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2022 is an Election Year

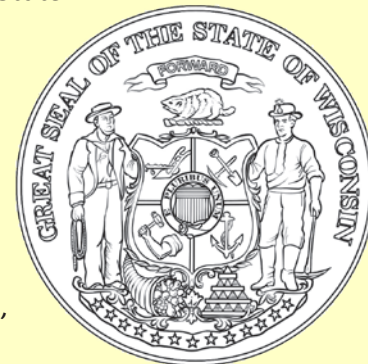
The fall general election will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and among the offices we will be voting for are Governor, Attorney General, US Senator, US Representatives, Wisconsin State Representatives, and some Wisconsin State Senators.

WHPA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization and does not recommend or endorse any candidate. WHPA is not a lobbying organization.

As the 5th of WHPA's 10 guiding principles states, "Learn to work with your legislators, regardless of their political party."

We encourage each of you - our grassroots membership - to research each candidate's position on the issues and to engage candidates to respectfully let them know:

1. Our homeschooling law has worked well for over 38 years.
2. You don't want taxpayer funded benefits or favors.
3. You want to retain your inherent parental rights and remain an independent homeschooler who takes complete and direct responsibility for your homeschool. 🏠



2022 Annual Member Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6pm via Zoom

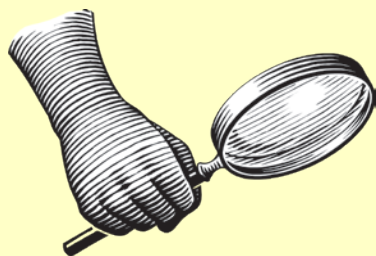
Join the WHPA Board of Directors for our annual Member Meeting to hear what has been happening, and what the future holds. We are meeting virtually this year, so you can join us from anywhere. We will review last year's highlights and lowlights, talk about what you can do to sustain WHPA, and look ahead at WHPA's bright future.

WHPA is a truly grassroots organization, and our Member Meeting is an important way to share information essential to ensuring your homeschooling freedom.

WHPA is the only state-wide, inclusive, non-partisan, apolitical, 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.

Our Board is looking forward to this year's meeting! ***Mark your calendars, and watch your email for registration and attendance information.*** 🏠

Legislative Watch Committee Update



AB 122 - Micro Education Pods

The Assembly met in May and attempted to override the Governor's veto on numerous bills, including AB 122, and the override failed. This means the proposed micro-education pod bill WHPA worked to defeat is legislatively dead. The Legislature begins its new session in January 2023.

DPI Meeting

In August, WHPA's Legislative Watch Committee had another positive meeting with representatives from the Department of Public Instruction. WHPA asked DPI to once again send out a reminder to school districts and homeschool coordinators that no parent can be required or compelled to file

the PI-1206 Homeschool Report prior to October 15, and that notice of intent to homeschool is sufficient until October 15. WHPA also asked DPI to remind districts about the proper use of the truancy process, and DPI did so before the school year began.

The Legislative Watch Committee thanked DPI for continuing to update their guidance to be in line with the law, and also shared how WHPA continues to keep parents and citizens informed by providing accurate information. WHPA looks forward to having a continued dialogue with DPI, keeping in mind our different missions.

Volunteer Opportunities

WHPA is working to expand Legislative Watch in the following volunteer areas:

News monitoring

Monitor news stories from a local, regional, state, and national level for potential threats to our homeschool law, as well as spotting trends


happening around the country. This is an easy way to volunteer a little time with WHPA, and can be done at your own pace.

Legislative monitoring

Monitor state and federal legislation for potential threats to our homeschool law and freedoms. This is another easy but important way to help WHPA by just keeping up-to-date on legislative news.

Legal


We are always interested in hearing from WHPA members with legal training and experience, to support the mission of our Legislative Watch Committee. Reach out if you are interested in sharing your expertise to support our ongoing work to protect our rights.

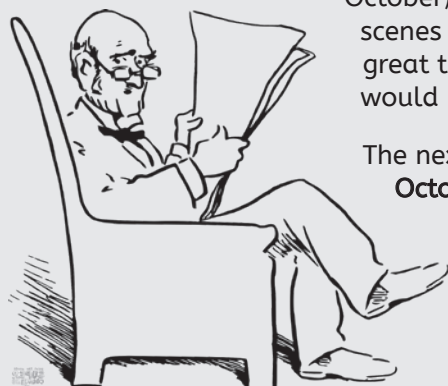
If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, please contact us at www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/. 

WHPA Board Meetings

Members are invited and encouraged to attend quarterly Board Meetings regularly (January, April, July, and

October) to see what goes on behind the scenes and stay informed. We have a great time at our board meetings and would love to have you join the fun!

The next board meeting will be **Monday, October 24th at 10:00 am**. This meeting will be held via Zoom. If you wish to attend, go to www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/ to request more information. 



WHPA Board of Directors

Jodi Buntin,
President

Dawn Cisler,
Vice President

Jennifer Grasse,
Secretary

Mary Sue Adams,
Treasurer

Rebecca Ahl,
Legislative Watch Committee

Michelle Holmquist,
Membership &
Communications

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.

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.**

Some important things to note:

- If your child is not age 6 by September 1, 2022, you do not need to file a PI-1206 Homeschool Report for 2022-23 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.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
HOME-BASED PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
PI-1206-HOMER (Rev. 08-2010)
Collection of this data is a requirement of s. 115.30(3) Wis. Stats.

To the Parent: Your PI-1206 Homeschool Report has been submitted and received by the DPI. Your confirmation number is 573. Do not mail this form. See bottom of page for instructions on how to update or correct.

2011-2012

For PARENT records only - DO NOT MAIL to DPI.

Parent/Guardian: John Smith
Email ID: johnsmith
Mailing Address: 1234 W Main St
Madison, WI 53718
Street Address: 1234 W Main St
Madison, WI 53718
School District(s) of Residence:
Grades 1-8: Madison Metropolitan
Grades 9-12: Madison Metropolitan

Section I: Home-Based Private Educational Program

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

Total Children Enrolled: 2

Section II: Affirmation

Section 115.30(3)(g) Homebased 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. Any individual providing instruction to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program, at a public or private school.

Section 115.30(4) Instruction in a home-based private educational program that meets all of the criteria under s. 115.30(1) may be substituted for attendance at a public or private school.

Section 115.30(5) The administrator of each home-based private educational program shall indicate on the form whether the system or program meets all of the criteria under s. 115.30(1).

