

Newsletter

www.homeschooling-whpa.org

IN THIS ISSUE

File the PI-1206 Homeschool Report Annually by October 15th	1
WHPA Member Families by County	2
WHPA Board of Directors	2
Word Search Answer Key	2
QAC Corner	3
Legislative Watch Committee Update	3
Spread the Word!	4
How Terminology Affects Parental Rights	4
Standing United in Homeschooling	5
Call for Submissions	6
Insights from the Handbook: Using the Library	7
2022 Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair and 2021/2022 Virtual Events	8
Revisiting Wisconsin's Kindergarten Law	9
Hybrid Homeschooling and Wisconsin Law	11
Come Color With Me!	12-13
Excellent Scholarship Opportunity	17
TEAR-OUT FLYER: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities	19
How Can You Support WHPA's Work?	20
Milestones Flashback: 1991	21
WHPA 101	21
Thank You, And Welcome!	21
Word Search: Wisconsin Counties with 10+ WHPA Member Families	22
WHPA Works to Protect Member Privacy	23
New Volunteer Opportunities	24
Be A Fact-Finder	24

File the PI-1206 Homeschool Report Annually by October 15th

It's that time of year - time to file the PI-1206 Homeschool Report!

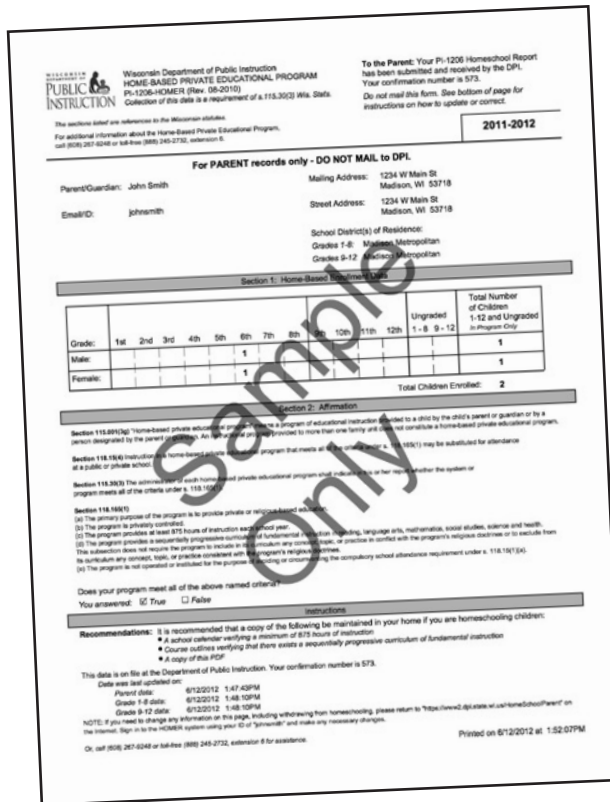
As a Wisconsin homeschooler, you are required to properly file the PI-1206 Homeschool Report every year you are homeschooling.

The PI-1206 Homeschool Report is a two-part form, created and administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

- Section I is a statement of enrollment in your homeschool (Home-Based Private Educational Program) on the third Friday in September.
- Section II is an affirmation that your homeschool meets all the statutory requirements under Wisconsin law.

You can see a sample form on our website.

Under Wisconsin law, you are NOT requesting permission to homeschool.



The form is titled "WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION HOME-BASED PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PI-1206-HOMER (Rev. 09-2019)". It includes sections for parent/guardian information, school district information, and a table for enrollment data. The form is marked with a large "Sample" watermark.

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Ungraded	Total Number of Children 1-12 and Ungraded (in program only)
Male														1
Female														1
Total Children Enrolled: 2														

You are NOT registering your homeschool or children with the DPI.

You are NOT applying for homeschooling or seeking approval from your school district or the DPI for your homeschool or curriculum.

You are notifying the state of your homeschool's enrollment at the same time and in the same manner as all public, private, and tribal schools, and you are affirming that your school is in compliance with the law.

Wisconsin Statute 115.30(3) directs parents to file the PI-1206 Homeschool

Report on or before October 15. *Since the report asks for enrollment as of the third Friday in September, WHPA finds it logical to file on or after that date.*

(continued on page 2)

File the PI-1206 Homeschool Report Annually by October 15th (con't)

(continued from page 1)

Some important things to note:

- If your child is not age 6 by September 1, 2021, you do not need to file a PI-1206 Homeschool Report for 2021-22 for them, even if you are filing for other children. For more on this, search for “at age 6” on our website.
- If you are continuing to homeschool a youth who is age 18 or older, you should keep filing the PI-1206 Homeschool Report until they graduate. For more on this, search for “after turning 18” on our website.
- If you withdraw your child from a traditional school in order to homeschool **after October 15**, you must file the PI-1206 Homeschool Report immediately, before beginning homeschooling.
- As the administrator of your homeschool, you are responsible for keeping a copy of every PI-1206 Homeschool Report you file. That is your proof of compliance with Wisconsin homeschooling law. The Department of Public Instruction only keeps PI-1206 Homeschool Reports for 7 years.

For complete instructions or a refresher on filing, please see “When and How to File the PI-1206 Homeschool Report” on our website. 🏠

Word Search Answer Key: Wisconsin Counties with 10+ WHPA Member Families

See puzzle on page 22.

T Z D E E K U A W L I M A N S O Y J B X
 N X T P Z S P C J T O G H M X K U I Y
 N V P S V O X R G B E R O K S L C X O
 O Y J Y Z J X S W I D D K G O B W I R
 S I T S R M D T C X M A O K C M N B H C
 R N W O E N I C A R A E O L S V T E F T
 E H S E K U W P G P W S E M P W K S
 G V I B M U L O C A C Y O H N E H N R
 F T W K O B I W J O T A Y G N G T W A
 E P D O N S A U L X E A D A P O C O
 J G Z Z U O E I G F O U X E G E T W R A
 C R O S T R A F Y A D U K Y X H R B P
 V R M G I B R Y U D B U O X O R T U
 K T K P N A M E E U N Z A B O P Y O A
 O C A V I L I O N H K O L Z E S M E L W
 X J O S N H C M N O X F M O H F E N Y
 T J I R I S A U G I A K E V S O Y G T A
 F F F W E A V W Y D D L L K O D D S T
 B D I E W J O N V N N I S L I B O C N
 O D F G H X U O N O H A T A R A M O D

WHPA Member Families by County

4 Adams	20 Marathon
3 Ashland	4 Marinette
7 Barron	4 Marquette
4 Bayfield	73 Milwaukee
44 Brown	7 Monroe
4 Buffalo	3 Oconto
2 Burnett	5 Oneida
1 Calumet	19 Outagamie
6 Chippewa	20 Ozaukee
3 Clark	1 Pepin
16 Columbia	7 Pierce
1 Crawford	7 Polk
98 Dane	16 Portage
13 Dodge	2 Price
4 Door	19 Racine
2 Douglas	7 Richland
5 Dunn	12 Rock
20 Eau Claire	3 Rusk
1 Florence	19 Sauk
20 Fond du Lac	6 Shawano
5 Grant	14 Sheboygan
4 Green	13 St. Croix
5 Iowa	7 Trempealeau
1 Jackson	6 Vernon
17 Jefferson	4 Vilas
5 Juneau	6 Walworth
19 Kenosha	2 Washburn
2 Kewaunee	31 Washington
9 La Crosse	69 Waukesha
5 Lafayette	10 Waupaca
3 Langlade	3 Waushara
4 Lincoln	27 Winnebago
9 Manitowoc	10 Wood

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QAC Corner: What is the best homeschooling curriculum?

The WHPA Question Answering Committee (QAC) often receives requests to recommend curriculum or questions about how to find the best curriculum. While WHPA does not endorse or provide curriculum suggestions or specific materials for any particular educational approach, the QAC is able to offer tips to encourage parents in their homeschooling journey.

We start with the basic information that anyone can find on our website under Curriculum, Methods and Resources. This page includes a brief discussion of homeschooling methods and some general guidelines about curriculum. The definition of “curriculum” we use is **a plan of study**, so we hope parents will think less about buying a box of textbooks and more about setting goals and planning how to meet those goals.

