax benefits to homeschoolers, or have taxpayer dollars “follow” a student to the educational option they choose, including homeschooling. The Committee will call for action when appropriate. (See “Keep Homeschooling Out of Partisan Politics” on page 19, and “Taxpayer Monies Put Homeschoolers At Risk” on page 21.) 🏠

WHPA Member Families by County

93 Dane	6 Vernon
85 Milwaukee	6 Vilas
74 Waukesha	5 Barron
49 Brown	5 Kewaunee
37 Washington	5 Lafayette
31 Ozaukee	4 Bayfield
23 Winnebago	4 Clark
20 Marathon	4 Grant
19 Sauk	4 Juneau
18 Outagamie	4 Marinette
18 Racine	4 Marquette
17 Kenosha	4 Oconto
16 Columbia	4 Trempealeau
16 Eau Claire	4 Walworth
15 Jefferson	3 Door
14 Fond du Lac	3 Douglas
14 Sheboygan	3 Iowa
14 St. Croix	3 Lincoln
12 Dodge	3 Richland
12 Waupaca	2 Adams
11 Portage	2 Ashland
11 Wood	2 Buffalo
9 Manitowoc	2 Burnett
9 Monroe	2 Rusk
9 Rock	2 Waushara
8 Dunn	1 Calumet
7 La Crosse	1 Crawford
7 Pierce	1 Green Lake
7 Polk	1 Jackson
7 Shawano	1 Langlade
6 Chippewa	1 Price
6 Green	1 Taylor
6 Oneida	1 Washburn

WHPA Board of Directors

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President

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Vice President

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Rebecca Ahl,
Legislative Watch Committee

Colleen Manning,
Question Answering Committee

Michelle Holmquist,
Membership & Communications

What Just Happened Here? (con't)

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for clear guidance to districts in line with Wisconsin law. When this leadership and guidance was not forthcoming, WHPA took the necessary step of alerting our membership and all of our Wisconsin legislators to the situation.

In response to WHPA, State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor did issue a statement to districts on August 24, 2020 with guidance to accept a parent's courtesy notification as sufficient under the law. Unfortunately, WHPA has continued to receive reports of families being harassed, bullied, threatened, and even faced with home visits by school and local officials.

On September 11, 2020, WHPA took the unprecedented step of communicating directly to the administrators of all 440+ school districts in Wisconsin about these issues. This was followed by a positive meeting with several representatives from the DPI, including the Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, on September 14, 2020. The DPI

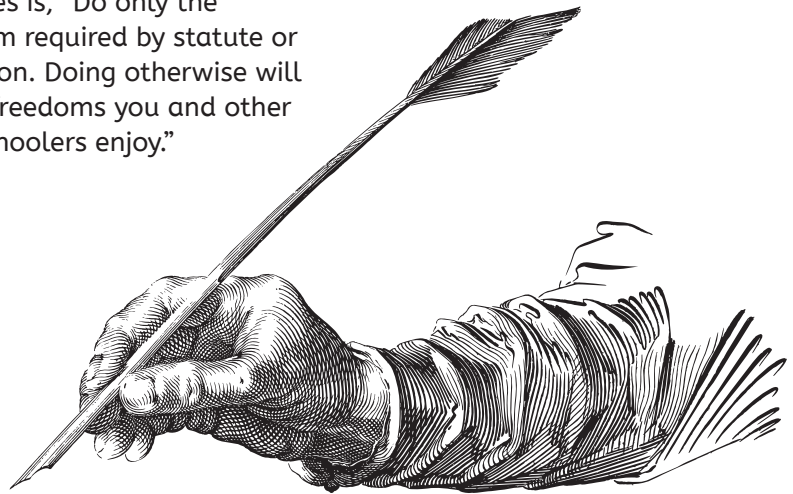
agreed to review their guidance to identify areas where clearer guidance can be issued, and will look to provide clear information about the Wisconsin truancy law and its proper application. WHPA will continue our communications with the DPI, and districts when necessary, to ensure homeschooler rights are protected under the law.

You may have noticed a lot of updates to the WHPA website in the past few months. Stay tuned for more, including further explanations of Wisconsin law, additional sample letters, and more.

One of WHPA's long-standing principles is, "Do only the minimum required by statute or regulation. Doing otherwise will reduce freedoms you and other homeschoolers enjoy."

When homeschoolers choose to do more than the law requires, such as filing the PI-1206 Homeschool Report outside of the statutorily-defined window, this sets a precedent that creates complications for homeschooling families like those we are seeing this year.

We thank our existing members for continuing their WHPA memberships. We welcome all our new WHPA members, and returning families who have not been WHPA members for some time. We are grateful for your support and are honored to support you in return! 🏠




The Numbers Tell the Story

	2019 Total/ Year-End	2020 Year-to-Date/ Current	% change (w/ 3 mos. to go!)
Facebook Followers	4,605	6,282	+36%
QAC Questions	305	430	+41%
Member Families	477	797	+67%
Website Visits	80,154	156,374	+95%

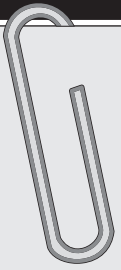
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- If your child is not age 6 by September 1, 2020, you do not need to file a PI-1206 Homeschool Report for 2020-21 for them, even if you are filing for other children. For more on this, see Homeschooling at Age 6: www.homeschooling-wpa.org/faqs/when-and-how-to-file-the-pi-1206/homeschooling-at-age-6/

- For complete instructions or a refresher on filing the PI-1206 Homeschool Report, please visit: www.homeschooling-wpa.org/faqs/when-and-how-to-file-the-pi-1206/ 

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2021 Annual Conference and Resource Fair



Mary Sue Slifer, WHPA Conference Committee Chair

It is with heavy hearts that the Board of Directors has made the decision to preemptively cancel our 2021 Annual Conference and Resource Fair. There were numerous factors that went into the decision – all of which surround these incredibly uncertain times we are facing in the midst of a pandemic. As with our decision to cancel the 2020 conference, this is not the outcome we wanted.

Safety is clearly our first and foremost concern: The Holiday Inn & Convention Center – Stevens Point staff are doing their best to meet the needs of their customers. And although they are more than willing to make efforts towards the safety of our families, we were unable to come to terms as an organization with how we can possibly ensure anyone's safety. Unfortunately, in this highly litigious society, there are great risks involved with these considerations. The size and nature of our conference simply makes it impossible to fit within any guidelines of what is deemed "safe." In addition, how "safe" looks today more than likely will continue to change. Under no circumstances will WHPA risk the safety of any of our children or families. Nor could we ask speakers, countless volunteers, volunteer families, exhibitors, or event staff to risk their safety.

In addition to safety concerns, thousands of volunteer hours go into planning our conference each year. Planning begins in August of the prior year, and we work through and past the conference into late May to ensure its success. As Committee Chair, I cannot ask our volunteers to put their time, effort, and passion into planning a conference, knowing the high probability of having to cancel at the last minute. We did consider, albeit it for only a moment, what it would be to try planning two conferences at the same time – one virtual and one in-person. Unfortunately, it is too much for us to consider in light of our clear understanding of the hours put into planning.

