

Homeschool 101

Presented by The REALM Creative Academy

Is Homeschooling Legal in California?

Written by Melissa Zawrotny on January 11, 2012

<http://www.homeschoola.us>

Is Homeschooling Legal in California? Sort of...let's just start out on a clear platform here. There is no such word as "homeschooling" in any California Education Code. Nor are there any derivations of such a word.

This is not to say that it is legally acceptable nor is specifically ILLEGAL to "homeschool" in California. One engages in what is commonly known as "homeschooling" either through a public school; through a private, home-based school; or by hiring a private tutor. While there are no specific California laws restricting or permitting what is commonly known as "homeschooling", let's discuss the four options to comply with what the law DOES say.

All California Education Codes can be found here:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=edc>

California state law (CA Ed. Code Section 48200) requires all children between the ages of 6 and 18 to be enrolled in a public school unless they are "exempt" because they are attending a full-time private school or being tutored by a person holding a current California credential. This is also known as California's "compulsory education law".

There are four options for parents to help their children meet the requirements of "compulsory education" under current California law.

- To establish a home-based private school (using Private School Affidavit)
- To enroll students ages 6 through 18 in a private school that offers independent study (PSP)
- To enroll students ages 6 through 18 in a public school that offers independent study (Public ISP or Charter)
- To hire a private tutor. This person must hold a currently valid credential issued by the State of California covering the grades being taught

None of these options is "better" than any other. Choosing one of these options is dependent on the individual needs of each student, and balancing these needs with the needs of the family overall.

Websites for getting started

Home School LA - Park days, resources, articles & more:

<http://www.homeschoolla.us>

Homeschool Association of California - How to get started, legal advice:

<http://hsc.org>

Adventures in Homeschooling Conference, July 31-Aug 3, Santa Clara:

<http://www.hsconference.com/main.html>

California Homeschool Network – How to get started, legal advice:

<http://www.californiahomeschool.net/>

California Homeschool Network Family Expo, June 1-22, Torrance:

<http://chnfamilyexpo.com/>

Yahoo groups: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo>

Santa Monica Homeschooling

CWHN

SBHN-talk

FieldtripSoCal

Homeschool Family Camp

Hsc_campers

SOCALHOMESCHOOLEVENTS

LATWEENTEN

FaCE-LA

MeetUp groups:

LA Homeschoolers MeetUp

<http://www.meetup.com/Homeschoolers/events/calendar/?scroll=true>

(Search 'meetups.com' for more)

Public Charter Schools

Sky Mountain Charter School

<http://www.skymountaincs.org/>

Golden Valley Charter School

<http://www.goldenvcs.org/>

Excel College Prep

<http://www.excelcollegeprep.org/>

DaVinci Innovative Academy, Hawthorne (2 days on campus, 3 days homeschool)

<http://www.davincischools.org/innovationacademy.shtml>

Bridges Charter, Thousand Oaks

<http://bridgescharter.org/home-school-program/>

Classes/Programs

HSSegue.com is an interactive on-line community where independent educators may post classes, field trips and events. Through *HSsegue*, educators can inform the homeschooling public of their event, as well as manage enrollment. <https://www.hssegue.com/>

The Realm Creative Academy, Santa Monica

www.realcreativeacademy.com

The Exploratory, Culver City

www.theexploratory.com

The Creative Learning Place, Olympic & Fairfax, LA

www.creativelearningplace.com

Urban Homeschoolers, Atwater Village

<http://www.urbanhomeschoolers.com/>

WISH Co-op, Pasadena

www.homeschoollife.com/sysfiles/member/index_public.cfm?memberid=1172

Mudpies and Butterflies, Topanga Canyon

<http://lifelearnersla.com/>

Experium Science Center, Torrance

<http://www.experiumscienceacademy.com/>

Great Educational Experiences, Long Beach

<http://www.meetup.com/geeclasses/>

Celebration Education, based in Yucaipa. Teachers will come to you and field trips take place all over SoCal <http://www.celebrationeducation.ning.com>

Discounted homeschool days and/or classes may also be found at such organizations as:

California Science Center

Natural History Museum

LaBrea Tar Pits

Long Beach Aquarium

Legoland

Disneyland

And we are sure there are more... In fact, contact an organization and organize your own homeschool field trip day!

Curriculum

Homeschoolbuyers co-op

[<http://www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org/homeschool-curriculum/>](http://www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org/homeschool-curriculum/)

Jimmie's Collage

<http://jimmiescollage.com/> List of FREE curriculum catalogs

Homeschool.com

<http://www.homeschool.com/>

Books

http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/731.Best_Homeschooling_Books



**The Homeschool
Therapist**

Michelle was scheduled to be part of our panel this evening, but an emergency occurred and she could not join us. She is offering attendees a FREE Consultation, plus a FREE PDF download of her book, ***Finding Your Way: Exploring Your Family's Educational Journey***

To receive a copy of her book and/or a free consultation, email Michelle at *Michella* at *michellebarone dot com* Michelle@michellebarone.com

You will also be put on Michelle's email list so that you may receive her newsletter, which is full of good info for homeschoolers.

****Write HOMESCHOOL 101 KATHY in the subject line to receive your free gifts****

Had Michelle been able to join us, this is what she would have shared:

My children are now 28 and 21. We always homeschooled/unschooled. I was trained at Pacific Oaks College in progressive education and had taught special needs kids for about 6 years before I went back to get my MFT. I had planned to send my kids to Public School, but then I read an article in *Mothering Magazine* in 1987 or so about homeschooling, and I thought wow this makes great sense and fits with my progressive education training.