We point parents toward resources that will help them in this goal-setting process. They can find information about homeschooling approaches through public libraries, local homeschool groups, and websites. One book to look for at a local library is [Homeschooling](#)

[in Wisconsin: At Home with Learning](#). Though out-of-print now, this book (written by founders and past board members of WHPA) contains a large section on ways to learn without traditional school methods and curriculum.

After reading about methods and approaches, parents will have a better idea of what types of books or other resources they may want to purchase. A web search for “homeschooling curriculum reviews” or more specific search terms will provide information to help them choose resources.

We also encourage parents that one of the major advantages of homeschooling is the ability to choose approaches that work well for our individual family, based on the strengths, needs, and learning styles of each family member; our philosophy and beliefs; and our particular circumstances. This can be a wonderful journey, building treasured memories as families explore the world together! 🏠



Legislative Watch Committee Update



AB 68 / SB 111 - 2021-2023 Biennium Budget Bill

WHPA's Legislative Watch Committee has monitored the process of budget bills AB 68 and SB 111 since they were introduced in February. On June 29-30, the Assembly and Senate passed AB 68 (SB 111 was tabled), and it was signed by Gov. Tony Evers on July 8, as 2021 Wisconsin Act 58. The good news is that there was nothing in the budget bills which affects our homeschooling law.

AB 122 / SB 201 - “Micro Education Pod” Legislation

As of this writing, AB 122 had passed out of the Assembly Committee on Education with bipartisan opposition, and has not yet been brought to the Assembly Floor. SB 201 is in the Senate Committee on Education, and as of this writing, there was a public hearing scheduled and cancelled, and has not yet been rescheduled.

There currently are no federal bills that would affect homeschooling.

WHPA's Legislative Watch Committee is diversifying into various areas of focus (see “New Volunteer Opportunities” on the back page). If you enjoy monitoring news stories and the legislative process, and if any of the areas of focus interest you, consider joining our work!

If you are interested and want to learn more or have questions, please contact us through our website at www.homeschooling-whpa.org. 🏠

Spread the Word!

To continue its work, WHPA needs a strong membership base.

Our members both support and receive:

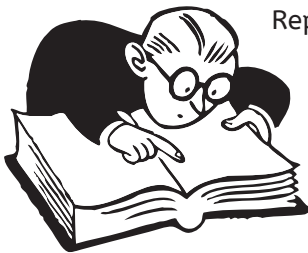
- Informative and helpful **newsletters** like this one
- In-depth and accurate **website**
- **Question Answering Committee** to respond to questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin
- Annual homeschooling **Conference and Resource Fair**
- **Legislative Watch Committee** to keep informed of legislative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

Hardship assistance may be available upon request.

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



How Terminology Affects Parental Rights



When you hear or see the PI-1206 Homeschool Report referred to as an “application,” a form which requires “approval,” a “registration form,” a “license,” or an “accreditation form,” ***should you be concerned?*** Does it make a difference what it is called or how its function is depicted?

Just as with questions about school enrollment (see “How Questions About School Enrollment Affect Parental Rights,” Issue #137, Spring 2021), the extent to which we maintain our parental rights and responsibilities regarding questions about the PI-1206 Homeschool Report also depends on how we think, act, and react, especially when dealing with public officials, including school officials.

The PI-1206 Homeschool Report is a two-part form, created and administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Section I is a statement of enrollment in your homeschool (home-based private educational program) on the third Friday in September. Section II is an affirmation that your homeschool meets all the statutory requirements under Wisconsin law.

The PI-1206 Homeschool Report is the official document we file each year we are homeschooling to report the enrollment in our homeschool. It attests that we are in compliance with the law. The PI-1206 Homeschool Report is also our proof that we are legally homeschooling, and later, it is our children’s proof of enrollment in a home-based private educational program for college, the military, and employers.

Under Wisconsin law, administrators of home-based private educational programs (homeschools) don’t apply, register, seek approval, apply for licensure, or apply for accreditation for their homeschools. Homeschool administrators, just like administrators of any other educational program in Wisconsin (public, private, and tribal schools) report the enrollment of their educational program.

When incorrect terminology is regularly used, it creates confusion, misunderstandings, misconceptions, and sets precedents which can put our rights at risk.

What can you do to help protect our homeschooling law and your rights? First, and most importantly, use accurate terminology about to homeschools, including what the PI-1206 Homeschool Report is and how it functions. Second, when you see or hear someone, especially school officials, use inaccurate terminology or make incorrect assertions about homeschooling, politely and respectfully provide accurate information.

Finally, please inform WHPA if your local school officials are inappropriately requiring things of homeschoolers that might be a violation of homeschooling rights. 🏠

Standing United in Homeschooling

Unity – noun Miriam Webster definition:

1a: the quality or state of not being multiple: ONENESS, 2a: a condition of harmony: ACCORD

Chances are likely, if you're reading this article you're a homeschooler. Whether it's a lifestyle choice or reaction to the pandemic, you're part of the rich homeschooling community in Wisconsin.

So, what does it mean to **homeschool**?

Miriam Webster's definition of the transitive verb **homeschool** is: *to teach one's children at home.*

What does it mean to **homeschool in Wisconsin**?

For that answer, we look to Wisconsin Statute 115.001 (3g): *"Home-based private educational program" means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child's parent or guardian or by a person designated by the parent or guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program.*" (WI stat 115.001(3g))

What is so special about Wisconsin's **homeschooling community**?

Let's look at a couple more definitions. Miriam Webster defines **community** as: *1: a unified body of individuals: such as b: a group of people with common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society or c: a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society.* And, **commonality**, as *2a: possession of common features or attributes.*

Wisconsin's homeschooling community is rich in its ability for a parent or legal guardian to take full responsibility for educating their child(ren). From all over our beautiful state, homeschooling families share one beautiful attribute and commonality, in **homeschooling**.

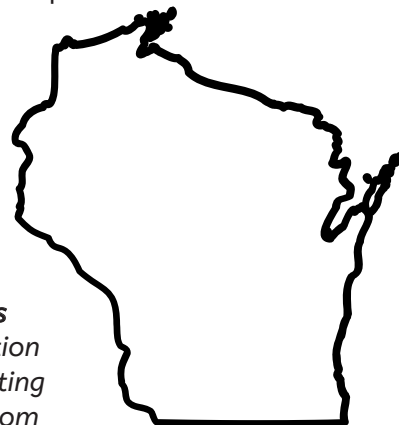
So, what's the issue? Are we divided?

Oftentimes, it can be easy to lose sight of what we have in common when we're overshadowed by what divides us. Now, more than ever, it's time to remind ourselves of our commonality. Did you know on January 6, 1984, a group of homeschooling parents met in Stevens Point, Wisconsin and organized Wisconsin Parents Association (WPA) to oppose AB 887 and work for the passage of a more appropriate bill? The group included people from different backgrounds, incomes, religions, and approaches

to education. On that day they decided several things, but most importantly, **they decided they would stand united in opposition to state control of homeschooling.**

Today, WHPA's membership stands united behind our laser-focused mission statement:

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



WPA's 1984 **grassroots** effort is relevant not only to understanding our history, but also reminding ourselves how we share one beautiful attribute and commonality in **homeschooling**. The English Language Learners definition of **grassroots** is: *the ordinary people in a society or organization; the people who do not have a lot of money or power.* Some famous grassroots movements include MADD – Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, the women's suffrage movement, civil rights, clean air and clean water acts, wilderness preservation acts, and Social Security.

ThoughtCo.com offers these key takeaways for grassroots movements:

- Grassroots movements organize and mobilize individuals to take actions intended to influence social and political issues.
- Undertaken at local, regional, national, and international levels, grassroots movements are considered bottom-up, rather than top-down efforts.
- Often growing from "kitchen table discussions" to global networks, grassroots movements can influence issues ranging from racism and voting rights to abortion and climate change.

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Standing United in Homeschooling (con't)

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What makes WHPA's grassroots movement so important?