Section 115.30(6)

(a) The primary purpose of the program is to provide private or religious-based education.

(b) The program is privately controlled.

(c) The program provides at least 180 hours of instruction each school year.

(d) The program provides a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction including, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and health, to curriculum any course, topic, or practice consistent with the program's religious doctrines or to exclude from the curriculum any course, topic, or practice inconsistent with the program's religious doctrines.

(e) The program is not operated or initiated for the purpose of circumventing the compulsory school attendance requirement under s. 115.30(1)(a).

Does your program meet all of the above named criteria?
You answered: ☒ True ☐ False

Recommendations: It is recommended that a copy of the following be maintained in your home if you are homeschooling children:
• A school calendar reflecting a minimum of 180 hours of instruction
• Course outlines verifying that there exists a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction
• A copy of this PI-1206

This data is on file at the Department of Public Instruction. Your confirmation number is 573.
Date was last updated on:
Parent date: 6/12/2012 1:47:43PM
Grade 1-8 date: 6/12/2012 1:48:10PM
Grade 9-12 date: 6/12/2012 1:48:10PM
NOTE: If you need to change any information on this page, including withdrawing from homeschooling, please return to "https://www2.dpi.wisconsin.gov/parents/pi1206.html" and make any necessary changes.
Or, call (608) 267-6248 or toll-free (800) 245-2732, extension 6 for assistance.

Printed on 6/12/2012 at 1:52:07PM

- 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. 🏠

Where Do the PI-1206 Homeschool Report Dates Come From?

WHPA is often asked where the dates for filing the PI-1206 Homeschool Report come from. Since this is a perennial question, we decided to research this further and would like to share some of the legislative history on the matter.

Summary: October 15 has been the filing due date for Wisconsin enrollment reports since 1959 (63 years), and the report has asked for the enrollment as of the 3rd Friday of September since 1967 (55 years).

Analysis

Prior to 1953, enrollment reporting was a part of the school census process. Beginning in 1953, Wis stat 39.025 (renumbered from 40.72(3) with 1953 Wisconsin Act 90) stated:

“The state superintendent may require the boards of all school districts to report to him the name of the school and its location, the name and address of the teachers, the number of months of school maintained during the year, the opening and closing dates, the names and ages of all pupils enrolled between the ages of 7 and 18, the names and post-office addresses and places of residence of the parents of such pupils, the number of the district and the distance such pupils reside from the schoolhouse, the number of days each pupil was present during each month, and any other information requested by him. The superintendent shall furnish report forms.”

1959 Wisconsin Act 286 (approved August 11, 1959) created the first statute in regards to specifically reporting enrollment and setting reporting dates (Wis stat 39.027):

“On or before October 15, 1959, and annually thereafter each administrator of a public or private school system shall submit, on forms provided, a statement of the enrollment on October 1 in the elementary and secondary schools under his jurisdiction to the department of public instruction which shall promptly prepare such reports as will enable both the public and private schools to make essential projections as to problems such as school buildings, teacher supply and funds required. The data shall be available to the public during regular office hours.”

Note that under this original statute, the report was to include a statement of enrollment as of October 1.

This statute was in effect until 1967, when 1967 Wisconsin Act 92 (approved July 27, 1967) was enacted, and included renumbering the statute from Wis stat 39.027 to the

current Wis stat 115.30(3) and moving the statement of enrollment date from October 1 to the 3rd Friday in September:

“On or before each October 15, each administrator of a public or private school system shall submit, on forms provided by the state superintendent, a statement of the enrollment on the 3rd Friday of September in the elementary and high school grades under his jurisdiction to the state superintendent who shall prepare such reports as will enable the public and private schools to make projections regarding school buildings, teacher supply and funds required.”

1969 Wisconsin Act 276 (published December 27, 1969) incorporated a small wording change from “state superintendent” to “department,” and this statute remained in effect until 1984, when our homeschooling law, 1983 Wisconsin Act 512, was enacted on May 10, 1984. This change included updating this statute (Wis stat 115.30(3)) to include home-based private educational programs (homeschools), and remains in effect today:

“On or before each October 15, each administrator of a public or private school system or a home-based private educational program shall submit, on forms provided by the department, a statement of the enrollment on the 3rd Friday of September in the elementary and high school grades under his or her jurisdiction to the department which shall prepare such reports as will enable the public and private schools and home-based private educational programs to make projections regarding school buildings, teacher supply and funds required. The administrator of each private school system and home-based private educational program shall indicate in his or her report whether the system or program meets all of the criteria under s. 118.165 (1).”

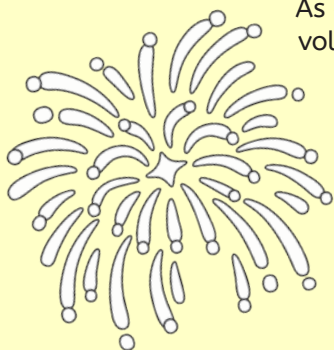
These dates are long-established in Wisconsin law, and there is no mystery behind them. Because homeschools, public schools, and private schools are on the same legal footing, these dates apply to each kind of school, and Wisconsin homeschoolers can help protect our very reasonable law by filing the PI-1206 Homeschool Report within this statutorily defined window. 🏠

References

docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1953/related/acts/90.pdf
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1959/related/acts/286.pdf
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1967/related/acts/92.pdf
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1969/related/acts/276.pdf
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1983/related/acts/512.pdf

What Do You Want to See at WHPA's 40th Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair?

We are excited to announce the theme for
WHPA's 40th Annual Conference and Resource Fair:
Celebrating 40 Years of Homeschooling Freedom in Wisconsin!

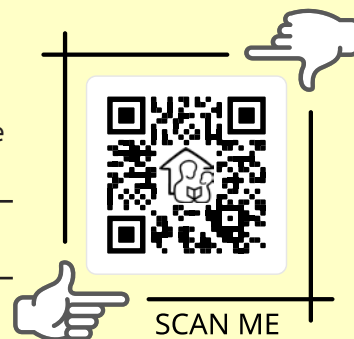


As an all-volunteer organization, WHPA exists only through the efforts of many volunteers – *can you imagine how many people it takes to put on a WHPA Conference and Resource Fair for hundreds of attendees?* Here's YOUR CHANCE to help make it an event YOU are excited to attend!

