

# IS HOME-SCHOOLING RIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?

Reviewed Mar 21, 2019

Parents home-school their children for a variety of reasons. Some military families see home-schooling as a way to give their children a consistent education despite frequent moves. Other home-schoolers are unhappy with the quality of education in their public schools and feel they can do better.

Other common reasons why parents home-school their children include to:

- Let their kids learn at their own pace and pursue their own interests
- Incorporate religious or moral instruction into their daily lessons

Here are some things to think about if you are considering home school for your child.

## **Know the laws in your state**

State laws regulating home-schooling vary. Most states require parents to notify school officials of their intent to teach their children at home. Some states specify a minimum number of instruction hours, list which subjects must be taught, and require periodic assessments of home-schooled students. Others leave curriculum and attendance entirely up to the parents, with no monitoring or assessments.

Contact your local school district to find out about the laws and requirements where you live.

## Questions to ask yourself

To help you decide whether home-schooling is right for your family, ask yourself the following questions:

- **Can we afford to home-school?** In addition to the loss of income from one parent staying home, the cost of books, supplies, educational materials, extracurricular activities, and possibly tutors can add up. However, it is possible to keep costs down by relying on your public library, free or inexpensive online lesson plans, and other low- or no-cost resources.
- **Am I prepared for the time commitment of home-schooling?** Home-schooling is a full-time job on top of the responsibilities of taking care of your family and home.
- **Am I organized?** Planning and implementing daily lessons and activities require excellent organizational skills.
- **Am I flexible?** You may discover that your child needs less structure than you've planned—or more. Are you able to adapt to your child's learning style?
- **How will I take care of my child's socialization needs?** Socialization comes naturally in a public school. Parents of children who are home-schooled should seek out regular and ongoing opportunities for their children to interact with other kids.
- **How does my child feel about home-schooling?** If your child is already attending school, she may resist the change.

## Resources

Coalition for Responsible Home Education

[www.responsiblehomeschooling.org](http://www.responsiblehomeschooling.org)

Home School Legal Defense Association

[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

## **Disclaimer**

### **DoD's Section 508 Commitment**

The information provided on the Military OneSource Member Connect site, including, but not limited to, articles, quizzes and other general information, is for informational purposes only and should not be treated as medical, psychiatric, psychological or behavioral health care advice. Nothing contained on Member Connect is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment or as a substitute for consultation with a qualified health care professional. Please direct questions regarding resources located on Member Connect to [MOSwebfeedback@militaryonesource.com](mailto:MOSwebfeedback@militaryonesource.com) or call 800-342-9647.