As a working all-volunteer Board, our time and efforts in recent months have been nearly around-the-clock, seven days a week, focused on preserving our freedoms as homeschoolers as we face unprecedented times with the pandemic's effects. Our foremost priority as an organization is continuing to face these threats head-on. We will keep you updated with any new developments. We are excited to explore the possibilities of virtual opportunities for our members, including our WHPA 101 sessions.

Ultimately, we love the conference and what it brings to the homeschooling community as much as you do, and we are saddened that the times we face are bringing us to such terms. We appreciate our members' continued interest and understanding during these times, and we look forward to being able to gather again in person someday soon. 🏠

WPA is Now WHPA! (con't)

(continued from page 1)

important role in Wisconsin as the only state-wide grassroots homeschool organization, and the very same group that helped write and originate our homeschooling laws in 1984.

WHPA continues to be steadfast in our mission, vision, principles, and goals as we serve our statewide homeschooling community.

Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association is a state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs.

The name change will gradually be reflected in WHPA's website, documents, and other communications in the coming months. We look forward to an exciting and challenging year serving all Wisconsin homeschooling families under our new banner: Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association. 🏠

Dear Homeschoolers

A letter to all new homeschoolers, from a Mom who has been homeschooling 12+ years, with all the love in her heart...

To those who are embracing homeschooling as a lifestyle AND to those who may be only homeschooling to fill a need during this crisis:

Whew! You made it! Welcome!

Your family has more-than-likely made some very big, really hard choices recently. Let's consider for a moment what you've really done. **Your family has made a decision for what you feel is best for your children and for your family.** For some of you, it was a brave step from a very scary precipice. For others, it was a thrilling start to a life-long journey.

Some of you may even be a little overwhelmed or unsure of yourselves. You may be asking yourself how you're ever going to do this. ***That's okay!*** Let me reiterate, you've made a decision for what you feel **is best for your family.** (Jot that down to remind yourself later. I promise you'll find it helpful).

Take a breath.

Envision your goal.

Reflect on why you chose to homeschool.



For our family there were many reasons. (Remember, we started this long before it was cool to homeschool.) Social pressures. Fostering family values. But ultimately it was so we could really explore what makes our child tick. Where do their passions lie? We wanted to allow them to fully explore their curiosities, become lifelong learners along the way, and ultimately - develop a passion for learning.

We simply didn't see those opportunities looking the same in a public- or private-school setting. My guess is, regardless of why you're starting your homeschool journey, there's validity in that statement for your family as well.

Some of you may have gone through some recent planning or perhaps you're thinking of how your year might look. That was always an exciting and very fun stage for me! I did my research. I grabbed, borrowed, and bought every book I could find on homeschooling. (I highly recommend John Holt.) We attended conferences. We spoke to other homeschoolers. We visited with other homeschoolers. And then, I planned.

I planned all day long. It was fantastic! But at some point, during my overly-zealous planning stage... *[insert screeching tire sounds here, but not too loudly because my then 2-1/2 year old was napping]* ...I realized I was planning to replicate school at home! Not only is attempting to recreate school at home overwhelming, we had chosen to homeschool to get away from institutional education!

So, about the time I was taking big, deep, calming breaths and stepping back, nap time was over, and a child crawled into my lap with a book they grabbed on the way. I marveled at how incredibly lucky I was that this, my lap, was the spot they chose. Even now, I look back and distinctly remember the last few times that child crawled into my lap and I cherish them.

So what did we do instead? Well, at the beginning of each year I wrote down my goals for the year. Then I hid them away and promised myself not to look at them until we finished each year. Every single time I took those goals out at the end of the year, I was inevitably pleasantly surprised. Even if we didn't make all of our goals, I was never disappointed. It was more important that I had trusted myself and our family to enjoy the journey and focus on why we chose to homeschool during the year.

If we had to label our homeschooling style, I would probably choose eclectic. We use some curriculum, but we pick and choose what works best for our family. We encourage diving down rabbit holes and following tangents. We love exploring. As we got further along in school we explored as many passions as we could, and now I am humbled when I look back and realize our journey up and until high school has allowed us to take these last 4 years and focus on their career path.

There have been so many new families who have started homeschooling this year that WHPA has seen an enormous leap in memberships, and in non-members

looking for support. Many of you were simply looking for advice, guidance, or acceptance. I would never venture to tell you how your homeschooling journey might look, but if I could offer a little advice, this homeschooling mama would suggest:

- Read outside in the grass or under a tree or while they're in the bathtub.
- Talk in the car, while you're pushing them on the swing, while you're cooking or folding laundry.
- Play a game.
- Welcome those distractions - they're learning life just watching you handle life!

Not everything is going to work, and that's OK. You're going to HATE some curriculum you thought you would love. IT'S OK. You're going to have bad days. IT'S OK. **You're also going to have some amazingly-fantastic, loving, laughter-filled moments you will never forget.**

Allow them to express themselves. Watch them. Figure out their learning style. Adjust and allow yourself as much grace as you should practice with them.

Try to remember, you have this truly amazing chance for them to explore their passions! Let them! Instill a love of learning by giving them the opportunity to learn about things that make their hearts beat!! Ants? Cooking? Horseback riding? Chickens? Tap Dancing? Pogo sticks? Let them try. Remember, they may find the one thing that makes them get up in the morning as an adult, excited to start their day, because you paved the way for them to explore the things that move them.

If they learn better under the table than in a cubicle on the table, try it! If they learn better while bouncing on a trampoline, let

them! Mine would recite prime numbers upside down in a chair. Math was always better when they were bouncing around our dining room table. If you're in the middle of math and get distracted by a life event or a bug or a tangent about why the dog is smelly? Follow it and see where it goes.

Here's why I didn't give up homeschooling a long time ago: I never forced my child to sit at a table, or timed his subjects, or woke him up before he was ready. If I had, we both would have been miserable trying to force him into a box that was nowhere near his size or shape.

If there's a secret most long-term homeschooling veterans share, it's that homeschooling is a lifestyle choice. We LOVE hanging out with our kids. We LOVE being there when something clicks and we get to see their eyes light up. We LOVE making memories with our kids. We LOVE getting the chance to learn with them.

I hear your excitement. I hear your fear and your worries. Breathe. And remember, you have the freedom to adjust, improve, change, or just stop and breathe some more. If something didn't work for us, I threw it out. That's the power of homeschooling.

I would be lying if I told you there aren't going to be hard days. Life is messy (this year chaotically so). And so is homeschooling. Embrace your kids and this amazing opportunity. Forgive yourself when things don't work. Practice grace and just watch those little ones learning life as you handle life.

This year we've all been struggling to handle life. When schools started sending kids home for virtual school, and parents were forced to get involved with their

We wanted to allow them to fully explore their curiosities, to become lifelong learners along the way, and ultimately to develop a passion for learning.

education in an utterly foreign-to-them new way, I started hearing how extraordinary homeschoolers must be for doing this every day. I found myself repeating, in shock and with wide eyes, to numerous people, "What you're doing is NOT homeschooling. If I had to do what you're doing every day, there's no way I would be homeschooling." That's not to disrespect anyone's choices. We simply must remember the distinct difference of choosing to take full responsibility for your children's education by becoming the administrator of your homeschool.