- Help bring our collective conference party vision to life!
- Meet new people and learn new things. (*All meetings will be held over Zoom.*)
- Share your skills, time, and talents.
- Network with other homeschoolers.
- Be part of the inner workings of our 40th Annual Conference and Resource Fair.
- Have a great time!

We have opportunities for any interest – adults and responsible kids are all welcome to get involved at any level. Check out the following **core opportunities** and **wish list opportunities**. More opportunities may become available as we move forward with planning the party (a.k.a. conference).

SCAN the QR code or go to
www.homeschooling-whpa.org/events-2/2023-conference/volunteer/ TODAY!



These are the core opportunities to be a part of planning the 2023 Celebration:

Resource Fair – similar to popular craft fairs, the Resource Fair is chock-full of vendors and exhibitors that specifically serve the homeschooling community in Wisconsin. The Resource Fair Coordinator(s) will be supported by our solid working structure and experienced committee members over the next 9 months as they organize the businesses, organizations, and groups into a mutually beneficial event!

Seeking: Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) and 2-3 volunteers to help at Conference

Swag Bags – who doesn't love Conference swag?! Conference attendees, volunteers, and committee members alike regularly tell us they love their Swag Bag full of information,

discounts, and goodies from Conference. The Swag Bag Coordinator will receive all the materials over the next 9 months, organize the stuffing party in April, and bring everything to Conference set-up.

Seeking: Coordinator and 2-4 volunteers for the stuffing party

Proofreaders – get out your (digital) red pen! Help the marketing coordinator dot their i's and cross their t's on a variety of materials via Google Docs over the next 9 months.

Seeking: 1-2 proofreaders

Set-Up Team – make it a family affair! Arrive early on Friday of conference to help the committee put up signs, organize materials, and finish all the little tasks for a smooth conference.

Seeking: 2-6 team players

Greeters – the perfect position for “people” people! Welcome attendees and answer questions during registration Friday evening and Saturday morning of Conference.

Seeking: 2-4 greeters

Registration – like Santa, but better! Check-in attendees, and hand out Conference packets and Swag Bags during registration Friday evening and Saturday morning of Conference.

Seeking: 2-4 registration volunteers

Connections Staff – make connections, and a craft! Watch over a project and help manage

(cont on pg 6)

What Do You Want to See... (con't)

(con't from pg 5)

the room for a shift during conference.

Seeking: 6-8 Connections volunteers

Food Helpers - essential, behind the scenes position. On site helper(s) ensure food delivery & clean-up goes smoothly for Friday evening, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch.

Seeking: 1-3 helper(s)

Runners - the extra pair of hands we all wish we had! Runners will make sure Conference coordinators, presenters, and speakers have everything they need for a successful session.

Seeking: 4-8 runners

Thank You Cards - write, write, write! Help after the conference to ensure speakers and volunteers receive the appropriate thank-yous. A great opportunity for a homeschooling family with older kids!

Seeking: 1 volunteer family

And here are the wish list opportunities if we have enough volunteer interest and involvement:

Used Book Sale - if you love garage sales, this is right up your alley. The Used Book Sale Coordinator(s) will be supported by our solid working structure and experienced committee members over the next 9 months as they organize sellers and their booths.

Seeking: Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) and 2-3 volunteers to help at Conference

Graduate Recognition - celebrate homeschoolers' accomplishments! Work with the Committee and homeschool graduates' families over the next 9 months to mark this milestone during Conference.

Seeking: 2 volunteers with computer and basic photo/video editing skills

College and Career Fair - help create this exciting new facet of Conference! Work with the Committee over the next 9 months to design, organize, and execute this chance for homeschoolers to learn about and connect with colleges and careers that interest them.

Seeking: Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) and 2 volunteers to help at Conference

Go to www.homeschooling-whpa.org/events-2/2023-conference/volunteer/ TODAY! 🏠

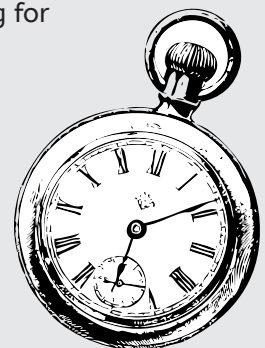
Milestones Flashback: 1998

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 twenty-four years ago: 1998

- RESOLUTION: 28. Day-Time Curfews, Truancy Sweeps, and ID Cards for Homeschoolers
- RESOLUTION: 29. The Real Cost of Tax Credits for Homeschoolers' Educational Expenses
- RESOLUTION: 30. Impact on Homeschooling Freedoms of Homeschoolers' Qualifying for Public School Sports Teams
- RESOLUTION: 31. High Schools' Mock Trial Involving a Homeschooler
- Homeschoolers working through WPA help defeat a parental rights amendment to the WI Constitution that would cost us our freedoms.
- WPA helps to amend truancy bill so it is less damaging.
- WPA opposes curfews and ID cards for homeschoolers.
- WPA successfully opposes tax credits for homeschoolers.

You can find the full text of these and all of WPA's resolutions on our website at www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolutions/. 🏠



Homeschooling Statistics Released

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recently released enrollment statistics for the 2021-2022 school year.

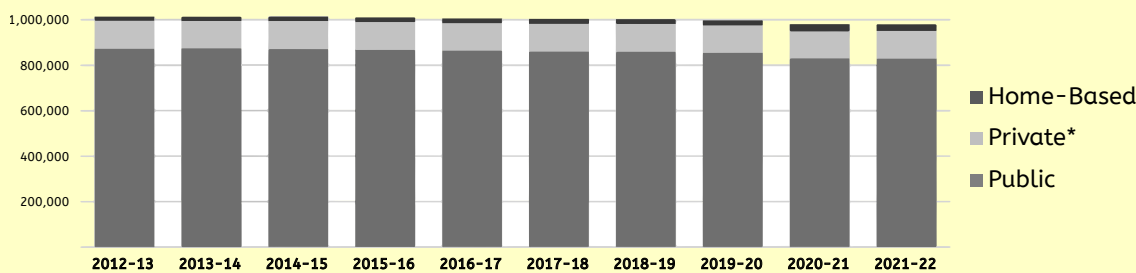
Homeschool enrollment went from 31,878 students in the 2020-2021 school year to 29,402 students for the 2021-2022 year, a decrease of 2,476 students. Homeschooled students make up 3 percent of the student population, versus 3.25 percent in the previous year.