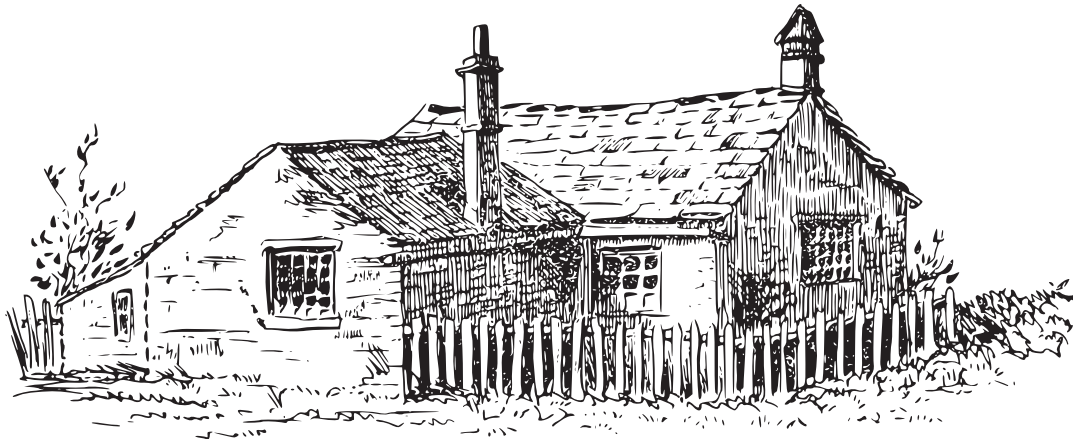
WHPA is inclusive. As an adjective, Miriam Webster's definition of inclusive is: including everyone especially: allowing and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, faith, gender, sexuality, or ability). Regardless of what our families look like, our race, faith, or economic status, we share one beautiful attribute and commonality in homeschooling.

WHPA is nonpartisan. As an adjective Miriam Webster's definition of nonpartisan: especially free from party affiliation, bias or designation. Reminder: regardless of our political beliefs we share one beautiful attribute and commonality, in homeschooling.

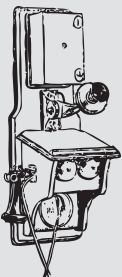
As homeschoolers in the state of Wisconsin it is imperative we come together in unity to ensure our freedoms to homeschool. Unity – noun Miriam Webster definition: 1a: the quality or state of not being multiple: ONENESS, 2a: a condition of harmony: ACCORD. Reminder: we share one beautiful attribute and commonality, in homeschooling.

Wisconsin homeschooling parents, regardless of race, economic status, geographic location, political beliefs, religious beliefs, or sexual preference must remind ourselves of the one beautiful attribute and commonality we share, and stand united in homeschooling.

Wisconsin homeschoolers must come together based on our commonality to continue to support this historic, all inclusive, nonpartisan, grassroots organization who represent ordinary people coming together to do extraordinary things. 🏠



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 consideration, we look forward to hearing from you.

Ideas may include a homeschooling question you'd like answered, or a homeschooling topic you think would be useful to Wisconsin homeschoolers.

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

Submit your idea or piece via the Contact form at www.homeschooling-whpa.org for consideration! 🏠

Insights from the Handbook: Using the Library

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

Ah! The key to affordable homeschooling. Libraries hold more resources than you could ever use, all of them free. Add in the advantage that the library wants everything back, so you don't have to add on to the house to make room. Let the library store them, let others use them, and when (or if) you need them again, you can check them out. Libraries carry trade books and rarely have textbooks in their collections. Many homeschoolers find that this means they can get into greater depth in the areas that interest them.

How do you make effective use of the library?

Contact a nearby public library and explain that you are homeschooling. Call, email, or walk in, but make an appointment for a personalized tour for you and your children on how to use the library. Explain that you want to use the library yourselves; you are not asking the librarian to do the work. Ask questions like:

- Who would be the best person on staff to help find materials for homeschooling?
- How do we use the library's online catalog?
- How can we log onto the online library catalog from our home computer?
- Can we renew books from home?
- Can we consult the catalogs of other libraries, request materials from them, and pick them up and return them here?



- How can we find materials in magazines, newspapers, and other periodicals?
- What can we do to make it easier for you to help us?
- How can our family volunteer to help the library?
- Is there a space where our children could display a project?
- Could our family/homeschool group present a class or workshop on _____(subject) for other families/children?
- If we have suggestions for book purchases, how should we share those with you?

If you want special privileges, pick a good time to talk calmly with a librarian, perhaps requesting an appointment.

Don't limit yourself to what is on the shelves of your library. Consult lists of recommended reading in books you like, mail order book catalogs, websites, and other sources for titles of books and other materials. If your local library or library system doesn't have the item you want, ask how to borrow it through interlibrary loan. This

service allows libraries to borrow from public and university libraries throughout Wisconsin and sometimes from other states. To determine if material is available in a Wisconsin library, go to www.wiscat.net. For materials outside Wisconsin, see WorldCat, which calls itself the world's largest bibliographic database, at www.oclc.org/worldcat. Be extra careful to return interlibrary loan materials on time, since your library has to get them back to the library that owns them.

The Children's Department of your public library may host a variety of educational opportunities. Reading programs, arts and crafts, artist and author talks, presenters, and more might all be featured (for free) at your local library. To find out when events will be held, check their website calendar or bulletin boards, or sign up for any newsletters they might offer.

Check the bulletin boards at your public library for announcements about educational events that will be held in your community by other organizations. You may find programs or program series on subjects such as art, music, and nature.

Consider choosing a specific day and time to visit the library on a regular basis. This makes it easier not to miss due dates for checked out books and pick-up dates for requested materials.

Make good use of the library's on-line search, request and renewal features to locate titles

(continued on page 18)

2022 Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair and 2021/2022 Virtual Events

With a heavy heart, the Board of Directors has cancelled our in-person 2022 Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair. Moving parts of this pandemic continue to change on a daily basis. Asking for commitments from dozens of volunteers who put in thousands of hours of work while trying to predict 9 months into the future for resource availability, staffing, and mandates, not to mention the financial risks seem far outside our realm of our ability or control. The Board is putting together a new series of virtual events and is excitedly looking toward Fall, Winter & Spring sessions while we wait to see how the world will work and interact with each other in-person in the coming year.

On August 9th we began a series of 16 Back to (Home)School virtual events including Coffee With The Board sessions starting at 7:30 am and Lunch & Learn sessions starting at 12:15 PM on various dates through September. Topics include:

- Taking The Fear Out of Homeschooling
- Not Back To School
- What I've Loved Most About Homeschooling (Inspiration from Seasoned Homeschoolers)
- Choosing Your Homeschool Style
- Do No Harm & Don't Be Led Astray
- Following Wisconsin Law (Doing Only What's Necessary)
- Homeschooling With Grace - What You Can Do When Your World is Topsy Turvy
- Record Keeping & Transcripts
- Socialization - The Myth & Mystery
- What Worked For Me - Conversations with Seasoned Homeschoolers

- How Can I Help? Volunteering for WHPA (for members only)
- 875 Hours - How Do I Meet Them? What Counts? What Doesn't?
- What IS Legislative Watch? Why is it SO important?
- How To Be A Good Homeschooling Citizen

These sessions are open to both members and non-members. The fee to attend is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. The Board values our volunteers' time and commitment, so we chose to charge for these sessions to ensure registrants' attendance.

In addition we have scheduled two WHPA 101 virtual sessions (once in August and once in September.)

More information and registration can be found on the website at www.homeschooling-wpa.org under Events.

In October the Conference Committee will meet to discuss how we can expand our virtual events with even more dynamic offerings. We invite you to submit your requests and suggestions through the contact form on the website.

