

HOMESCHOOL RESOURCES

Accrediting Agencies Whose Schools Have Reduced Reporting Requirements

Many school accrediting organizations exist throughout the nation. However, for purposes of Compulsory Attendance reporting and testing requirements, only one accrediting organization has applied for and received recognition by the Minnesota Nonpublic Education Council or the Commissioner of Education for accrediting Minnesota homeschools. They are:

Home Based Educator Accrediting Association, Inc. (HBEA):

Website: www.hbeaa.org; E-mail: hbeaaoffice@gmail.com; phone: 952-935-9234

Homeschools that are currently and directly accredited by HBEA need only report to local school districts on the name, birthdate, address and immunizations (or conscientious objection statement) of the homeschooled students. They do not need to report testing information and instructor qualifications.

Community Resources

Part of what makes homeschooling fun and a great educational option is the opportunity to learn from and form friendships with other homeschool families. Many local and statewide groups exist. Even more virtual communities exist. Internet listings abound where families swap curriculum resources or sell them inexpensively. Families can look around for an in-person homeschool support network that works for their values and style.

Here are a few well-known groups but they are by no means the only ones! **These groups are independent of the Minnesota Department of Education and District 196.** Listing them here is provided as a helpful way to help homeschools begin networking, not as an endorsement of the organizations' beliefs or resources:

Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators. Statewide conference is in April. Phone: 763-717-9070 in the Twin Cities or toll-free at 866-717-9070; E-mail: info@make.org.

Minnesota Catholic Home Education Conference. Annual conference is held in May. E-mail: info@mnconference.org.

Minnesota Homeschoolers Alliance. Statewide conference for this nonsectarian group is held in September. Phone: 612-288-9662; E-mail: mha@homeschoolers.org.

Teaching Effective Academics and Character at Home (TEACH). Robert Newhouse, Director; Phone: 651-762-5600; E-mail: teach@mcg.net;

Website: www.teachinstitute.org

Homeschool Adventures. <http://hsadventures.org/>

Public libraries have much to contribute to the richness of your homeschool experience. Some college and university libraries also have "community loan" options for materials. Many businesses such as health clubs, bowling alleys and ski resorts have activities for homeschools during the weekeday.

The Minnesota Department of Education also has a wealth of educational information on it's website at <http://education.state.mn.us/mde/index.html>.