Conversely, private school enrollment saw an increase of 2,867 students in the 2021-2022 school year, and the overall student population saw a slight decrease of 401 students.

As we pointed out in past articles, “Homeschooling Is A Hot Trend!” (Issue #139) and “Homeschooling Statistics” (Issues #135), overall homeschool enrollment was steady over the two decades prior to the pandemic (approximately 2 percent of the student population), and we cannot determine trends based on one or two years of data.



Wisconsin Enrollment Statistics: 2012-2022



**Private school enrollment data through the 2019-20 school year includes students enrolled at tribal schools. Starting with the 2020-21 school year, DPI no longer collects tribal school enrollment.

So does this mean that homeschooling in Wisconsin is in decline? No, since enrollment levels are still above the historic average, we cannot yet determine whether this is an indication that homeschool enrollment is beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels, or if we are settling into a new historic average. Again, two years of data is not enough to discern trends or draw definitive conclusions.

The statistics do demonstrate the strength of Wisconsin law, which allows a parent to easily change their child's enrollment status so they can make the educational choice consistent with their principles and beliefs.

Source: dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/parental-education-options/Home-Based/xls/2021-22-homebased-trends.xls 🏠

WHPA 101

Our popular WHPA 101 session 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-whpa.org/whpa-101/. 🏠

Excellent Scholarship Opportunity

WHPA is honored by our continued affiliation with the **Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship**. The Herb Kohl Foundation awards \$10,000 scholarships to 100 Wisconsin high school seniors each year. **Homeschooled Wisconsin seniors receive a proportionate number of the total scholarships awarded each year.**



Time. No late applications will be accepted. Applications submitted by the deadline without the three required letters of recommendation are incomplete and will not be considered.

Applicants must be homeschooled students who intend to enroll in a postsecondary institution, which may be a public or private two-year or four-year college or university. Students

who are residents of Wisconsin, are in good standing, and who demonstrate probable success in postsecondary education are eligible. **It is not necessary to be a WHPA member to apply.**

The goal of the Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship is to encourage Wisconsin youth to pursue post-secondary education in a public or nonpublic university, college, or vocational/technical college. More information is available on the at www.kohleducation.org/studentexcellence/.

The Kohl Foundation has made the application process accessible to all students, whether they are learning in traditional or nontraditional ways. Excellence in a variety of areas is recognized in the application process, such as leadership, citizenship, community involvement, and academics. Homeschool applicants will have the opportunity to tell their individual story of achievement in these areas: Arts & Humanities; Competitive Activities; Service, Civic, and Citizenship Activities; Work & Interests.

The Scholarship Application process opened on August 1, 2022. The Application deadline is Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 5:00 pm Central

For specific questions after reading the Kohl Foundation Scholarship pages, email the WHPA Kohl Scholarship support at kohlsupport@homeschooling-wpa.org. For help navigating the online application, see the Guidance document on our website at www.homeschooling-whpa.org/faqs/scholarships/

Please share this announcement with as many homeschool families as you can. Even if you are not homeschooling at this time, or don't have a graduating senior, chances are you know Wisconsin homeschooling families who could benefit from this scholarship. Please help spread the word about this excellent opportunity for teens who are planning a college education! Thank you! 🏠

Spread the Word!

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

Our member families both support and receive:



- Informative and helpful **newsletters** like this one
- Comprehensive, timely **website**, available to all Wisconsin

homeschoolers, prospective homeschoolers, homeschool supporters, and anyone with questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin

- All-volunteer **Question Answering Committee** to respond to questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin
- Annual **Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair** and **Virtual Events**
- **Legislative Watch Committee** of volunteers to keep informed of

legislative actions which could affect Wisconsin homeschoolers

- Statewide **WHPA 101 programs** upon request
- **Representation** of homeschoolers to the legislature and agencies

Hardship assistance may be available upon request.

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

United We Homeschoolers Stand

As we begin planning our 40th conference, we look back at this article from one of our earliest newsletters, just after the 2nd conference in 1985. Although we've added an "H" to our acronym, our purpose remains unchanged.

Reprinted from WPA Newsletter Issue #7, August 1985

Most people who filled out the evaluation form for the WPA Conference offered helpful suggestions for future Conferences and WPA activities. A few people offered suggestions that are good ideas but outside the scope of WPA. So this seems like a good time to reflect on what WPA is and is not.