As things progressed this spring, and more burdens were placed on public- and private-school parents, I found myself using the term "**Crisis Schooling**" more and more often to refer to short-term homeschooling, while reciting the legal definition of homeschooling in Wisconsin. I see a greater understanding in the general community of the differences between public school at home, private school at home, virtual learning at home, and homeschooling as defined by Wisconsin law. However, it is vital that all homeschoolers, both long-term and crisis schooling, understand the laws that govern Home-Based Private Education Programs - homeschools - in Wisconsin.

WHPA, since 1984, has worked hard to protect our reasonable homeschool law by providing guidance about:

- why homeschoolers shouldn't seek funding or resources from

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One Liners: Put Your Pencil Down ... And Keep It Down

Rebecca Ahl, WHPA Board Member

Here's a simple art technique to try, no matter what your age or ability, and no matter what art supplies you like to use. In her utterly enchanting and useful book Drawing Lab for Mixed Media Artists, artist and art teacher Carla Sonheim encourages us to try drawing with just one line and just one rule: don't lift your instrument from your paper.

What you will need:

A favorite pen or pencil.
A favorite kind of paper.
A way to add color later if you like.

What you will do:

Choose something to draw: an object, or an animal is a good start. If you can't think of something, ask someone in your family to write down three random nouns, and pick one.

Start drawing your subject. Do not pick your pen up from the paper; just continue drawing with one line. When you are done, add colors as you like.

Why you should try it:

- One-liners are challenging. The conversation between your brain and your hand as you move around the page is complex, and unusual. Sonheim writes that one-liners force you to "think in loops."
- One-liners are a great warm-up for more complex thinking or creative tasks.
- One-liners help build the motor and cognitive skills needed for handwriting and painting.
- Many famous artists have embraced the one-liner technique including Pablo Picasso, Gabriel Garcia Lorca, Joan Miro, and Alexander Calder. Sometimes the one-liners became beloved works of art on their own like Picasso's vases of flowers, and sometimes they provided a jumping-off point for other works like Calder's mobiles.
- Bauhaus artist Paul Klee famously said "A drawing is simply a line going for a walk." Taking a line for a walk is a simple and gentle idea that welcomes every person who can move a drawing instrument of any kind to create something. One-liners are a great practice for anyone who thinks they are "not good at drawing." Try inviting any reluctant artists in your homeschool to just take a line for a walk, with no agenda.

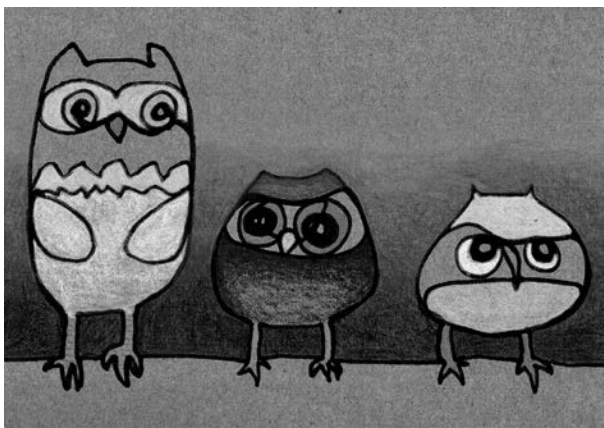
I sometimes draw one-liners **slowly** when I am listening to or thinking about something complex. Artist Lynda Barry often talks about the importance of simply moving your hand across a piece of paper as a way to keep the creative part of your mind open.

I sometimes draw one-liners **quickly** when I am practicing paying attention to what something looks like. Sonheim has her art students try drawing the same object repeatedly using one-liners, with smaller and smaller time limits. For example, try drawing a one-liner chicken in two minutes, then again in one minute, then again in thirty seconds, then in ten seconds. See what you end up with. Is the ten-second chicken "better" than the two minute chicken? You had more practice, but less time to capture whatever is essentially "chicken." Barry uses a similar exercise in her art and writing classes.



Faces are my favorite subject to draw this way.
Here's a very fast, simple one.

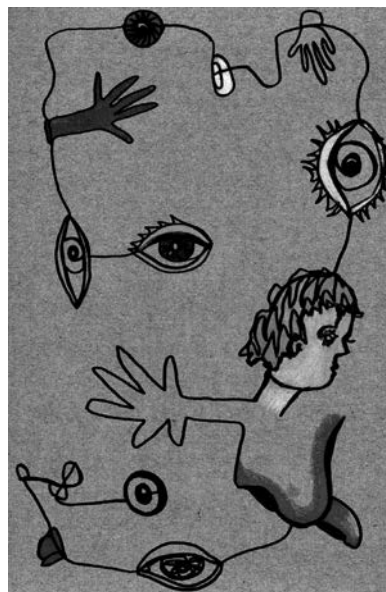
This family of owls is one line, with added colored pencils:



Here's one done with Sharpie and with watercolor added:



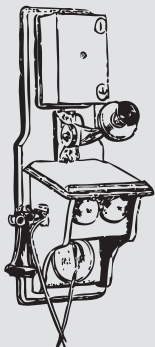
Here's one with some parts of people taking a walk across my paper:



If you found any of this interesting, here are some ideas for taking this idea further in your homeschool:

- Check out Carla Sondheim's books from the library and try the exercises.
- If you are doing a read-aloud or audio book together, let the listeners do one-liner drawings inspired by the story as they listen.
- For any topic you are learning about, let everyone write down (or type) ten words related to that topic, and cut up each list so there is one word on each resulting slip of paper. Put all the words in a bag or jar. Randomly choose a word to draw as a one-liner, or choose 5 words to incorporate into one single one-liner drawing. Let the artists explain how their object or objects are related to what they're learning about.
- Choose a theme and let everyone draw a few one-liners on that theme. When everyone is finished drawing, arrange all the drawings together on a table or wall. What do you see?
- If you are practicing handwriting, make a full-page one-liner of a single word. Start by writing your word, then keep your instrument on the page as you continue to fill the paper with your walking line. Maybe it will take an excited, loopy walk around your word, or maybe it will carefully follow the lines of your letters, making them look bigger and bigger. See what happens. 🏠

Call for Submissions



Is there something you'd like to see in an upcoming WHPA Newsletter? Whether you have an **idea** for us, or a **completed original piece** you'd like to submit for publication, we look forward to hearing from you.

Ideas may include a question you'd like answered by WHPA volunteers, or a topic you think would be useful to the Wisconsin homeschooling community.

Completed original pieces of all types by any WHPA member - written or visual, by students or parents alike - are also welcome.

Email newsletter@homeschooling-wpa.org for consideration! 🏠

Am I *Really* Qualified to Teach My Children?

“Are you a certified teacher? I’m no good at (enter any subject here) – I could never teach my kids that!”

Ever heard this? It’s a common reaction when people hear you’re a homeschooling parent. And let’s be honest, the Doubt Monster sometimes whispers: “Am I *really* qualified?”

Well, it depends. Are you an expert in any of the lab sciences? How about classic 19th century literature? Can you teach expository writing to a group of children all on different levels? Are your Algebra 2 skills still fresh?

Gulp. Hang on – while all of those teaching skills may be vital in a traditional classroom setting, not one of them is necessary for homeschooling your own children. Yep, not one.

And guess what? There is something in which you are a world-class expert: Your own children.

You know how they learn, how they think, and what their deep interests are. You know their talents and the things they need to improve upon. No one can rival your understanding of what they need to become successful and productive adults.

Aristotle famously wrote, “The more you know, the more you realize you don’t know.” If it’s impossible to gain all knowledge – then what is the most important thing to learn? Did you guess it?