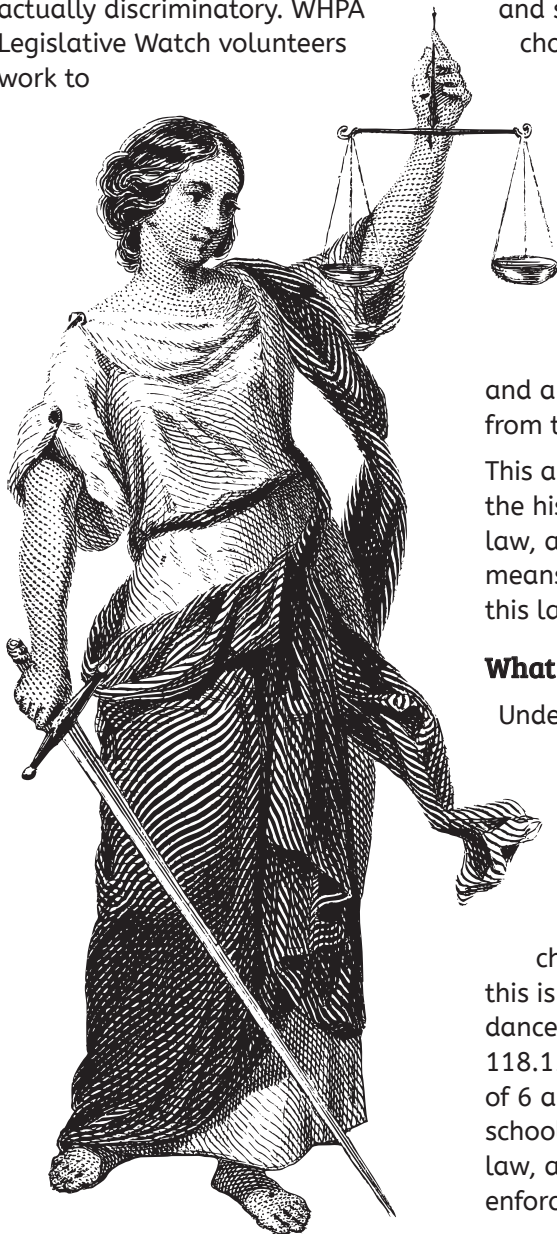
And it is our sincerest hope that 2023 will bring us the opportunity to safely gather in person once again, with workshops and vendors and connections and recognition and all the learning and community-building that comes with our Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair that we all truly miss.

Thank you for your membership, your support, and your understanding. 🏠



Revisiting Wisconsin's Kindergarten Law

The laws of our democracy get written, passed, enforced, and challenged by regular people. Through these processes, sometimes state laws get passed that violate our natural or Constitutional rights. Sometimes laws get passed that are so vague they are unenforceable. Sometimes laws that seemed reasonable at the time they were passed get challenged in a new era, with a new understanding or interpretation of rights. Sometimes laws that seem fair on the surface end up being enforced in ways that are actually discriminatory. WHPA Legislative Watch volunteers work to



stay informed about laws and legal issues that affect homeschoolers in Wisconsin. Ten years ago, a new law about kindergarten and first grade enrollment took effect in Wisconsin. The new law was reported to require children in Wisconsin to attend kindergarten as 5-year-olds before being allowed to attend first grade. (Hetzner, A., 2009, Oct 6, Governor Makes Kindergarten Mandatory, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, <http://archive.jsonline.com/news-watch/63616317.html>). This law does not address homeschoolers and should not affect homeschoolers any differently than

it affects other Wisconsin families. However, WHPA continues to receive questions and concerns from parents who want to keep their children home from kindergarten, some of whom are being pressured to enroll in school, and are receiving misinformation from their local schools.

This article will examine a bit about the history and stated intent of this law, and what its passage actually means, as well as whether or how this law affects homeschoolers.

What is 2009 Wisconsin Act 41?

Under Wisconsin law, children are not required to attend school until age 6 – specifically, until the year the child turns age 6 on or before September 1. From the ages of 6 to 18, children must attend school; this is called compulsory attendance, and is codified in Wis Stat 118.15. Children between the ages of 6 and 18 who do not attend school regularly are violating this law, and are subject to truancy enforcement. Receiving instruction

Quick Facts

- ✓ Kindergarten is not mandatory in Wisconsin.
- ✓ If you choose to enroll your child in kindergarten, they must attend school regularly.
- ✓ You have the right to keep your child home from school until age 6 (see article for details).
- ✓ You have the right to withdraw your child from school at any time.
- ✓ You have the legal right to homeschool your child after age 6 at any time, for any reason, and for any length of time.
- ✓ Public schools generally must accept any children wishing to attend.

in a home based private educational program, or homeschool, is a legal substitute for attendance at a public or private school. (Wis Stat 118.15(4)).

2009 Wisconsin Act 41 changed our laws. Now Wisconsin law states children who are enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten in a public or private school must attend regularly. (Wis Stat 118.15(1)(am)).

The law also says that a school board may not enroll a child in the first grade in a public school unless that child has completed kindergarten. (Wis Stat 118.33(6)(cm)(1)).

Finally, the law requires that school boards establish policies for exempting children from the kindergarten requirement for first grade, and for parents to request review

(continued on page 10)

Revisiting Wisconsin's Kindergarten Law (con't)

(continued from page 9)

of a denial of exemption. (Wis Stat 118.33(6)(cm)(2)). This means every school district in Wisconsin must have an established procedure for exempting intended first graders from the kindergarten requirement. These procedures must include an automatic exemption for kids moving from a place where kindergarten is not a prerequisite for first grade, or where they already received an exemption. (Ibid). Finally, school districts must have procedures for reviewing the denial of an exemption, should a parent or guardian request one. (Ibid).

What Was the Intent of 2009 Act 41?

Until 2010, children under the age of 6 were not subject to truancy action because they were not subject to the compulsory attendance law. At that time, as now, Wisconsin school districts were required to offer 5-year-old kindergarten (but parents were not required to enroll their kids in kindergarten). Some time in 2009, apparently, someone got concerned enough about kindergarten enrollment and attendance that they initiated legislation to address it. It is unclear as of this writing what suggested that 5-year-old truancy was a widespread problem or needed to be addressed.

At any rate, in 2009, both houses of the Wisconsin legislature heard and passed bills with new requirements for 5-year-olds (2009 AB 119, 2009 SB 89). These new requirements *did not change the age of compulsory attendance from 6 years old to 5 years old*, which would have been a straightforward, if controversial, change to our laws. Instead, proposals in both the Assembly and the Senate, required school districts to start requiring parents to show proof that

their child had already completed 5-year-old kindergarten before being allowed to enroll in first grade. Both bills required school districts to create policies detailing when and how a child might be exempted from this requirement, and laid out some specific exemptions those policies must include. While homeschoolers were specifically mentioned as exempted in an original draft of the senate bill, subsequent amendments removed any reference to homeschoolers. (Wis State Legislature Public Hearing Committee Records, 09hr_SC-Ed_sb0089_pt01, https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/related/public_hearing_records/sc_education/bills_resolutions/09hr_sc_ed_sb0089_pt01.pdf).

At a public hearing in April, 2009, about the Senate version of the bill, then-Executive Director of WPA (the former name of WHPA), Larry Kaseman, testified that WPA opposed the bill primarily because of the potential hazards to children and expenses to taxpayers it would incur. He clarified that WPA strongly opposed any reference to homeschooling in the bill because the proposed law was not related to homeschooling, and homeschoolers should not be treated differently under the law from any other students. (Ibid). Mr. Kaseman reminded the Senate that “bad cases make bad law,” meaning that attempting to write a law that will affect everyone to address specific, unusual circumstances, generally makes laws that end up as nonsensical. WPA also addressed concerns about the legislation in process in Newsletter Issues 99 (February 2009) and 100 (June 2009).

The author of the senate bill, Senator Spencer Coggs, also testified that day, offering a bewildering insight into the questionable need for this law at all. Sen. Coggs stated

that, in fact, parents not sending their children to kindergarten is a very rare problem in Wisconsin. (Ibid). He cited data from the U.S. Department of Education for a recent year, showing that there was an increase of only 314 students from kindergarten to first grade for the whole state. He further stated that it is unknown how many of those 314 students moved to Wisconsin from out of state, and how many had parents who simply chose to keep them home until first grade.

Was this bill drafted, amended, heard, voted on and passed to cover just 314 students who did not attend kindergarten before enrolling in first grade? Even that estimate is too high. In March of 2009 - before Senator Coggs offered his testimony - the Legislative Reference Bureau provided a fiscal estimate for Senate Bill 89, which cited this fascinating fact (bold added): “In reviewing statewide public school enrollment data for the past 5 years, it appears that there are few children who attend first grade who have not attended kindergarten (**an average of 117 children each year**).” (LRB 09-0794/2, Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session, https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/related/fe/sb89/sb89_dpi.pdf; emphasis added) For context, approximately 59,700 students attended first grade at a public school in each of those years. That means this bill was targeted at - at most - 0.19% of all public school first graders.

