

Top 10 Questions Parents Ask Before Choosing to Homeschool



You want to make the best educational choice for your child. We all do, because we want them to be prepared to achieve their future academic and vocational goals. You may be considering home education because your student is having a difficult time at school.



Many parents are concerned about their student's academic progress, special learning needs, or response to negative social pressure. Some parents are worried about bullying or the content of the courses their child is taking. Whatever you are most concerned about, we are here to help.

Making the best educational choice for your child can be overwhelming! We understand what that is like. But you don't have to be overwhelmed. You can make an informed decision with confidence.

[North Carolinians for Home Education](#) (NCHE) has been supporting homeschooling families in North Carolina for over 35 years, and we can help you work through some of the most commonly asked questions.

1. Do I have what it takes to homeschool my children?

This is a top question because the #1 reason parents don't homeschool their children is because they think that they simply do not have the ability to do it. However, we believe that in most cases there is no one who is better suited to teach children than their own parents. No one knows your child better than you do, so you are well equipped to see their strengths and weaknesses. In many ways, home education is just an extension of parenting. Several of the answers below will also help you see that you can be well equipped to homeschool your children.

2. Will I have to teach all of the subjects myself?

No, you do not have to teach all the subjects yourself. Most parents utilize online courses, curriculum, and homeschool cooperatives when homeschooling their children. This allows parents to get help in subjects and areas in which they do not feel equipped to teach. Our website (nche.com) is a great place to start when researching these options. [We have compiled a list](#) of those by county and region in NC. On each regional page, you will also find an NCHE regional liaison who will be happy to answer any questions you have.

3. Will my children be weird?

That is a loaded question, isn't it? What is "weird" anyway? What people usually mean by that question is, "Will my children be socially awkward or dysfunctional?"

Here is a two part answer:

First, that depends on how you raise them (just like public school students who are sometimes socially dysfunctional).

Second, most homeschool students are more confident, articulate, and prepared to engage in adult life than the average public school student. [Studies show](#) that the emotional and social development of homeschool students (as well as other areas of development) are better than public school students.

There are so many fantastic opportunities for homeschool students to engage society in a healthy way that will prepare them for life.



Since 1984, NCHE has awarded over 250,000 in scholarships.



NCHE Athletic Commission is one of the largest in the country.

4. Will I be able to afford it?

While the financial burden of home education falls entirely on the parents, it can be very affordable. Homeschool parents generally [only spend a small fraction](#) of what public schools spend on education. In addition to affordable curriculum and course options, there are fantastic free resources online and in public libraries.

5. Will my children be able to participate in sports and activities?

Many who consider homeschooling worry that their students will miss out on the extras that public schools provide. However, there are many wonderful extracurricular and sport opportunities in NC. In fact, we have an extensive state-wide network of middle school and high school sports available in NC through the [North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Commission](#). We also coordinate field trips and help homeschool families discover other clubs and [activities](#).

6. Will my children really learn what they need to?

Just like any educational approach, there is no guaranteed outcome with home education. Results depend on the investment of the teacher and the student. However, whatever your educational goals, with home education you will find the freedom and opportunity to learn whatever is required to meet those goals. Many students find that with the flexibility and focused assistance provided by home education, they are able to go further and wider in their academic studies. In addition, home education provides the opportunity to learn many practical life skills that are not offered in public or private schools.

7. Will I be able to find curriculum that fits our needs and worldview?

Yes, there are hundreds of homeschool curriculum options that parents can choose from. These include a variety of educational strategies and worldviews. You will be able to find something that will fit your needs. Most importantly, when you select a curriculum, you are still free to modify it in whatever way you wish in order to fit the needs of your child, your circumstances, and the goals of your family. You may want to visit the vendor hall at our annual [Thrive! Homeschool Conference](#). It is full of fantastic curriculum options.

8. What are the legal requirements?

Here is an overview of the legal requirements for parents to homeschool their children in North Carolina:

- Notify the [NC Division of Non-Public Education](#) of your intent to operate a school and include your school name and name of the chief administrator.
- Certify that the persons providing the academic instruction hold at least a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Maintain attendance records on each student.
- Maintain immunization records on each student.
- Operate on a regular schedule, excluding reasonable holidays and vacations, during at least nine calendar months of the year.
- [Administer a nationally standardized test, or other equivalent measurement](#), that measures achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling, and math to every student each year, and maintain the results on file for one year, [subject to inspection by a duly authorized representative of the State](#).
- Notify the Division of Non-Public Education, when closing your school.

9. Will my children be able to get into college?

Yes. In fact, many colleges have discovered that homeschool students become their best college students. You will be able to create a high school [transcript](#) and give your student a state recognized [diploma](#) (we will be glad to help you with these). With these in hand, you will be able to apply to whatever colleges in which you are interested. If you know what type of college your student is interested in, then you can develop your [graduation requirements](#) based on those schools' admission requirements.

10. Will my children be prepared for college?

Again, there are no guaranteed outcomes with any form of education. That is up to you and your student. However, according to [research](#), “Homeschool children typically academically outperform their institutional public school peers by 15 to 30 percentile points on standardized academic achievement tests.” Our experience has been that many colleges are especially looking for homeschool students because they perform so well academically.



Counselors from over 40 colleges advise families at the annual NCHE Thrive! Conference.



The 2019 NCHE Graduation Ceremony



We hope that you now have much more information about the home education option, especially in NC. We hope that you are encouraged to know that if you decide that home education is best for your child, that you have the ability to do it and that NCHE is here to help.

Our mission is to help parents homeschool with confidence and joy! We protect homeschool parents' right to homeschool in NC, equip them with information and encouragement they need, and connect them with other families and groups across the state.

[Learn more about NCHE today!](#)