How to learn.

We live in a time where information is a click away at any hour. In a world like this, knowing how to learn and having a thirst for knowledge is paramount. Perhaps even more important than the knowledge itself.



Who is the most qualified to teach this? You! You alone are uniquely qualified to learn along-side your children on any subject. (Yes, any). You are teaching by example how to learn – how to be confident enough to say “I don’t know.” To instill and encourage a natural, permanent curiosity about the world around us.

And what’s more important than that?

Not only are you qualified to teach your children – you are the most essential and influential teacher they could ever have. Keep up the great work and have a wonderful homeschooling year! 🏠

Insights from The Handbook: Starting Homeschooling on Short Notice

Adapted from Homeschooling In Wisconsin: At Home With Learning, Seventh Edition

Families who begin homeschooling on short notice often assume there’s a standard set of textbooks and workbooks that homeschoolers use. This is understandable, since public schools cover certain subjects in each grade and use pretty much the same approach based on textbooks, worksheets, and homework.

However, homeschooling families are responsible for choosing their own materials and deciding how they will approach learning. This may seem overwhelming at first. But once you get used to the

idea, it has many advantages. You can choose or develop a curriculum specifically for your children that will work much better than anything a conventional school could offer them.

Think of the possibilities!

You are working with one child or a small group of children you’ve known for a long time, not 25 to 30 kids you just met in September. You can focus on your child’s individual strengths and interests and encourage them to learn in their own way. You are not limited to what you can bring into a classroom;

you have the whole world to explore. The possibilities are endless!

You may want to choose a curriculum similar to those used by conventional schools, or you may decide a different approach would work better for your family. Who cares about children more than their parents? Who understands how a child learns better than their parents?



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Homeschooling in Wisconsin: Know Your RIGHTS and Your RESPONSIBILITIES

When you choose to homeschool your child:

- You are choosing to take full responsibility for your child's education.
- You are choosing to not take advantage of other opportunities for your child's education.
- You are choosing to exercise your rights under Wisconsin law.
- You are choosing to follow Wisconsin's homeschooling law.

Homeschooling RIGHTS

Under Wisconsin law you have the right to:

- Homeschool your child.
- Homeschool your child at any time between the ages of 6 and 18, for any number of years, through high school graduation.
- Educate your child in a way that best suits your child, your family, and your principles and beliefs.
- Move freely, and choose freely as to what constitutes your child's education.
- Have your child assessed for special education needs by your school district (under the Child Find mandate of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Under Wisconsin law you do **not** have a right to:

- Public money or goods for instructing your child.
- Special services outlined in IDEA, which guarantees a free, appropriate public education to all children. (You may be able to access some services if your district chooses to allow it; you are not guaranteed the services outlined in IDEA.)

Homeschooling RESPONSIBILITIES

Under Wisconsin law you **MUST**:

- File a PI-1206 Homeschool Report with the Department of Public Instruction each year that you are homeschooling.
- File your PI-1206 Homeschool Report on or before October 15.
- Comply with the requirements of homeschooling in Wisconsin, as defined in Wis Stat 115.001(3g) and Wis Stat 118.165.

Responsibilities to Other Homeschoolers

One responsibility we each have is to operate our homeschool in a way that is in compliance with our very reasonable law. As one WHPA founder often said, "What I do affects each of you, and what each of you does affects me."

Two ways to take responsibility are:

- Do no more than the law requires. Doing more than the minimum required by law works to erode your rights to direct your own child's education under the law.
- Don't ask for special treatment under the law. Because homeschoolers have the same legal standing as other Wisconsin private schools, asking for government assistance in the form of public money, goods, or services blurs the line between homeschools and public schools.

Find additional information,
including WHPA's Ten Principles, Protecting Wisconsin Law, and more
at www.homeschooling-wpa.org.



**Wisconsin Homeschooling
Parents Association**

Homeschooling since 1984

How Can You Support WHPA's Work?

What Can You Do?

Join WHPA:

- ☐ Stay informed and updated; lend your voice to our collective voice. When we speak with one voice we are heard.
- ☐ Encourage other homeschoolers, and homeschool supporters, to join WHPA. Share the 3 membership postcards included in this newsletter.
- ☐ Set up Automatic Renewal on our website next time you renew your membership.
- ☐ Gift a membership to another homeschooling family or supporter with the tools on our website.
- ☐ Encourage your local homeschooling support group to participate in our partnership program.

Communicate:

- ☐ Keep communicating with WHPA about your rights and responsibilities under the law. It's been a tremendous help this fall in WHPA's understanding of what's happening in your local communities and acting appropriately, with one voice and one consistent message for parents, schools, districts, and government agencies.
- ☐ Contact your state legislators and let them know that Wisconsin's homeschooling law is working for you and your family and that you don't want any changes or special favors for homeschoolers.

Donate:

- ☐ \$15 covers our video-conferencing service for one month.
- ☐ \$25 pays for one month of membership renewal reminders.
- ☐ \$35 prints and mails 20 copies of this issue of the newsletter.
- ☐ \$90 will pay for a month of email services to keep members, legislators, and other subscribers informed.
- ☐ \$200 makes the WHPA website available for one month.
- ☐ Use the donation postcard included in this newsletter, or donate on our website. Any amount you donate will be put towards this and other critical WHPA work.

Volunteer:

- ☐ Sponsor a virtual WHPA 101 session in your area. You organize the group and WHPA will set up the Zoom room and facilitate the session.
- ☐ Submit a newsletter article, suggestion, or artwork for consideration.
- ☐ Share your suggestions for improving or expanding the WHPA website.
- ☐ Help plan Conference 2022.
- ☐ Offer whatever talents or skills you think could be useful to WHPA.

Find additional information about joining, communicating, donating, and volunteering with WHPA at www.homeschooling-wpa.org.



**Wisconsin Homeschooling
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Homeschooling since 1984



Homeschooling since 1984

BECOME A WHPA MEMBER!

WHPA is a state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs.

You can join online at www.homeschooling-wpa.org or by mail with this form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City, ST and Zip: _____

Please Send Renewal Reminders Via: ☐ Email ☐ Postal ☐ Both

Choose Membership Option:

- ☐ One Year Membership (\$35)
☐ Lifetime Membership (\$400)

+

Donation:

\$ _____
Optional and tax-deductible.

=

Total Enclosed:

\$ _____

Thank you!

Mail this completed form and your check **payable to WHPA** to:

WHPA • PO Box 2502 • Madison, WI 53701



Homeschooling since 1984

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Total Enclosed:

\$ _____

Thank you!

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YES ... I WANT TO MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT WHPA'S IMPORTANT WORK!



Homeschooling since 1984

"We donate to WHPA because it gives us peace of mind. WPA is looking out for our family."

"I donate to WHPA because I am proud to be a part of a powerful grassroots organization."

"We give to WHPA because they help us make decisions that make our family stronger."

Whatever your reason, be a part of protecting the rights of all homeschooling families in Wisconsin. Your donation is an investment in our future and is vital to keeping WHPA strong.

Protect it with your support.

You can donate online at www.homeschooling-wpa.org or by mail with this form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City, ST and Zip: _____

Mail completed form and check **payable to:**

**WHPA
PO Box 2502
Madison, WI 53701**

Donation Enclosed:

\$ _____

Thank you!