From the start, official discussion and local reporting were also confusing as to the intended purpose of this legislation. For example, *The Journal Times* published an article entitled “Lawmakers Want To Make

(continued on page 14)

Hybrid Homeschooling and Wisconsin Law

"I have read articles and am seeing advertisements for books and seminars about 'hybrid homeschooling.' What is it? Is this a valid option in Wisconsin?"

In recent years, a number of educational models have gained attention in the media, including so-called "hybrid homeschools," and proponents for such models use incorrect or inaccurate terminology in their descriptions. How can we tell if a given model which is referred to as a type of homeschooling is legal in Wisconsin?

The first place where we need to look is our law, which is specific and unique to Wisconsin's history and constitution. Under Wisconsin law, a home-based private educational program, traditionally and historically known as "homeschooling," is defined as: *"Home-based private educational program" means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child's parent or guardian or by a person designated by the parent or guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program.*" (WI stat 115.001(3g))

The next thing we need to do is look more closely at how a given model is being defined, and how such a model operates.

Staying with our example, "hybrid homeschooling" is often defined as a model which is part-time-on-campus and part-time-at-home, and for the time at home, the parent/guardian delivers the lesson plans that the school has prepared and oversees.

Another way "hybrid homeschooling" has been defined is where a parent puts together an educational program that consists of a combination of homeschooling plus outside classes provided to more than one family unit.

This is where we have a conflict with Wisconsin homeschool law: under Wisconsin law, the administrator of a home-based private educational program takes complete, total, and direct responsibility for the education of their child(ren) in their own family unit, ensuring that all of

Wisconsin's educational requirements are met, including providing 875 hours of instruction.

Under these described definitions of a "hybrid homeschool," the school takes responsibility for parts, if not all, of the child's education, with the parent/guardian voluntarily ceding that responsibility to the school. Under Wisconsin law, that falls under the definition of a public or private school, and cannot be considered a home-based private educational program ("homeschooling"). There is also no provision under Wisconsin law for part-time homeschooling or for enrollment in more than one educational program.

Furthermore, the Wisconsin-based examples of "hybrid homeschools" which are lifted up by proponents are in fact public or private schools, and are not home-based private educational programs ("homeschools"). In Wisconsin, only a parent or legal guardian who correctly files a PI-1206 Homeschool Report is legally

homeschooling.

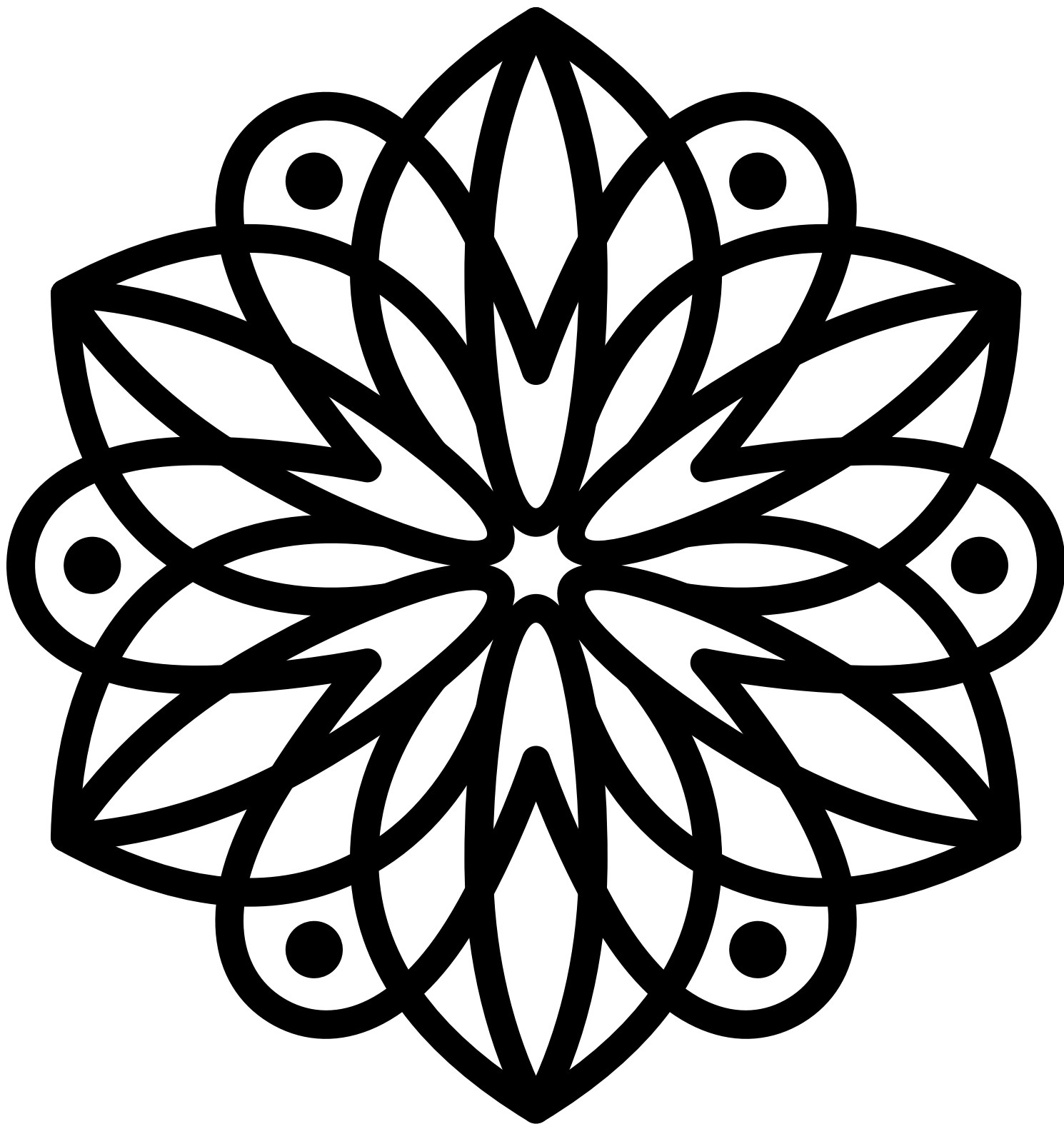
Therefore, "hybrid homeschooling" is not consistent with Wisconsin law; however, our existing public and private school laws have the tools and flexibility built into them that a school which employs a model of "part-time-on-campus" and "part-time-at-home" can be established and operated legally - they simply shouldn't be considered or called homeschools.

This method of analysis can be used to analyze other educational models which claim to be a type of homeschooling to determine whether they align with Wisconsin law.

Using the term "homeschooling" in a colloquial manner causes confusion and puts families at risk of operating outside of our very reasonable homeschool law. One way we each can help protect our law is to promote the correct and accurate use of terms, keeping them in their traditional and historical context. The other way we each can help protect our rights and freedoms is to point people to our law. 🏠



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as you'd like to color with your kiddos.
the Contact Form on our website if you'd like.



(continued from page 10)

Kindergarten Mandatory.” (Smith, P., 2009, Feb 27, Lawmakers Want To Make Kindergarten Mandatory, *The Journal Times*, https://journaltimes.com/news/local/lawmakers-want-to-make-kindergarten-mandatory/article_340c07db-c033-5ef1-a4a8-f592e2f54e5f.html). Despite the headline, the text of the article clarifies that the intent of these bills was not to lower Wisconsin’s compulsory attendance age to 5 years old, but to create a legal way for schools to enforce attendance rules for 5-year-olds whose parents choose to enroll them in kindergarten. As Paul Smith reported, “[Senator] John Lehman said the main purpose of that bill is to get at the problem of school districts making resources available for 5-year-olds, parents enrolling their children and then not sending them to school. ‘I think we need to be clear with parents, if you enroll your child then they ought to be attending,’ Lehman said.” (Ibid.) Other contemporary reporting supports this read of the bill’s intent. Reporter Glen Gardner wrote of parents who choose to enroll their children in 5-year-old kindergarten, “[Under] the bill passed in the Legislature, if they do choose to do so, they have to follow the same laws that govern attendance by children in other grades. (Garner, G., 2009, Oct 5, WI Kindergarten: Showing Up Is Half The Battle, *Public News Service*, <https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2009-10-05/education/wi-kindergarten-showing-up-is-half-the-battle/a10796-1>).