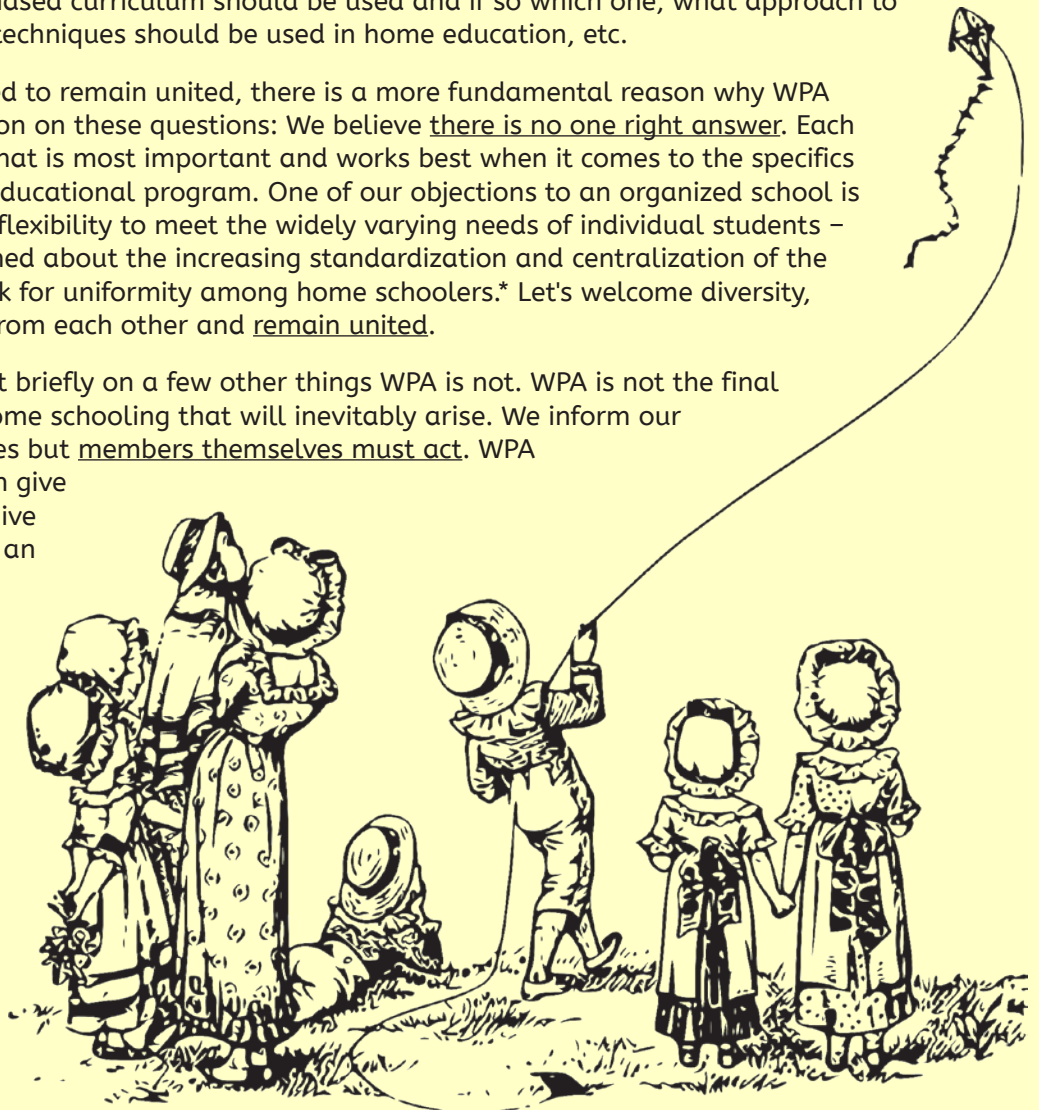
Most important of all, WPA is a group of people united to affirm parents' responsibility for their children's education and to protect the right of parents to educate their children at home if they choose to do so. The only reason Wisconsin has such a reasonable and fair home education law is that in the winter and spring of 1984, people with diverse ideas and beliefs were able to set aside their differences and work toward a common goal they all agreed on: the right to home education. In order to protect that law, it is essential that we remain united. We know what has happened in other states where home schoolers are divided among themselves. This means that WPA has avoided, and will continue to avoid, taking a stand on potentially divisive issues such as whether a purchased curriculum should be used and if so which one, what approach to learning is best, what specific techniques should be used in home education, etc.

In addition to the practical need to remain united, there is a more fundamental reason why WPA does not take an official position on these questions: We believe there is no one right answer. Each family must decide for itself what is most important and works best when it comes to the specifics of conducting a home-based educational program. One of our objections to an organized school is that it does not allow enough flexibility to meet the widely varying needs of individual students – this is also why we are concerned about the increasing standardization and centralization of the public schools. So let's not look for uniformity among home schoolers.* Let's welcome diversity, respect our differences, learn from each other and remain united.

It might be helpful to comment briefly on a few other things WPA is not. WPA is not the final answer to the challenges to home schooling that will inevitably arise. We inform our membership of these challenges but members themselves must act. WPA

is not a legal authority. We can give legal information but cannot give legal advice nor can we act as an attorney in a court case. WPA is not primarily a support group. We encourage support groups, but basically the responsibility for forming support groups lies with individual members. WPA is not involved in issues not directly related to education in Wisconsin. There are many other worthy causes, but to tackle any other would dilute our efforts and possibly divide our organization. 🏠

*Homeschoolers was originally two words.



Rebus Puzzle Answers (from pg 18)
1. Long time no see 2. Big fish in a small pond 3. Beat around the bush 4. Three blind mice 5. Back on one's feet 6. Back rub 7. All in a day's work 8. All thumbs 9. A little bit under the weather 10. Pinching pennies 11. The ball is in your court 12. Small potatoes

Color With Me: Petrykivka

Petrykivka painting is a traditional Ukrainian decorative painting style, originating from the village of Petrykivka in Dnipropetrovsk oblast of Ukraine, where it was traditionally used to decorate house walls and everyday household items. The earliest known examples of this style date from the 18th century, but it continues to thrive and develop as a modern art form. *[Source: Wikipedia]*





Insights from the Handbook

Getting Started: What Does It Take to Homeschool?

Homeschooling in Wisconsin: At Home With Learning, 7th edition, pg. 20-22 (updated for use here)

Starting homeschooling is exciting and challenging. Here are some suggestions.

- **First, take a deep breath.** Homeschooling has worked well for many families, and it can work for yours. There's no rush. You have time to decide how you want to homeschool, what curriculum and method to use, how to comply with the law, and all that. WHPA's extensive website (www.homeschooling-whpa.org) will help you enormously.
- **Learn what's required to homeschool in Wisconsin** and what's not required in the "Wisconsin Law" section of WHPA's website. It's important to keep in mind that each state has its own homeschool law, and that Wisconsin's homeschool law is unique to our state constitution and our state's history.



- **File your PI-1206 Homeschool Report online with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as legally required.** Find more information on page 3 of this newsletter and WHPA's website under "When and How to File the PI-1206 Homeschool Report."
- **Take a break from school work – often referred to as "deschooling."** This will be a big help in starting homeschooling. Take the pressure off yourself and your kids. Don't worry about textbooks, worksheets, methods, or curricula for a week, a month, or as long as it takes for you and your students to be ready to start your homeschooling journey. Instead, help the kids find constructive things to do, or, better yet, do things together. Ask the kids what they'd like to do. Think of things you've wanted to do but haven't had time for—until now. Don't worry about how you'll get the 875 hours required by statute. You will be amazed at how much the kids learn while deschooling, and you'll have plenty of time later for more formal academics, if that's the type of curriculum and method you choose.

Deschooling gives your family an opportunity to come together, get to know each other better, improve communication, reduce tension, and just plain have fun. Kids

unwind, get their feet on the ground, and relax. It's especially important for kids who have had difficulties in conventional school, whether because of academics, teachers, peer pressure, bullying, or whatever. Parents can focus on just parenting without worrying about teaching.