Donations are tax-deductible. WHPA is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.



Homeschooling since 1984

BECOME A WHPA MEMBER!

WHPA is a state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs.

Your membership is vital to WHPA's viability: When we speak with one voice we are heard.

WHPA member benefits include:

- Knowledge that you are supporting the organization that actively protects your right and freedom to homeschool according to your own principles and beliefs
- Legislative Watch – WHPA pays attention to local, state, regional, and national issues that could affect Wisconsin homeschoolers. When action is needed, WHPA calls on its members to contact their legislators. Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association watches legislation so you can spend your time homeschooling.
- Member - only newsletter, several times a year, by mail and email
- Email alerts for important news, information, and reminders
- Discounts on WHPA event registration
- Question Answering Committee (QAC) – your chance to Ask a Homeschooler
- Comprehensive and accurate website, maintained by Wisconsin homeschoolers for Wisconsin homeschoolers
- Facebook Community

By joining WHPA you are taking responsibility for protecting Wisconsin homeschooling freedoms and ensuring they will be available for generations to come.



Homeschooling since 1984

PO Box 2502
Madison, WI 53701

**Support WHPA with your
financial gift!**



Homeschooling since 1984

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Take Attendance in Your Homeschool

“Are we required to keep an attendance record? I heard that homeschoolers aren’t under any requirements in this area, but that doesn’t sound right. What is WHPA’s guidance on this? Has it always been WHPA’s/WPA’s position?”

WHPA’s/WPA’s guidance, since Wisconsin Act 512 (1983) was passed and enacted in 1984, has been for administrators of home-based private educational programs to keep an attendance record. In the July 25, 1984 newsletter (Issue #2), WPA stated, “According to Wisconsin law, the state can insist on compulsory attendance in a program that meets the criteria of 512,” and “... do keep attendance records, be prepared to show that you have or are covering the six subject areas in a sequentially progressive manner...” In the September 24, 1984 newsletter (Issue #3), WPA stated, “Decide what constitutes your school year/calendar and keep attendance records.”

WHPA’s position on this remains the same in 2020 as it was in 1984: How the administrator of a home-based private educational program chooses to keep records is up to the administrator. However, the administrator should be able to demonstrate compliance with Wisconsin’s homeschooling and compulsory attendance laws.

Wisconsin homeschooling law (WI statute 115.30 (3)) requires that homeschool administrators properly file the PI-1206 Homeschool Report each year they are homeschooling. Filing the PI-1206 is a report of enrollment as well as a legal affirmation that your program complies with Wisconsin Act 512 (1983). As the administrator of your homeschool, you are responsible for keeping records that would demonstrate your homeschool’s compliance.

Wisconsin compulsory attendance law (WI statute 118.15) states that all children ages 6-18 must attend an educational program. **An attendance record* from your home-based private educational**

program (homeschool), along with your PI-1206 (which verifies your child’s enrollment in your homeschool), demonstrates your compliance with Wisconsin compulsory attendance law.

WHPA suggests homeschool administrators keep an attendance record that shows:

- who attends their homeschool each day, and
- their homeschool is in compliance with the compulsory school attendance law.



Attendance records are simple and easy to keep. When families begin homeschooling, they define a school year for their homeschool that will provide at least 875 hours of instruction and include the required subjects. Some families adopt their local school district calendar so they are on the same schedule as the rest of the neighborhood. Others feel that children learn every day, so they mark attendance every day.

The purpose is to do the minimum required by the law. The attendance record basically records which children are present or absent. Officials have no right to see the details of what was done in an individual homeschool, which means information-packed school calendars exceed the law’s requirements.

Complying with our very reasonable homeschool law is easy to do, and WHPA has a long history of success protecting our homeschooling rights and freedoms. Every family who complies with Wisconsin’s homeschool statutes and helps to get accurate information to other families is a vital part of this work.

As always, WHPA encourages each homeschool administrator to take responsibility for their homeschool by reading the law for themselves, understanding and applying it, and making sure they are in compliance with Wisconsin law. 🏠

*An attendance record is different from a school calendar. The attendance record shows attendance in your homeschool and may be used for demonstration of compliance with the law, while a school calendar may show such things as what you did during your school day, subjects and topics covered, and your school schedule, which is for your own homeschool’s record-keeping.

Insights from the Handbook: Compulsory Attendance vs. Compulsory Education

As Wisconsin homeschoolers, all WHPA members should be familiar with Wisconsin's compulsory attendance law, Wis Stat 118.15, which requires any adult in charge of a child to ensure that child attends school regularly. It's a straightforward idea: all children must attend school. However, there is sometimes confusion around that straightforward idea. Is there more to it? Once the child is attending school, then what?

This can lead to questions about whether or not children should or must be learning, and if so, whether or not there are rules about what they must be learning. The relatively straightforward idea of compulsory attendance then gets mixed up with the idea of compulsory education, or even so-called educational neglect.

It's important to understand the limits of the compulsory attendance law, and end the confusion about the difference. It's important to know that Wisconsin has a compulsory attendance law, but does not have a compulsory education law, nor an educational neglect law.

Following is an excerpt from WPA's out-of-print handbook. The authors address the straightforward nature of compulsory attendance laws, and point out the problematic nature of legislating compulsory education.

Compulsory Attendance Law Requires Attendance, Not Education

Wisconsin's compulsory attendance law requires attendance; it does not require education. This is an extremely important distinction for at least two reasons. First, the only laws that can be enforced are those that require behavior that can be described, observed, and evaluated. It is not very difficult to enforce compulsory school attendance laws. It is pretty clear whether or not children who are enrolled in conventional schools are attending them. Classroom teachers take attendance, and children who are absent without acceptable excuses are reported to the truant officer. Similarly, attendance can be checked for children who are enrolled in private schools, including homeschools. (Homeschooled children who are participating in their family's educational plan and program are obviously attending that homeschool, whether the instruction at any given time is being presented at home or any one of a large number of other places where children can and do learn.) Therefore, if a society feels it must pass and enforce laws about schools, laws that require compulsory attendance are not difficult to enforce.

By contrast, laws that require compulsory education would be very difficult if not impossible to enforce. First, the state would have to develop a clear set of definitions and criteria for what it means to be educated, what people need to know and be able to do in order to

be considered educated. This first step would be very difficult because neither professional educators nor lay people can agree on what it means to be educated. Developing such a criteria would require agreement about what people should think and do, and about what attitudes and beliefs they should have. Opinions about such topics vary widely.

Second, the state would have to find or devise a series of tests that would accurately determine which people have acquired the required facts and skills and which people have not. This, too, would be difficult because tests do not show what people actually know. Tests only tell how well a given person did on a given test on a given day. Some people are good at taking tests, even about subjects they know very little about. Many more people do not do well on tests, even about subjects they know a great deal about. Therefore, finding ways in which people could demonstrate that they have in fact met the requirements that were agreed upon in step one above would also be very difficult. Again, laws requiring compulsory education would not work well. If school laws are necessary, laws requiring compulsory attendance are much better.

The third reason that the distinction between compulsory attendance and compulsory education is so important is that compulsory

(continued on page 17)

Starting on Short Notice (con't)

(continued from page 8)

Some parents focus on what their children need to learn to lead effective adult lives, rather than on what they would be doing if they were attending a conventional school. Learning happens everywhere all the time. Parents help their children learn things like how to: learn something new, get a job and keep it, tend to a garden or farm, relate to other people, manage money, cook, run a household, and so much more that doesn't fit in a book.