Despite the fact that the bill was in great part intended to address incidents when children are enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten but do not attend regularly, it appears no evidence was offered to show that this

is a widespread problem among Wisconsin kindergartens.

Another confusing article seems to suggest that children themselves make their school enrollment plans and decisions, opening with this statement: “Wisconsin children who want to be first-graders will first have to attend kindergarten as 5-year-olds, according to a new law enacted Tuesday by Gov. Jim Doyle.” (Hetzner). The author also writes “this new law is likely not to have much impact,” citing the average 117 students per year cited by the LRB. (Hetzner). The article closes with “Families who choose to home school their children should not be affected.” (Hetzner).

In summary, available evidence suggests that one primary intent of this law was to allow for truancy enforcement against 5-year-olds. Because compulsory school attendance does not apply until age 6, this was previously not allowed. There are good reasons to allow schools to enforce attendance and truancy against students whose parents choose to enroll them. There are also good reasons to allow flexibility and parental responsiveness to the needs of very young children. In the end, it appears no evidence, other than anecdotal testimony, was offered to support the suggestion that 5-year-olds enrolled in kindergarten were running rampant across Wisconsin, or that failing to attend 5-year-old kindergarten regularly was a problem that existed or needed to be corrected. Neither was the straightforward and legally clear option of lowering the age of compulsory school attendance to 5 years old taken up.

More difficult to reconcile is the implied intent to encourage enrollment in 5-year-old kindergarten. Instead of straightforwardly mandating kindergarten, this law

makes an end-run around the compulsory attendance law, by adding retroactive requirements to *first grade* enrollment. In essence, the law now says “You don’t have to attend kindergarten,” but when you arrive at the point where you want to enroll in first grade, the law now says “You can’t enroll unless you already attended kindergarten, unless you meet one of our exemptions.”

There’s one more kicker: as the law is written, the “kindergarten prerequisite” only applies to students entering the first grade. If a parent chooses to keep their child home from kindergarten, then chooses to homeschool, then chooses to enroll their child in public school in any grade other than first grade, there is no requirement to show that child attended kindergarten. This odd fact of law further highlights the questionable intent of this law in the first place.

Public Reception and Subsequent Interpretation of the Law

Even after the bills were passed, and signed into law by Governor Doyle, there was some mixed response from the public. (Snyder, M., 2010, Aug 02, Is Mandatory Kindergarten a Good Idea?, *On Milwaukee*, <https://onmilwaukee.com/articles/newkindergartenlaw>). Like the research-based concerns Larry Kasemen cited in his public hearing testimony, both public and private school teachers expressed concerns about this new law impeding on parents’ choices about what’s best for their own children. A first grade public school teacher supported homeschool as a legitimate choice for parents, saying a kindergarten education can be achieved in multiple ways. (Ibid). One early childhood educator said she felt “this new law is insulting to parents who wish to homeschool their

kids for preschool and kindergarten, because “[...it’s] saying that a parent who chooses to keep his or her child at home until first grade couldn’t possibly do as good of a job educating his or her child as a kindergarten teacher who has up to 20 children to look after.” (Ibid).

Public understanding of the law remains murky. WHPA continues to receive reports from parents who are being told by school officials that “kindergarten is mandatory in Wisconsin.” Currently the Milwaukee Public Schools website hosts a section deceptively entitled “Mandatory Kindergarten Law,” which states “The State of Wisconsin has established a law requiring students to complete kindergarten before entering first grade. Schools may not enroll a child in first grade unless that child has completed five-year-old kindergarten.” (MPS, <https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/Programs/Early-Childhood-Education.htm>). There is no mention of the legally required exemptions, or the policies related to the exemption process.

However, written policies for exemptions in MPS do exist and are clearly written. MPS policy states that one reason a child is exempted is “a written request for exemption by the child’s parent/guardian and an approval by a MPS school or district administrator.” (MPS, <https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/MPS-English/OBG/Clerk-Services/MPS-Rules>). There are two concerns here. First is whether every school official is aware of this policy, and whether every parent knows how to find it. It’s not intuitive or obvious to navigate to the “policies” section of the website. Second is how the lack of statutory or district-based guidance for administrators giving or refusing exemptions is ripe for abuse and discrimination. These concerns are

not unique to MPS.

Madison Metropolitan School District, another large district in the state, also clearly spells out how a child who did not attend kindergarten can be exempted from the requirement when enrolling in first grade – by satisfactorily completing a standardized assessment. (MMSD, <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/early-learning/early-entrance-to-kindergarten-and-first-grade>). Kenosha Unified School District KUSD provides for no exemptions other than moving from out-of-state, which is required by law. In violation of the statute, there is no established procedure for review. (KUSD, <https://www.kusd.edu/sites/default/files/document-library/english/5210.pdf>). Green Bay Area Public School District has a clear written policy that requires parents asking for an exemption to write a letter explaining their request and relevant information about their child. (GBAPS, <https://go.board-docs.com/wi/gbapsd/Board.nsf/Public#>).

After 10 Years, Enforcement is Unknown and Untested

As discussed, WHPA is observing public information and receiving reports from parents that school districts are incorrectly stating kindergarten is mandatory in Wisconsin. However, WHPA is unaware of a single case since the law was passed of a public school refusing to enroll a child in first grade who did not complete kindergarten.

Why would this be? First, as discussed, the number of Wisconsin children who did not attend kindergarten before their parents try to enroll them in the first grade is remarkably small. Second, as discussed, some districts already have well-established policies that properly provide for exemptions. But a third important reason is

that the part of the law that says “school districts shall not enroll” any child is probably unenforceable.

Under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, we are all guaranteed equal treatment under the law. This includes equal treatment under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. Article 10, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin requires the legislature to establish free public schools, open to all children between the ages of 4 and 20. Wisconsin law also clarifies that all public elementary schools and high schools shall be free to all pupils who reside in the school district. (Wis Stat 121.77(1)(a)). Other state laws clarify that the only exception to schools accepting resident students is if the student is currently expelled from another district. (Wis Stat 120.13(f)(1)).

So, to put 2009 Act 41 in context, before the “school districts shall not enroll” portion of the law can be applied, a parent must attempt to enroll in first grade one of those 0.19% of all Wisconsin first grade students who didn’t attend kindergarten. Then the school district would have to produce their legally-mandated policies regarding exemptions, and based only on those policies, refuse to enroll the child. Then the parent would have to request an exemption, following the district policies, and then the district would have to deny the exemption. Even then the district is still required by law **to enroll the child somewhere**. Nothing in Wisconsin law allows districts to refuse to enroll a child at all.

So would the district try to enroll a six- or seven-year-old in kindergarten? Even if doing so is developmentally inappropriate? This seems

(continued on page 16)

Revisiting Wisconsin's Kindergarten Law (con't)

(continued from page 15)

wildly unlikely. Doing so would force a child to accept a developmentally inappropriate education, and would be difficult for the child, difficult for their peers, and difficult for the teachers. If a district were found to be denying requests for waivers unequally, that would appear to be, and may actually be, a violation of 14th Amendment rights. Were the parent to then pursue legal enforcement of their child's right to a free public education, it's reasonable to expect this part of the law could be found unenforceable for its improper discriminatory and penalizing effect.

As for the compulsory attendance and truancy effects of 2009 Act 41, these are also unknown to WHPA. First, the compulsory attendance parts of the law apply only to children whose parents choose to enroll them in 5-year-old kindergarten, so there could not be any application to homeschoolers. Second, because homeschooling is not a legal status until age 6, children under the age of 6 cannot be homeschooling, under the law. WHPA is not aware of a single case of a district attempting to apply the 5-year-old kindergarten attendance requirement to homeschoolers.