Some good activities for deschooling might include:

- Reading what the kids choose, as long as you consider it acceptable.
- Watching appropriate movies.
- Sleeping. Many kids (and parents) do not get as much sleep as they need. Catching up on sleep often works wonders.
- Going for long walks or nature hikes.
- Playing at the park.
- Daydreaming.
- Going to the library and checking out fun stuff: DVDs, music, magazines, colorful books from the children's section, cookbooks, anything that looks appealing.
- Taking a trip: a day trip to a nearby city or park, an overnight to a favorite spot or a new one you want to explore, or, if you can afford the time and money, a real vacation. If you give the


(con't on pg 16)



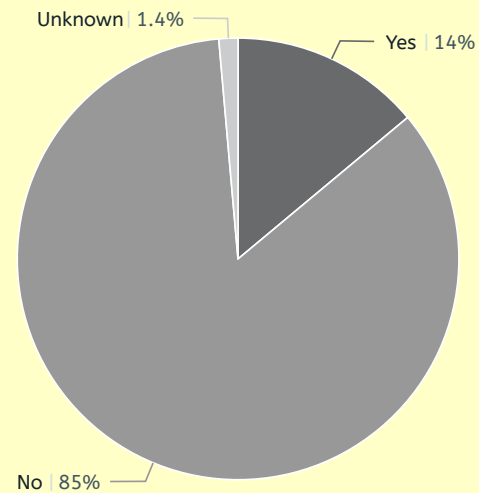
QAC Corner: Questions Answered September 2021 - August 2022

Every week, parents are seeking accurate information about homeschooling in Wisconsin. WHPA maintains its commitment to provide this information to anyone who seeks it, regardless of membership status, through a variety of resources. The cornerstone of these resources is the Question Answering Committee, or QAC, whose member volunteers answer questions either by email or phone.

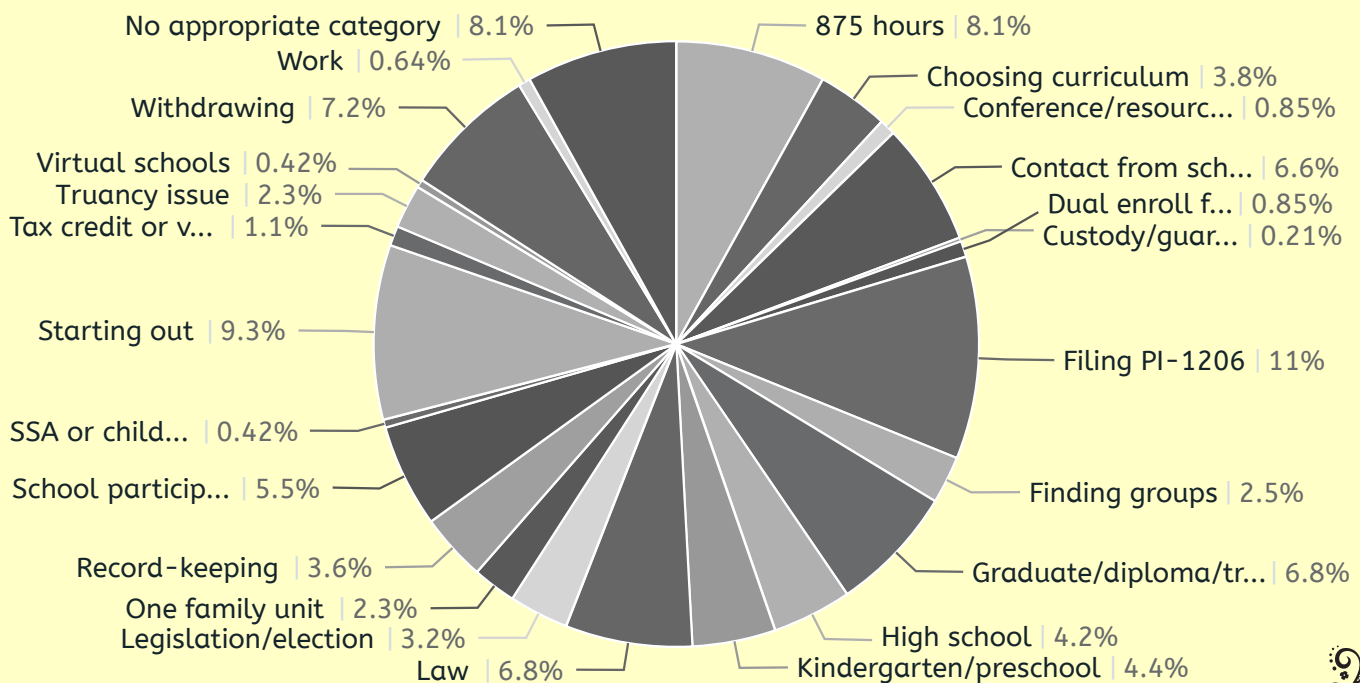
Over the 2021-22 year, from September through August, the QAC logged a total 287 contacts. As can be seen in the chart on the right, a significant majority of those contacts were with non-members. Over 1/3 of the questions fell into the core topic categories of our law, starting out, filing the PI-1206 homeschool report, and the 875 hours requirement.

The QAC is always looking for member volunteers with a commitment to WHPA's mission, good written and oral communication skills, and a desire to help others. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/. 

WHPA Member?



Reason for Question?



Bookworm Biblio-File



Book Title: **Trying**

Author: Kobi Yamada

This book is good for all ages.

What I liked most about this book is: It wonderfully captures the fear we've all felt of failing and gently guides you to actively challenge the validity of that fear. It is also very beautifully illustrated.

Your first name and age: Addie, 15

Book Title: **Coraline**

Author: Neil Gaiman

This book is good for ages: around 10+

What I liked most about this book is: Subtle spookiness and fun curiosity of what will happen next.

Your first name and age: Elliot, 14

Book Title: **Cress Watercress**

Author: Gregory Maguire

This book is good for ages: 6-12

What I liked most about this book is: It was about real life problems, but the characters were adorable animals, also there were some really great illustrations.

Your first name and age: Five, 11

Book Title: **A Whale of the Wild**

Author: Rosanne Parry

This book is good for ages: 11 and up (to really grasp the message)

What I like most about this book is: This emotional, hopeful story, from a whale's point of view, shows the challenges an orca has to face in a world with humans. This book brings awareness to an environmental issue that most of us humans never even think about. Another great book by this author is A Wolf Called Wander!

First name and age: Giovanna, 14

Book Title: **Keeper of the Lost Cities**

Author: Shannon Messenger

This book is good for ages: Teen

What I liked most about this book is: The unique take on the hidden world under our noses story trope.