Here are a few ideas for curricula:

- Follow a low cost or free curriculum similar to those conventional schools use.

- Do learning activities you find in library books, on the Internet, or at stores that sell learning supplies.
- Buy a conventional curriculum and follow it.
- Encourage your children to pursue their interests and make that your curriculum.
- Do in-depth academic work.
- Use the Internet.
- Develop a curriculum based on CLEP and AP tests.
- Learn from life experience.

For more discussion about methods, curriculum, and resources, be sure to visit WHPA's website FAQs on the topic here: www.homeschooling-wpa.org/curriculum-methods-and-resource/ 🏠



Be A Fact-Finder!

Q: What immunizations are required for homeschoolers in Wisconsin?

Hint: You can find the answer to this and many more Wisconsin homeschooling questions using the handy SEARCH tool on our website at www.homeschooling-wpa.org.



Compulsory Attendance vs. Compulsory Education (con't)

(continued from page 16)

education would cost us our freedom. If the state were to require compulsory education, we would lose our freedom of education and learning and even our freedom of thought. A society cannot require compulsory education and remain a free society. To even begin to set definitions and requirements for compulsory education would quickly violate our rights and freedoms. Under compulsory education people would be required to learn, and think, and believe certain ideas, the ideas that had been chosen as proof that a person is educated. In addition, people would not be allowed to learn other ideas that conflicted with the required ones. Without freedom of education

and freedom of thought, we could not continue to have a free society in any meaningful sense of the word.

Courts have ruled that schools cannot be held accountable if children attending them fail to become educated. These rulings support the prohibition of compulsory education. Education simply cannot be legislated, and it cannot be legally required. This fact has important ramifications, beginning with strong limitations on the state's ability to dictate curriculum or content of educational programs.

(Homeschooling in Wisconsin, At Home With Learning, 4th ed. Wisconsin Parents Association. 1996. p 158-159.)

It is empowering to homeschoolers to understand that Wisconsin law only requires homeschoolers to comply with the compulsory attendance requirements of our law, and that there is no compulsory education requirement for any child or any school in Wisconsin. This means homeschoolers can be confident that as long as their children are attending their homeschool program, their family is in compliance with the compulsory attendance law. 🏠

Share Your Favorite Memories, Insights, and Stories

Pick one or more of these questions or write whatever you want.

A few sentences, or as much as you like.

Send to WHPA by email or postal mail by November 13.

Your name will not be used unless you give specific permission.

Include photographs, children's artwork, etc, if you want.

Be creative, use humor, have fun, ask your kids.

We may share your submission in a future newsletter!



What is your favorite homeschooling moment?

What is your favorite WHPA conference moment?

What funny or profound things have your kids said about homeschooling?

Why did you start homeschooling?

What does WHPA mean to your family?

What do you remember about your early days of homeschooling?

How has homeschooling changed since you started?

What quote has inspired you?

Why are you still homeschooling?

What has surprised you?

What did you worry about the most that mattered the least?

What is your favorite comment from a non-homeschooler?

What is the best, most useful, or funniest thing you have learned?

Share a favorite homeschooling story.

Email to: newsletter@homeschooling-wpa.org
or Mail to: WHPA, PO Box 2502, Madison, WI 53701

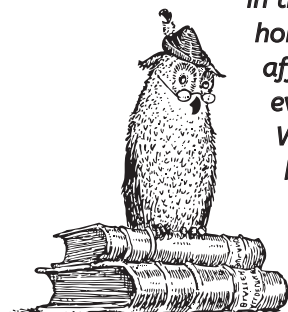
Dear Homeschoolers (con't)

(continued from page 7)

public schools,

- how to file your PI-1206 Homeschool Report,
- when to file your PI-1206 Homeschool Report,
- what is - and isn't - required by the State of Wisconsin to legally homeschool,
- the nuances of homeschool, and doing no more than is required of you by law - because I learned very early on (from another veteran homeschooler, one that paved the way for all of us) that

**what I choose to do
in the name of
homeschooling
affects
every single
Wisconsin
homeschooler
and vise
versa.**



Often new homeschoolers are looking to long-term homeschoolers for:

- what subjects, records, attendance, grades, and days look like,
- how do I socialize my child (to which my automatic response is NO ONE is socializing right now!)

The pandemic and ramifications of having an upside down world have affected all of us.

This influx of new Crisis Schooling homeschoolers could potentially affect long-term homeschoolers. This is why it's especially important right now to share accurate and up-to-date information on homeschooling in Wisconsin. Why it's especially important we don't ask for any favors, but instead remain consistent in our message that Wisconsin's reasonable homeschool law has been working well since 1984.

If you're reading this and you still

have questions, may I politely point you to the WHPA web site? Or, suggest that you reach out to our QAC (Question Answering Committee) if you still have questions. Because quite simply, **the choices you make during this crisis will affect generations of Wisconsin homeschoolers.**

There is a very wise and wonderful woman, another mom who paved that way for you and I to homeschool today, that closed curtains during the day, hid her children under blankets in the back seat of her car just to homeschool. That woman once said, "There is so much beauty in keeping your family together..." Think on it for a moment and consider the adversity she faced to keep her family together. Because right now, homeschoolers are facing incredible adversity.

With all the love in my heart. I hope your family learns to love learning together. Welcome to homeschooling. 🏠

Keep Homeschooling Out of Partisan Politics

This article originally appeared in the WPA newsletter, Issue #116 (June 2013) and has been updated to reflect current circumstances.

Politics in Wisconsin and throughout the nation have become very partisan and divisive. Republicans and Democrats are sharply divided on many issues, including education. As homeschoolers, we need to work to prevent homeschooling from becoming a partisan issue and the subject of legislative proposals from one or both parties. There is no good reason for homeschooling to be allied with either political party. In fact, there are important reasons for us to be able to talk with and work with people from both political parties.

Home-based private educational programs (homeschools) in Wisconsin are private schools that do not receive government funding. We are independent of public schools. Therefore, homeschooling should not be included in the ongoing debate over various issues surrounding public education. As homeschoolers, we would not benefit from being included in the debates over educational policy. Instead, we could lose a lot.

It would be dangerous for homeschooling to be perceived as a partisan issue because:

- Homeschoolers are a very small and often misunderstood minority. We don't have money, PACs, lobbyists, or political power. Therefore, to maintain our rights and freedoms, homeschoolers have always needed to be able to work at the grassroots level with politicians from both parties and to gain support from both parties.
- It is especially important that homeschooling not be allied with either political party in Wisconsin

because control of the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor's Office shifts frequently between Republicans and Democrats. Homeschoolers don't want to get into a position where one party passes what some people consider legislation favorable to homeschooling, only to have much more

restrictive legislation passed when the other party gains control. It is important to note that the 1984 fight for our very reasonable homeschooling law required the support of both Democrats and Republicans. This victory shows what is possible when homeschoolers work with both parties and refuse to be allied with one party. By continuing to work with both parties, Wisconsin homeschoolers working together through WHPA have managed to maintain the law through decades of changes in party control of the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor's office.

