

POLICY POSITION



PROTECTING PARENTS' RIGHTS TO HOMESCHOOL WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

Summary

Date

August 2025

OCC supports parents' and their children's rights to a homeschool education without government strings attached.

Homeschooling allows for personalized learning tailored to a child's unique pace, interests, and learning style; it provides greater flexibility in scheduling and curriculum, leading to deeper exploration of subjects. Additionally, homeschooling fosters stronger family bonds and preserves family values.

KEY TENETS

BACKGROUND

OCC unequivocally supports homeschooling as a legitimate and preferred educational choice for Oregon families. Homeschooling allows parents to tailor instruction to each child's learning style, pace, and interests—fostering deeper intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and academic excellence outside the constraints of a standardized model. Homeschooling also provides a powerful means of preserving family religious beliefs, cultural traditions, and moral values, ensuring that education aligns with—not undermines—what is taught in the home.

In Oregon, homeschooling has experienced notable growth in recent years, particularly during and following Oregon's draconian COVID lockdowns. U.S. Census data estimates that approximately 6.5% of K-12 students in the state were homeschooled during the 2022-23 school year, rising to around 7.0% in 2023-24. An estimated 45,000 students are currently homeschooled in Oregon.

THE BENEFITS OF HOMESCHOOLING

Multiple studies, including those from the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI), show that homeschooled students often perform better in college than traditionally schooled students. They tend to have higher GPAs, better retention rates, and stronger self-motivation. Research suggests homeschooled graduates are equally or more likely to be employed in adulthood. Homeschooling cultivates independent learning, self-discipline, and critical thinking—skills valued in both college and the workplace.

Studies (e.g., Cardus Education Survey) show homeschooled graduates have strong family ties and are more likely to have stable, long-term adult relationships. They tend to be civically engaged, voting more often and participating in community service or religious groups.

OREGON'S FAILURES IN EDUCATION

In contrast, Oregon's public schools face pressing systemic challenges that hinder student success. The state ranks near the lowest nationwide for reading and math proficiency, with many students performing below basic benchmarks on national and state assessments. Chronic absenteeism affects over 40% of Oregon students, contributing to increasing dropout risks. Programs for students who either struggle and need special attention, or who are gifted and need extra opportunities, are subpar.

In addition to structural failures, Oregon's public schools have increasingly become platforms for ideological and political agendas that may conflict with the deeply held family convictions. From curriculum content to classroom policies, parents often have limited control or input over the values being promoted. Homeschooling offers a safe haven from this trend, protecting children from indoctrination and allowing families to instill their own faith and ethical principles without interference.

SCHOOL CHOICE

OCC opposes school choice initiatives that involve government funding with attached conditions or oversight, which occurs with nearly all funding. While financial assistance may seem helpful, it often introduces government regulation that threatens the independence that makes homeschooling so effective. Educational freedom must not be compromised by funding that comes with mandates. School choice initiatives should provide education protection from government intervention, and OCC prefers those providing a tax credit to parents, which creates a funding alternative to relying on government-funded schools.

In summary: Homeschooling in Oregon provides a crucial educational path that upholds academic excellence, protects family values, and shields children from ideological indoctrination—so long as it remains free from government control and interference.