Your first name and age: Sam, 20

Bookworm Biblio-File highlights recommendations from WHPA's young members of books they love. It's simple to share your suggestions. Go to www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/, fill out your information, and choose "Newsletter Idea" from the **Subject** drop-down. Then, for each recommendation, copy and paste the following prompts into the **Your Question or Comment** section and fill in the blanks:

- Book Title:
- Author:
- This book is good for ages:
- What I liked most about this book is:
- Bookworm's first name and age:

All submissions are subject to review of course, and space is limited. We can't wait to hear from you! 🏠

Attention 4th Graders!

A WHPA member submission

Students in fourth grade are eligible for a **free Trail Pass family membership** to *Riveredge Nature Center* in Saukville, Wisconsin. There is a visitor center, several trails to explore, and many events, programs, and educational opportunities for all ages. Membership offers discounts on tickets for programs, events and purchases in the Nature Center Store, as well as admission and discounts at 140 other nature centers in the US and Canada.

Five of the other centers in the reciprocal membership program are also located in Wisconsin:

- *Baird Creek Preservation Foundation*, Green Bay
- *Beaver Creek Reserve*, Fall Creek

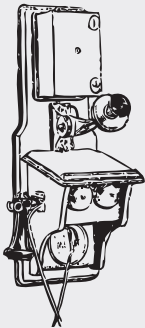
- *Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Inc.*, Menasha
- *Schlitz Audubon Nature Center*, Milwaukee
- *Urban Ecology Center*, Milwaukee

Passes run from June 1st to August 31st of the year students are in 4th grade. See www.riveredgenaturecenter.org/membership/#4th-graders for more information and to sign up to receive a free pass!



Additionally, fourth graders are also eligible to receive a **free National Park Pass** for the whole family to enjoy parks across the country, like Yellowstone. Passes run from September 1st to August 31st of the year students are in 4th grade. For additional details and to obtain a free pass, visit everykidoutdoors.gov/. 🏠

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 at www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/ for consideration! 🏠

Website Developments

WHPA's website redesign is progressing smoothly! The Board has approved the final layouts for many of the site pages, and is working hard to organize the vast amount of information for the site in a clear, easy-to-navigate structure. The developer is getting ready to begin building the site's infrastructure, and everyone is looking forward to the improvements for our volunteers and our members. 🏠



Insights from the Handbook (con't)

(con't from pg 12)

kids as much responsibility as possible for planning, preparing, and managing the trip, they will learn without you having to do lesson plans or motivate them.

Many parents find they need to limit or prohibit activities they feel are unacceptable or unhelpful, perhaps computer games, television, etc.

If your family would also like to do something academic each day, here are some suggestions:

Read each day, in whatever way works best for your family. Take turns reading aloud. Gather as a group and each read silently. Listen to books on tape. Stretch the definition of reading and watch a movie based on a book. Read anything that appeals to you: magazines, picture books (no matter how old you are), novels, stories about homeschooling, you name it.

Activities like these will give your children plenty of learning opportunities while you take your time choosing a curriculum and method that will work for your family. You don't need to do at home what your children would have done if they had been attending a conventional school. As you're doing activities from the books listed above, remember that anything we learn is helpful. If your kids learn something about math or science or whatever that isn't part of the standard curriculum for their grade, it's not a waste! It will help them learn the material for their grade when or if you go back to it.

- **Take your time in choosing**

- **a curriculum and method.**

Review the "Curriculum, Methods, and Resources" section of the WHPA website. Explore what's available and try some (online, through your library, or from other homeschoolers) before you decide on a curriculum and method. Trying to get kids to use something that's not working creates tension and makes learning more difficult. You'll have time for the 875 hours of instruction required by law, even if you spend a month or two choosing a curriculum and method. Recognizing what they are learning, and how you learn together, will help you choose a curriculum and method that works for your family.

- **Learn more about libraries in your area.**

Most homeschoolers rely heavily on libraries. You can save hundreds of dollars on curriculum by using the library for most of your learning resources. And being a "regular" at your local library can lead to new connections and exciting discoveries.

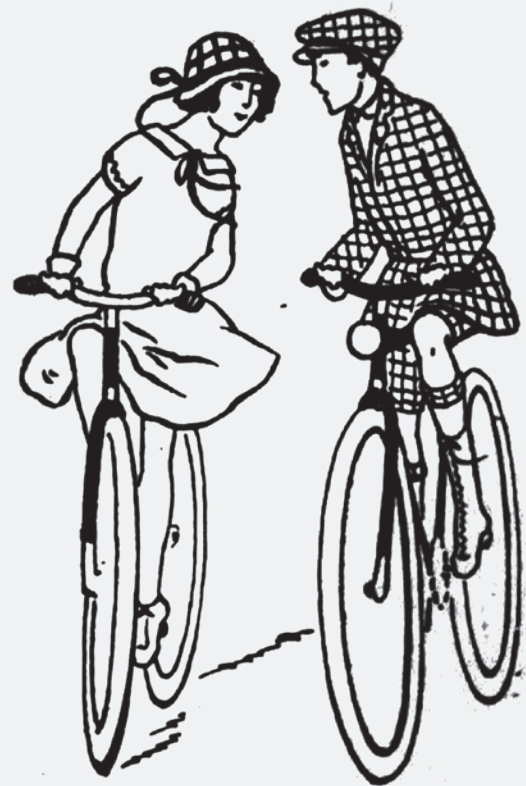
- **Get in touch with other homeschoolers.**

They will give you information and support, and your kids will be glad to know they aren't the only homeschoolers around. Internet

and social media searches for "homeschool group" along with your city, county, or region should lead you in the right direction. Visit as many as you reasonably can. Group missions and dynamics vary a lot, and it's worth spending some time to find a good fit for your family. If you can't find a group that meets your needs, consider starting one yourself and publicizing it at the library, online, and wherever your kids like to spend time.