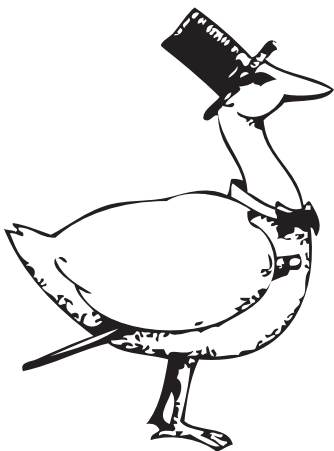
- Some politicians believe they are helping homeschoolers by passing legislation to provide favors and benefits. But these attempts to "help" end up causing confusion and complications, and ultimately undermine our homeschooling freedoms. They also have the potential to make homeschooling a partisan issue and potentially create a backlash from both the opposing political party and school districts.
- Partisan politics divides homeschoolers. We need to be united to maintain our homeschooling freedoms. If Wisconsin homeschoolers were split into Republican homeschoolers and Democratic homeschoolers and Libertarian homeschoolers ad infinitum, we would **all** be in a much weaker position and could quickly lose our homeschooling freedoms.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, WHPA has always refused to endorse any political candidate or ally itself with any party. This policy will continue.

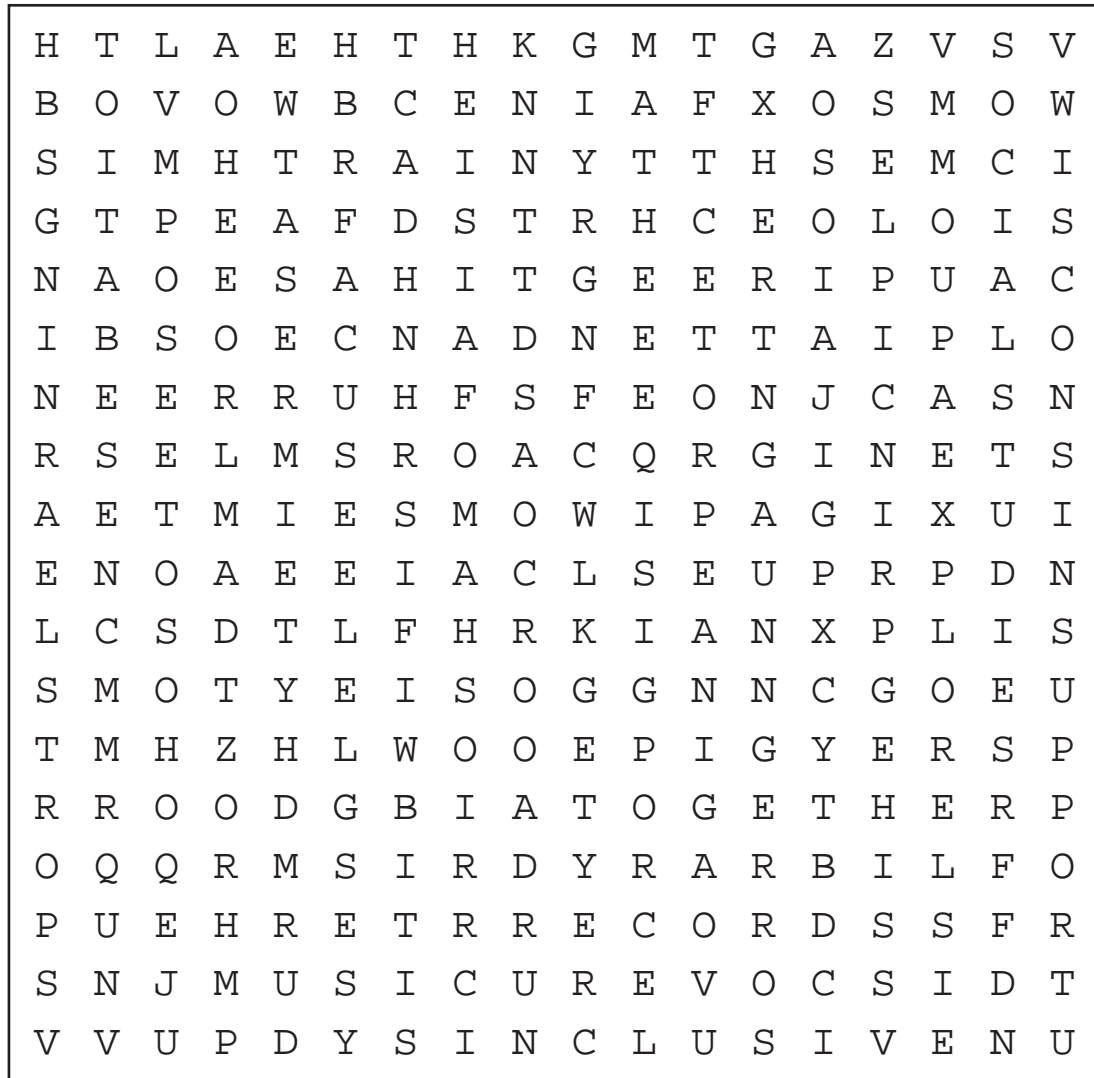
What We Can Do

- We can make it clear that homeschoolers as a group are not allied with any particular political party. Homeschoolers have a wide range of political ideas and philosophies. What unites us is our commitment to homeschooling freedoms, not our political allegiances.
- We can communicate openly and positively with our state and federal legislators about homeschooling law in Wisconsin, regardless of the party to which they belong. We can present

(continued on page 22)



HOMESCHOOLING WORD SEARCH



ART	FREEDOM	LIBRARY	RIGHTS
ATTENDANCE	GRASSROOTS	MATH	SCIENCE
BELIEFS	HEALTH	MUSIC	SOCIAL STUDIES
BOOKS	HOME	PARENTS	SPORTS
CHILDREN	HOMESCHOOLING	PRINCIPLES	STATEWIDE
COMMUNITY	INCLUSIVE	PROTECT	SUPPORT
DISCOVER	INTERNET	READING	TOGETHER
EXPLORE	LANGUAGE ARTS	RECORDS	WHPA
FAMILY	LEARNING	RESEARCH	WISCONSIN

Taxpayer Monies Put Homeschoolers at Risk

Questions about what taxpayer-funded benefits are available for homeschoolers come up around this time every year. This year we are also seeing efforts to create legislation that allows taxpayer monies to “follow” a student to the educational option their parents select, including homeschooling. Efforts like these put Wisconsin homeschoolers at risk.

Homeschooling by law and practice in the state of Wisconsin is a parent/guardian taking full responsibility for a child’s education.

WHPA encourages each family to consider another responsibility as well. When a family chooses to educate their children under Wisconsin’s very reasonable homeschooling law, they should acknowledge both that they are able to do so because of the homeschoolers who came before them, and that they bear some responsibility to the homeschoolers who will follow them.

Personal responsibility is the foundation of homeschooling in Wisconsin, so there are no taxpayer monies available for home-based private educational programs or other homeschool-related educational expenses, and WHPA has been opposed to accepting taxpayer monies or taxpayer-funded benefits and favors since 1984.

From the Protecting Wisconsin Law FAQ page on our website:

We have a unique situation in Wisconsin that homeschoolers in many other states do not


have. We have an enormous amount of freedom to homeschool in whatever way works for our family as long as we follow our reasonable homeschool law. Although it is tempting to want government support, it is important to just say NO. In order to maintain the freedom that Wisconsin homeschoolers have enjoyed since 1984, we must decline government money and special treatment for homeschoolers that will lead to additional regulation.