WHPA is aware, however, of some parents who choose to enroll their children in 5-year-old kindergarten, then decide to withdraw them. This is not an issue under the law. Parents, not schools nor any other government agency,

choose where their children attend school. Compulsory attendance law still only applies to children ages 6-18. There is nothing in the law to compel any child under 6 to be enrolled in any school. WHPA is not aware of this part of the law being court-tested, either. Parents wishing to withdraw from any public school program can get more information here: <https://www.homeschooling-wpa.org/faqs/withdrawing-from-school/>

Conclusions

2009 Wisconsin Act 41 has two effects. The first makes our compulsory attendance law apply to 5-year-olds *whose parents choose to enroll them in kindergarten*. The second states schools may not enroll children in first grade if they have not completed kindergarten, and schools must establish policies about exemptions to that requirement.

The record offers no evidence that the compulsory attendance part of the law was necessary, nor is there readily available information about whether it has improved school attendance, or indeed ever been applied.

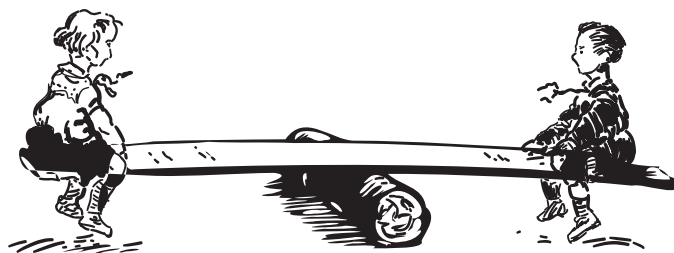
There is evidence that the part that makes kindergarten required before entering first grade was entirely unnecessary. Evidence about the application of this part of the law is mixed. WHPA has no evidence that a single child has been denied enrollment in first grade under the provisions of this law. A brief survey of current policies shows that

districts have applied the policies requirement unevenly. WHPA has not heard of a single request for exemption being denied.

In the end, it is best for all Wisconsin parents to know and understand the law. Parents who choose to keep their children home from school until first grade should know that it is perfectly legal to do so. Parents who keep their children home until first grade have the right to know the exemptions allowed in their district, and to appeal if they disagree with being denied an exemption. Parents should know that no public school can refuse to enroll their child at all. Parents should know that for any grade after the first grade, previous completion of kindergarten is not required. Finally, all Wisconsin homeschoolers should beware of any school policies that specifically treat homeschooled students differently from any other student.

If your child is enrolled in school and you have questions about your school district policy, contact your district and ask for a copy of their policies.

If you or someone you know with a kindergarten aged child has questions or has experienced difficulties staying home until age 6 or withdrawing from school, please contact WHPA. When we each use accurate information to advocate for our own families, we strengthen and support WHPA's grassroots efforts to protect our very reasonable homeschooling law. 🏠



Excellent Scholarship Opportunity

WHPA is again honored to be affiliated with the **Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship** and encourages homeschoolers who plan to graduate in 2022 to consider applying for this valuable scholarship.

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. Any student who meets the above eligibility criteria may apply.

Please tell other homeschoolers about this opportunity! It is not necessary to be a WHPA member 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.



Herb Kohl
Educational Foundation, Inc.

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 16, 2021 at 5:00 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 16, 2021, 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 Newspaper Association, Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, education-related associations, and the community. The committee will score applications in late January, 2022. Award recipients will be contacted by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in early March, 2022.

Where can I learn more and start an application?

Read all the information at the Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship website. 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 Scholarships page for more guidance specific to homeschool applicants. WHPA provides support for applicants by email, kohlsupport@homeschooling-wpa.org.

When can I apply?

The Scholarship Application process opened in August this year. The Application deadline is Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 5 p.m. CT. No late applications will be accepted. 🏠

Insights from the Handbook: Using the Library (con't)

(continued from page 7)

and call numbers to make better use of your time at the library.

Keep track of books that your family has read by using www.goodreads.com. "Goodreads users recommend books, compare what they are reading, keep track of what they've read and would like to read, find their next favorite book, form book clubs and much more."

Check out the services that are available on libraries' websites, and make use of BadgerLink which provides access to quality online information resources for Wisconsin residents in cooperation with the state's public, school, academic, and special libraries and Internet Service Providers. They may include topics such as investments, health and wellness, and genealogy and can be accessed from your home.


The Internet Public Library (IPL) (<http://www.ipl.org/>) is a public service organization and learning/teaching environment founded at the University of Michigan School of Information and hosted by Drexel University's College of Information Science

& Technology. "We will provide library services to Internet users." Activities include: finding, evaluating, selecting, organizing, describing, and creating information resources plus direct assistance to individuals.

Treat your library as the valuable community resource that it is and your librarian as a colleague. Express your appreciation. Help your children learn to behave appropriately and respect other people using the library. Do not leave young children alone in the library. Return materials on time and in good condition. Cooperate with library rules and policies concerning computer use and other matters. Allow plenty of time to check out all your materials before the library closes. Don't act as if it's the librarian's fault if specific material you want is unavailable; consider their suggestions for substitutions. Join the Friends of the Library group if one exists; if not, consider starting one. Participate in library book sales and other fundraisers. Donate books and/or money to the library. Take the library staff occasional treats that can be shared by

the whole staff (they are not allowed to accept individual gifts): strawberries, tomatoes, or flowers in the summer; cookies or festive bread at holiday time.

Support your library in your community and in the Wisconsin legislature. Ask if there are library board meetings that are open to the public and visit at least once a year to express your appreciation for the library. Write letters to the editor of your local paper describing how important the library is to you and encouraging others to support it. Offer to testify at county, city, or town board meetings. Let your legislators know that you strongly support funding for libraries. Respond when WPA notifies its members about pending legislation concerning libraries.

Visit other libraries in your region for fun and variety. You may find a library that suits your needs better than the closest one and decide it is worth the drive. Some university libraries allow the general public to use their materials in the library; others permit them to be checked out. 



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.
- Not take advantage of other opportunities for your child's education.
- Exercise your rights under Wisconsin law.
- 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.
- An assessment by your school district, if you or someone else believes your child may need special education services. Under the Child Find mandate of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), your school district must convene an IEP team, assess your child, and provide you with a written IEP plan.

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

- Public money or goods for instructing your child.
- Any special services outlined in an IEP. To receive these services, your child must be enrolled in public school.
- Shared funding for special services under IDEA. To possibly get shared funding, your child must be enrolled in a private school.

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.
- ☐ 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 a tremendous help for WHPA to understand what's happening in your local communities and act 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.
- ☐ Attend WHPA's quarterly Board meetings to be an informed member and advocate.

Donate:

- ☐ \$15 covers our video-conferencing service for one month.
- ☐ \$25 pays for one month of membership renewal reminders.
- ☐ \$30 prints and mails 20 copies of the newsletter.
- ☐ \$35 sponsors a family for a 1 year WHPA membership.
- ☐ \$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.

Get Involved:

- ☐ Attend WHPA's quarterly Board meetings to learn about opportunities - both large and small - to share your time and talents with our all-volunteer organization!
- ☐ Sponsor a virtual WHPA 101 session in your area. You organize the group and WHPA will set up the Zoom meeting 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.

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



**Wisconsin Homeschooling
Parents Association**

Homeschooling since 1984

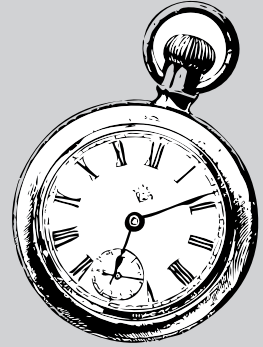
Milestones Flashback: 1991

When it comes to homeschooling in Wisconsin, we all are where we are today because of the tireless work of the volunteers who came before us. Working together through WHPA (formerly WPA), homeschoolers in Wisconsin have reclaimed and maintained basic freedoms in education and family life since 1984. Here's a flashback to some of the issues and efforts of thirty years ago:

WHPA Major Milestones: 1991

- Legislative Council study committee decides not to recommend increased regulation of homeschooling after WPA opposes the action and provides accurate information.
- Over 2,000 homeschoolers and supporters attend WPA Day at the Capitol (Feb. 6) to affirm and celebrate Legislative Council committee's decision.
- RESOLUTION: 10. The Primary Role of Parents in Education
- RESOLUTION: 11. Opposition to State Control of Education and the Family
- WPA informs members and coordinates testimony at Nov. 4 hearing on "education reform legislation" that would increase regulation of homeschooling, establish portfolios on 3 year olds, etc. 300 homeschoolers attend. Legislators delete all homeschooling proposals.