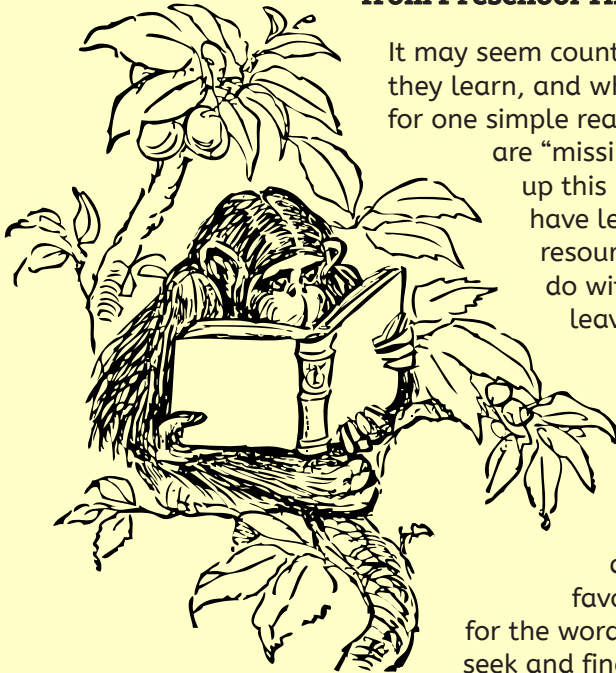
- **Expect some ups and downs.** Homeschooling is a big change; it takes time to adjust and feel confident. Expect to spend time figuring out how you want to homeschool and gaining confidence. Then, just when

(con't on pg 18)



On Our Shelves: Homeschooling Book Recommendations from WHPA Members

Home Learning Year by Year: How to Design a Homeschool Curriculum from Preschool Through High School by Rebecca Rupp



It may seem counterintuitive for an unschooling family to rely on a “what should they learn, and when” type of book, but this book is never far from my workspace for one simple reason - perspective. Whenever doubt creeps in that my kids are “missing something” or “behind” or some other notion, I just pick up this book and remind myself of all the amazing things my kids have learned all on their own. I also find myself looking up starting resources for things the kids want to learn. But the one thing I never do with this book is use it to measure our homeschool’s success. I leave that up to my kids.

GAMES World of Puzzles Magazines

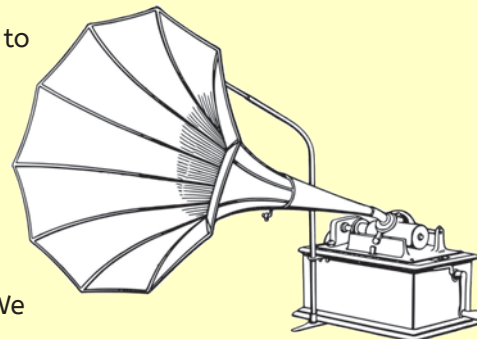
This isn’t a book, but I love using these in our homeschool. I had a subscription as a kid in the 80’s, and it’s such a treat to share the tradition. Each issue has so many creative games and puzzles, we each find something to sink our teeth into. My favorites are always the logic puzzles, while one of my kids goes for the word searches and the other turns to the find the difference and seek and find pictures.

The Game Believes in You: How Digital Play Can Make Our Kids Smarter Hardcover by Greg Toppo

This one is the next one on my list. I can’t wait!!! From the publisher: “Experts argue that games do truly “believe in you.” They focus, inspire and reassure people in ways that many teachers can’t. Games give people a chance to learn at their own pace, take risks, cultivate deeper understanding, fail and want to try again—right away—and ultimately, succeed in ways that too often elude them in school. This book is sure to excite and inspire educators and parents, as well as provoke some passionate debate.” 🏠

Call for Submissions: On Our Shelves


Share your favorite homeschooling books! Just go to www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/, fill out your information, and choose “Newsletter Idea” from the Subject drop-down. Then in the Your Question or Comment section, tell us the title, author, and a short paragraph about the book and why you’re recommending it to other homeschooling parents. All submissions are subject to review of course, and space is limited. We can’t wait to hear from you! 🏠



Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association Newsletter • Issue #141 • Fall 2022

you think you almost know what you're doing, things will change, and you'll need to adjust. Searching, trial-and-error, and mid-course corrections are all part of what makes homeschooling so exciting and why it works so well for so many different families. Work together, be flexible, and enjoy the journey.

- present and future of homeschooling in Wisconsin depend on you and other homeschoolers. Actions of individuals like you are critical to maintaining our homeschooling freedoms. Take some time to read through WHPA's Ten Principles to do your part.

- need to homeschool. In addition, Wisconsin has one of the most reasonable homeschooling laws in the country because homeschoolers working together through WHPA (then known as WPA) got the law passed in 1984. WHPA's volunteers have worked for decades to maintain that law, despite numerous challenges. WHPA cannot do its work without members and volunteers like you. 

Rebus Puzzles

Find the answers to the puzzles on pg 9.

1	2	3
TIME a b d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z	poFiSHnd	B E T A BUSH
4	5	6
mce mce mce	1111 _{b a c k}	RUR
7	8	9
DAYSALLWORK	THUMBSTHUMBSTHUMBS THUMBSTHUMBSTHUMBS THUMBSTHUMBSTHUMBS THUMBSTHUMBSTHUMBS THUMBSTHUMBSTHUMBS THUMBSTHUMBSTHUMBS	WEATHER bit
10	11	12
PENNIES	YUWIEBALLET	potatoes potatoes potatoes potatoes potatoes

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.

Your 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.

How Can You Support WHPA's Work?

Join WHPA:

- Stay informed and updated; lend your voice.
- Encourage other homeschoolers and supporters to join.
- Set up Automatic Renewal next time you renew.
- Gift a membership to another family.

Communicate:

- Let WHPA know what's happening in your local communities and act appropriately, with 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 quarterly Board meetings to be an informed member.

Donate:

- \$25 pays for one month of 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.
- \$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.
- Submit a newsletter article, suggestion, or artwork for consideration.

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



Upcoming Events

You can find all the latest events, updates, and registration information at
www.homeschooling-whpa.org/events-2/.



Virtual Event: Coffee With The Board

September 9, 2022
@ 7:30 - 9:00 am on Zoom



Virtual Event: Coffee With The Board

September 20, 2022
@ 7:30 - 9:00 am on Zoom



Board Meeting – Oct '22

October 24, 2022 @ 10:00 am on Zoom



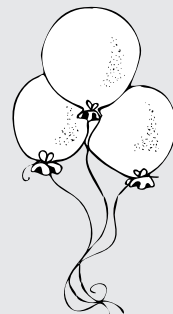
Annual Member Meeting

November 1, 2022
@ 6:00 pm on Zoom



***40th Annual Homeschooling
Conference and Resource Fair***

May 5-6, 2023 at Holiday Inn
Stevens Point - Convention
Center, Stevens Point, WI



Be A Fact-Finder!

Q: Why is it vital for homeschoolers to learn to work with your legislators, regardless of political party?

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. 