1. *All government favors come with the requirement of accountability. Taxpayers are right to expect accountability for how our tax dollars are spent.*
2. *In order to maintain our current homeschooling law, we must forgo tax credits, educational vouchers, and/or other types of privileged considerations to homeschoolers.*
3. *In other states where these types of “benefits” are offered to homeschoolers, they come with regulations such as mandatory testing, curriculum approval, special qualifications for homeschooling parents, and/or oversight of homeschoolers by local school districts.*

Although some homeschoolers would like that extra money from government funding, homeschooling does not need to be expensive.

Homeschooling families are very resourceful, and there are many quality, free and affordable resources available. As the administrator of their home-based private educational program, a homeschooling family is free to decide how much they wish to budget and spend on curriculum and other educational resources. More information can be found on our Curriculum, Methods, and Resources FAQ page on the WHPA website.

WHPA and its members believe that together we can preserve independent, parent-led, privately-funded educational freedom for homeschooling families who take direct and full responsibility for the education of their children.

Learn more about the history of our homeschooling law at www.homeschooling-wpa.org/wpa-history/ 



Mail Call!



Dear WHPA Board,

Thank you once again for your ongoing, carefully reasoned, and thoughtful communications regarding homeschooling in Wisconsin and maintaining homeschooling freedoms, most recently in the case of filing Form PI-1206. Your work in carrying out the principles practiced by this grassroots organization is both critically important and much appreciated.

Thank you,
Susan and Larry Kaseman

(The Kasemans are one of WPA's (WHPA's) founding families and were longtime board members through 2015.)

WHPA extends our sincere appreciation to Representative Scott Allen, 97th Assembly District representing Waukesha, Genesee, and Mukwonago, for his support during our recent ongoing conversations with the Department of Public Instruction. Rep. Allen took the time to send a letter to the DPI supporting our request for clear guidance to districts and schools, stating, "Parents need to be empowered, quickly, to make the best choices for their students." Thank you Representative Allen!

Thank you, thank you, for your tireless work.

As my children are now a bit older, they've asked questions about the homeschooling law and we are studying it together. So happy to have reasonable laws here in WI, and we understand that these laws are no guarantee and need to be protected.

We all deeply appreciate your commitment to homeschoolers in WI.

~A WHPA Member Family

I am writing to express deepest gratitude for myself and my family. As a volunteer board you willingly sacrifice time and effort on our behalf which directly impacts the time and effort you have left for your own families.

The freedom we enjoy as a result of your selfless giving of your time and diverse abilities is remarkable. As the beneficiaries of your hard work and tireless efforts we do understand that what you are doing is necessary.

While words feel wholly inadequate to convey adequate appreciation and recognition for all you do, it is what I have to offer at this time and I truly desire for you to know how much your efforts mean.

~A WHPA Member Family

Keep Homeschooling Out of Partisan Politics (con't)

(continued from page 19)

our views on homeschooling without bringing up other issues, and then contact them at a different time to discuss other issues.

- We can refuse to mix causes, and be intentional in refusing to allow homeschooling to be co-opted for another cause. It's not surprising that many homeschooling families are active in a number of different issues and causes. We need to make sure that we support whatever causes we choose as individuals, not as homeschoolers or representatives of WHPA, our local homeschooling support group, or the homeschooling movement.
- We can make sure we don't appear to be allied with any candidate or political party by not asking politicians or political candidates to speak at homeschooling events.

When we speak with one voice we are heard. 🏠

2021 Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship

WHPA is again honored to be affiliated with the **Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship** and encourages homeschoolers who plan to graduate in 2021 to consider applying for this valuable scholarship.



Herb Kohl

Educational Foundation, Inc

What is this scholarship? This scholarship is sponsored by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000 awarded to 100 Wisconsin high school graduates each year. Homeschool students receive a proportionate number of the total scholarships awarded each year.

Who may apply? Applicants must be graduating high school students who intend to enroll in a postsecondary institution, which may be a public or nonpublic university, college, or vocational/technical college. Students who are residents of the State of Wisconsin, are in good standing, and who demonstrate probable success in postsecondary education are eligible to apply.

Why should a homeschooled student apply for this scholarship? Homeschool students receive a proportionate number of the total scholarships awarded each year. The Kohl Foundation has made the application process accessible to all students, whether they are learning in traditional or nontraditional ways. The emphasis of the application is on students' individual stories of excellence and achievement in the areas of Arts & Humanities; Competitive Activities; Service, Civic, and Citizenship Activities; Work & Interests.

What is the application process for homeschool students? Students must submit their completed applications and three letters of recommendation online no later than Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 5 p.m. CT. Applications submitted by the deadline without the three required letters of recommendation are incomplete and will not be considered.

Selection of homeschool finalists will be made by a committee named by the Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association (WHPA) Board of Directors. On or before Thursday, December 17, 2020, WHPA will advance the finalists to the state level.

The state selection committee will consist of representatives from the Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association, Cooperative Educational Service Agencies, Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS), Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, education-related associations, and the community. The committee will score applications in late January, 2021. Award recipients will be contacted by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in late February, 2021.

Where can I learn more and start an application? Read all the information at the Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship website at www.kohleducation.org/studentexcellence/. Be sure to apply with the online application that corresponds to the type of school in which you are enrolled at the time of application (public school, private school, or homeschool). Check the WHPA Scholarship page at www.homeschooling-wpa.org/scholarships/ for more guidance specific to homeschool applicants.

When can I apply? The Scholarship Application process opens on September 1, 2020. The Application deadline is Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 5 p.m. CT. No late applications will be accepted. 🏠





Homeschooling since 1984

PO Box 2502
Madison WI 53701
www.homeschooling-wpa.org

Spread the Word!

To continue its work, WHPA needs a strong membership base. Our members support and receive:

- Informative and helpful **newsletters**
- In-depth and accurate **website**
- **Question Answering Committee** to respond to questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin
- Annual homeschooling **Conference**
- **Legislative Watch Committee** to keep informed of legislative actions which could affect Wisconsin homeschoolers
- Statewide **WHPA 101** programs
- **Representation** of homeschoolers to the Legislature and DPI

Encourage your homeschooling friends and supporters to visit www.homeschooling-wpa.org/membership today!

Request a WHPA 101 Session in Your Area

As the only state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs, **Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association is passionately committed to providing accurate homeschooling information.**

We are excited to be launching our new **WHPA 101** program, available to homeschooling groups, libraries, and interested parents throughout Wisconsin. This 20- to 30-minute presentation by a WHPA-trained facilitator, in person when gatherings are again possible, or via Zoom virtual meeting, focuses on providing accurate information about homeschooling in Wisconsin and will include:

- An overview of homeschooling in Wisconsin
- Information about WHPA
- An opportunity to ask questions and share ideas or concerns about homeschooling

To request a **WHPA 101** program for your area, please visit www.homeschooling-wpa.org/whpa-101/. Keep in mind that we prefer to open the program up to as many homeschoolers and potential homeschoolers in the area as possible and we will count on you to help spread the word.

This is a new program, currently staffed by a single volunteer, so we appreciate your patience as requests will be answered in as timely a manner as possible. 🏠