Learn more about the last 37 years of homeschooling in Wisconsin and read the full text of all WHPA's resolutions on the About section of our website. 




WHPA 101

Our popular **WHPA 101** is available to homeschooling groups, libraries, and interested parents throughout Wisconsin. This free 45- to 60-minute program is presented for free by a WHPA-trained facilitator either in person or via Zoom, and focuses on providing vital accurate information about homeschooling in Wisconsin.

You organize the group, we take care of the program!

Keep in mind that we prefer to open up the program to as many homeschoolers and potential homeschoolers in the area as possible and we will count on you to help spread the word!


To request a **WHPA 101** session for your area, please visit www.homeschooling-wpa.org/whpa-101/. 

Thank You, And Welcome!

WHPA's **Hardship Assistance for Memberships** program is going strong thanks to the tremendous generosity of our members.

Since the program's launch earlier this year, we have received 21 "Sponsor a Family" donations! When you "Sponsor a Family," you are making a special \$35 donation that is earmarked to enable a family who may not otherwise be able to join WHPA to become members. Our heartfelt and sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

From those donations, we've already been able to assist 15 families with a free year of WHPA membership to support them in their homeschooling journeys. ***We welcome each of these families, and all of our many new and renewing member families, and we wish you all a fulfilling year!***

Learn more, join, renew, donate, or request assistance at www.homeschooling-wpa.org/membership. 

WORD SEARCH:

Wisconsin Counties with 10+ WHPA Member Families

F O D M A R A T H O N Q U X H G E F D Q
 N C O B J S L I N N V N Q E W J D I E B
 S T D Q K Q L L D D Y W V A A D W E F F
 T A G Y O S V E K A Y I G U S A R I J T
 Y N E P F H O M F X Q N M C H N S O J X
 W E L M S E Z L O K H N Q L I V A V C Q
 A Q Y P O B A Z N U E E M A N P U B T K
 U T R O X O U B D U Y B R I G M K D V R
 P B H R X Y K U D Y Y A F R T S O R T C
 A R W T E G E X U O F G I E O U Z Z G J
 C O P A D A E X L U A O A S N O D P Y E
 A W T G A N G Y A T O J W I B Q K W T F
 R N H E N H Q Y C A C O L U M B I A G F
 S K W P E M S W P G P W A U K E S H A E
 T F E L V S L O E A R A C I N E Q M N R
 C H B N M C K O A M X C T D M R S T I S
 R I W B O G K D D I W S X D J Z Y J Y O
 O C X S L S K Q R E B G R X O A S P V N
 I Y K U X M H G O T J C S P S Z P T X N
 X B J Y Q S N A M I L W A U K E E D Z L

Find each of the following 23 Wisconsin Counties with 10 or more WHPA member families in the grid above - horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Then check your answers against the key on page 2!

Brown	Jefferson	Portage	Washington
Columbia	Kenosha	Racine	Waukesha
Dane	Marathon	Rock	Waupaca
Dodge	Milwaukee	Sauk	Winnebago
Eau Claire	Outagamie	Sheboygan	Wood
Fond du Lac	Ozaukee	St. Croix	

WHPA Works to Protect Member Privacy

WHPA member families rightfully have an expectation of privacy from WHPA. Because homeschooling is a private, personal choice and responsibility, WHPA communications are often about personal issues related to parenting and education. WHPA works hard to protect our member families' privacy, and members have relied on that protection for nearly forty years.

In the past year, a now former WHPA member inappropriately shared a private members-only email that contained private information about ongoing negotiations between WHPA and DPI, and copyright protected WHPA materials. A family member then published an article to an online publication that included a direct link to that private, copyright protected, members-only email. This incident was a breach of both the respect for privacy of WHPA members, and a violation of WHPA's copyrights. This is a serious issue, which the Board addressed directly with the parties involved. The protected materials were removed from the site that published them without permission. No other member's private information was exposed. To that extent, the issue has been resolved.

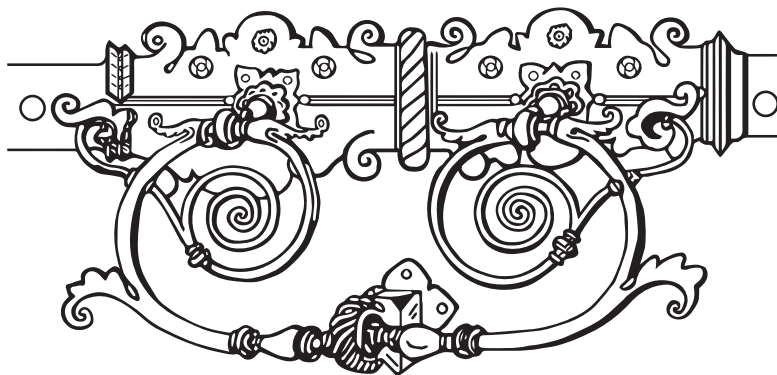
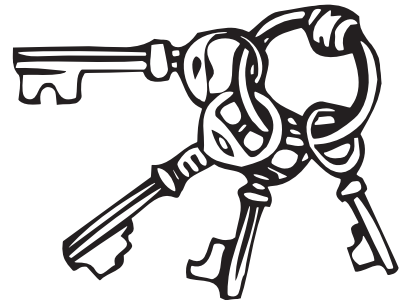
In another incident within the last eighteen months, a non-member used and altered WHPA copyright protected materials on their own for-profit website, without permission. Other commercial sites have inappropriately listed WHPA as associated with their work. In every case, the Board has contacted the parties, and had the materials or mentions removed.

These incidents require our all-volunteer, working Board to spend considerable time and energy discussing how integral the respect for privacy has always been to the culture and practice of WHPA, and how to handle such incidents in the future. We owe it to ourselves and our members to exercise our rights to copyright protection whenever someone acts to violate those rights. In general, WHPA holds copyrights to all WHPA media. This means no one may use or share WHPA media without asking for and receiving permission.

WHPA member emails often contain explicit instructions whether the material may or may not be shared with non-members. The Board must now consider whether to implement additional security measures, and the potential costs of doing so, including system and labor expenses, and additional volunteer time.

WHPA works hard, in good faith, for you, our members, in our communications with legislators, other elected officials and political appointees, and community members like school teachers, principals, and librarians. Sharing information that is written specifically for our members with outside parties undermines the vital ongoing relationships we have with these important parties.

As always, WHPA remains committed to protecting our right to homeschool in Wisconsin, and to building and maintaining our all-inclusive, nonpartisan, grassroots organization. Your ongoing respect for the hard work WHPA does on behalf of those efforts, including respect for privacy and copyright protections, is greatly appreciated. 🏠





**Wisconsin
Homeschooling
Parents
Association**

Homeschooling since 1984


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

New Volunteer Opportunities

WHPA's Legislative Watch Committee volunteers work hard to keep the WHPA Board of Directors and our members informed of local, state, and national news that could affect our homeschooling law. If you are interested in homeschooling news or state and local politics, please consider volunteering with the Legislative Watch Committee.

We are currently seeking volunteers who can help with monitoring news in these key areas:

- Local homeschooling related news in their home area or an assigned area of the state;
- Federal homeschooling related news, including Congress and the Supreme Court;
- Homeschooling news related to special needs and disability law.

Volunteering for the Legislative Watch can be a relatively low-key way to contribute to WHPA; we will provide a quick training session online, and volunteers can manage their own time commitment. News alerts can be automated, and communication with the committee is done by email. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with Legislative Watch, please contact us through our website. 

Be A Fact-Finder!

Q: Who delivered the keynote address at the 2002 Conference, ending with this powerful thought: ***"We are fortunate to have this great freedom called homeschooling, but we must keep in mind that we are not lucky to have it. Luck has nothing to do with it. This freedom was won by hard work on the part of many, and it can only be maintained with help from all of us."***

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-whpa.org. 