Our homeschooling took many forms over the years, but the over arching emphasis was TRUST that people are designed to grow, learn and thrive, and that I was a guide/leader and supported them where they were. I didn't worry about what 'they should be doing or learning". We did park days, and lots and lots of free play. We did academics during our day in conjunction with our life. We went to the library, explored what we liked and did some community-based arts classes and some one-to-one study when asked for by my kids. We fully indulged and explored their personal interests: music, comedy improv, racecar driving, musical theatre, girl scouts, etc... We were busy!!!

I was single mom, but lucky to have their Dad fully support our HS, and he participated everyday with that. (another story for another time)

My son has loved EMT/Paramedic stuff since he was little. He went to massage school at age 18. This was his first exposure to any formal learning and testing. He did great! At age 20, he attended EMT school, and worked as an EMT for couple years. Then he went to Paramedic school. He works now as a Paramedic 2 in Ventura County. Out of 400 applicants, he was in the top 4. He teaches the EMT course at the Conjo Valley adult school and CPR and ALS at Life Saver

education. He has lived on his own since he finished school, and keeps his apartment more organized and cleaned than he ever did as a kid or learned from me.

My daughter is 21. She is living at home, but spends most of her time at her boyfriends, or at the families for whom she nannies. She did a bit of community college courses in her late teens, and a lot of improv classes. She has traveled with an education group, *People to People*, starting when she was 13 yrs old. She has been to 8 countries. She isn't exactly sure what her long-term goal is, but she is back at community college with 4.0, and will do a study abroad in the fall in Florence, Italy. She works as a nanny/house sitter and pays for the majority of her own things.

I have a close relationship with both of them. I think this is because I always lived by 'relationship-over-things'. Tasks/academics can always be done and learned at any age, but connection and relationships need to be at the forefront for long-term happiness and health.

In love & light, Michelle

Reasons Why I Chose to Homeschool

by Stacy Hensel

- I enjoy being with my children, watching them grow and develop.
- School, in my opinion, didn't provide developmentally appropriate curriculum in either academic areas or social/emotional areas. They use coercion, competition, rewards, and punishments to get children to perform.
- Life is short and kids need a lot of time outdoors exploring their environment firsthand.
- Kids learn through playing, and the type of play at school is fragmented, controlled and of poor quality.
- Kids need time to be bored with no media or structured activities so they can foster their creativity and develop who they are, with 30 plus hours of school per week plus homework plus normal daily activities such as eating, sleeping and bathing; I feel like we are on a "conveyor belt" and we are stealing their childhoods.
- When your children are sick, they can actually rest without feeling guilty like they are going to bankrupt the system, or miss out on the attendance award.
- School can be painstakingly slow moving and individualized learning is optimal in my opinion.
- Everyone has different learning styles. School can't possibly cater to all of them.
- Research shows the key factor in the success of children at school is parent involvement. Homeschooling is the epitome of parent involvement.

- Learning happens all the time, not just during school hours or to prepare for a test.
- Socially, homeschooled children have many more opportunities to travel, volunteer, lead co-ops, experience "real world" living, not only in a group of their same-aged peers.
- Sleep is very important for healthy development, and homeschooling enables kids to get enough of it.
- Nutrition is better taught in the home and homeschoolers can enjoy healthy, warm meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Homeschooling is more authentic learning.

10 Things a Seasoned Homeschooler Would Suggest to a New Homeschooler

By: Patty Biner, Da Vinci Innovation Academy Parent

- 1) Connect instead of panic. You are not alone, reach out to a group of homeschoolers (through Da Vinci, Yahoo groups, park days etc). Attend group meetings regularly and build relationships.
- 2) Don't spend a lot of money on curriculum. Talk to others before buying anything, they might already have it around for you to look at and "try on". You might also be able to find something similar for free. Use the library and the internet.
- 3) Make a designated place in your house for "school". Make it in a place that you can see and monitor easily, it is hard to stay focused while at home. I suggest the kitchen table. Everyone can work there if you are sitting with them. If you have more than one kid, you might want to consider separating them so that each has the opportunity to get their work done. Don't force the issue. If your kid does good work while lounging on the sofa, go with it.
- 4) Work with your kid's clock. Some kids do their best work in the morning, some in the evening. Find what works best for them; it will make your life so much easier.
- 5) Learn as much as you can in a fun, active way; they will remember it better. Sitting and doing worksheets is boring and usually doesn't accomplish what you want. Make everything you do a learning experience and make learning an adventure.
- 6) Keep tweaking what you are doing at home, schedule/material/activities, until you find what works, it is supposed to be fun. Don't try to duplicate what is done in school.
- 7) Think-out answers to friends/family/strangers that question you homeschooling your child. You ultimately know what is best for your kid. Ask other homeschoolers what they say.

- 8) Pay attention to your child's learning style. Don't force YOUR learning style on them. Be willing to stop something that isn't working.
- 9) Have your children see YOU learn new things, set a good example.
- 10) Relax and have fun being with your children. This is an awesome opportunity to build strong, lasting relationships with your kids and them with each other.

Thank you for joining us at the Realm for Homeschool 101. We appreciate your dedication to your children and their education. We are here to support you in any way we can.