

# Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

## HOMESCHOOLING AS AN EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVE

The rise of violence in public and private schools has caused some parents to consider homeschooling as an alternative for their children. The three reasons cited by the majority of homeschooling parents in the United States are:

- Concerns about the school environment;
- The desire to provide religious or moral instruction; and
- Dissatisfaction with the instruction provided in public and private schools.

Lifestyle factors can sometimes make homeschooling an attractive option, also. For example, families living in isolated rural locations, living temporarily abroad, or those who travel or move frequently may prefer to homeschool.

In 2007, the number of homeschooled students was about 1.5 million, an increase from 850,000 in 1999. The percentage of the school-age population that was homeschooled increased from 1.7 percent in 1999 to 2.9 percent in 2007 - almost doubling in an eight year period. Reliable data for today is not available, but homeschooling has continued to increase in the past five years. Home-based students may attend classes with other students a few hours each week. Home-based instruction often includes online courses.

It is important to note that providing an adequate education for your child takes a lot of time, preparation, and commitment. Parents should ask their public school district what type of documentation and assessments are needed so the child could be accepted back into public school and receive credits toward graduation.



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*CYSS Mission: To support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities*



This information has been provided by Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services.  
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## HOMESCHOOLING PROS AND CONS

As with anything, home education has its disadvantages. Here is a candid look at homeschooling pros and cons:

Pros	Cons
Children are taught according to their learning styles and interests.	Parents must help children improve upon their weaknesses and not just cater to their strengths.
Parents have more control over how and what their children are taught.	Parents take on sole responsibility for oversight of their children's education.
Children can progress slowly or quickly, according to their abilities.	Parents may feel inadequate to address the needs of gifted and special needs students.
Schedules revolve around family and allow time to bond with parents and siblings.	Extended time with family can strain tense relationships or lead to burnout on the part of the teaching parent.
Flexible schedules allow time for breaks, field trips, vacations.	Family crises, illness, or inadequate supervision by parents can interfere with learning.
Curriculum for an entire year costs less than one month of private school tuition.	Parents must purchase own materials and still pay public school taxes.
Children spend time in a diverse, real world environment.	Parents must search for activities such as sports and music that are easily accessible at school.
Parents can transmit their values to children and shelter them from negative influence.	Parents must give children increasing independence and a chance to learn to stand for their values.

Chart Source: Successful Homeschooling (<http://www.successful-homeschooling.com/homeschooling-pros-and-cons.html>)



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