



Homeschool FAQs AND TERMS TO KNOW

Weatherford Public Library

How many children are homeschooled in the United States?

Out of privacy concerns, many states do not require registration for homeschooling students so this figure must be estimated. According to NHERI (National Home Education Research Institute), there are currently 4-5 million homeschooled children in grades K-12, or approximately 9% of school-age children. In Spring 2019, 3 to 4% of school-age children were homeschooled, a growth rate of 2 to 8% per year for the last decade, but the percentage grew drastically from 2019-2021.

What is distance learning?



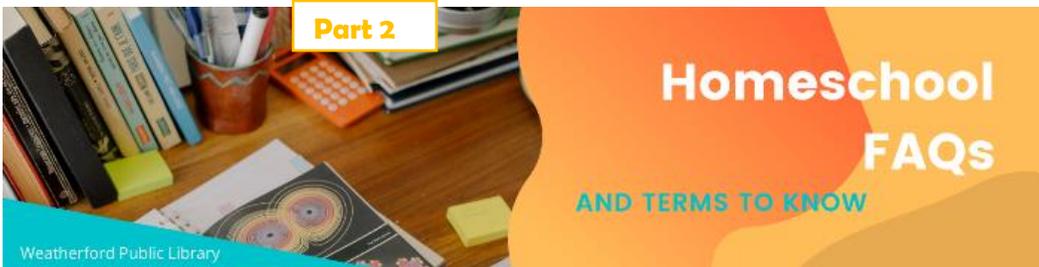
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Homeschool
Resources
webpage

Distance learning is a term that is interchangeable with virtual, remote, or online learning. It can be self-paced or led by an instructor. Virtual or online schools provide a comprehensive education program that uses video lessons and online links to instruct, guide, grade, test, and keep a record of a student's education. Offline options are also available that utilize DVD videos, interactive software, textbooks, and step-by-step lesson plans with an e-mail or mailing address for students to send in completed assignments. Online curriculums direct students through assignments, videos, weblinks, and other resources for a comprehensive education. It is up to the parent to make sure the student is completing the scheduled work. E-Learning offers additional educational website supplements such as downloadable worksheets, editable templates, learning tools, videos, e-books, educational games and weblinks. They may or may not include lessons plans, tests and other materials. Parents will need to provide guidance on program selections. See the library's Homeschool Resources webpage for free and low-cost online materials. We have organized this information by subject to assist you in homeschooling! **Note:** Curriculum cannot be accredited, only schools, and colleges cannot deny admission to homeschoolers based on accreditation. However, it may be taken into consideration for determining placement upon re-enrolling in public school. When selecting online programs, check to determine if it is a private or public option. Free virtual programs like K12, I School Virtual, Texas Connections Academy and similar online schools are public school options and are not homeschooling. Any student enrolled in a publicly funded option will be under public school jurisdiction and subject to requirements, oversight, and testing. Homeschool laws will not apply to a student in these types of programs.

I have children of different ages in different grades. How can I teach them all?

Group learning! Try combining History and Science studies together, and consider this approach for electives like Health, Bible study, and Art. Encourage discussion and interaction, and allow children to learn at each child's level for experiments, exploration, related literature selections, and creative projects (see WPL's BOOKING IT! video on lapbooks). Get the older children involved with helping the younger ones learn. Not your cup of tea? Use a workbox organization system (prepare and place assignments and books in drawers for children to work through independently at their own pace) or provide online courses for the older students who can work independently or need the extra support on a subject. While the other children are engaged with their independent assignments, you can set a special time aside every day with each child for one-on-one instruction.





What about socialization?

In Parker County, homeschoolers have A LOT of choices, including local co-ops, hybrid schools, sports, science fairs, church groups, play groups, library programs, Facebook groups, teaching pods, local business outings, music, gaming clubs, open gym, open swim, 4-H, Scouts, Awanas, American Heritage, Trail Life USA, and more. For more information on local homeschool activities and options, see our Local Resources webpage for homeschoolers.



Co-ops, hybrids, and teaching pods: Co-ops are groups of families that have formed together to offer field trips, accountability, encouragement, teach subject classes, electives, sports, or fine arts. Students' options can vary year to year and can range from one day to multiple days per week. A hybrid homeschool is a traditional school setting with instructors offering classes 2 or 3 days per week for a few hours. A teaching pod meets 2 to 3 times a week but is usually limited to a small group of students, or a pod may also be based on a curriculum. For example, *Classical Conversations*® groups discuss and interact on subject material, practice public speaking, and provide support, but most work is accomplished at home.

What is the Charlotte Mason method?

Charlotte Maria Shaw Mason (1 January 1842 – 16 January 1923) was an English educator and reformer in England at the turn of the twentieth century. Charlotte Mason's classically styled principles prepare children for a life of rich relationships with everything around them: God, humanity, and the natural world. Her experience-based approach is highly valued in the homeschool community.

How do I get started? Getting started homeschooling in Texas is not a complicated process. For more help on getting started, see the library's Homeschool 101 presentation and refer to our Homeschool Resources Booklet. Printed copies of the booklet are available at the library. Both the presentation and booklet can be downloaded from WPL's Homeschool Resources webpage.



<https://weatherfordtx.gov/2999/Homeschool-Resources>