

Frequently Asked Questions About Home Schooling

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Q) Is Home Schooling Legal?

A) Home schooling is legal in all 50 states, although specific regulations do vary. In California, any parent can home school; parents do not have to be certified teachers. Home schooling can begin at any time. It is not necessary to wait for the end of a semester or school year. School officials may not give the same opinion of the legal status of home schooling.

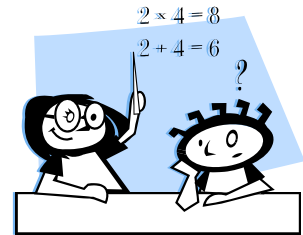


Q) What About Socialization?

A) This is the most asked about question, and also the one of the least consequence. Because of the academic efficiency of home schooling, there is ample time for home school students to participate in recreational, educational, and volunteer activities. There are sports leagues, classes and workshops, and clubs for home school students. There are neighborhood kids, church friends, other home schooling kids, relatives, librarians, storeowners, veterinarians, and other adults interested in sharing their lives with your kids. In the course of their daily activities, home school children can socialize and work with people of all ages and in a variety of settings—unlike school children who spend most of the day grouped with kids their own age and only one adult role model.



Home schooled children also have the time to learn in the intimate setting of a family. Many adults have forgotten the value of solitude as a tool for creative learning and thinking. Most children love to visit with friends, but also like to spend a lot of time with their parents and siblings. You will find the demand for constant socialization is only a myth. Home-schooled children display excellent social skills because they have more interactions and more adult role models and more social supervision than schooled children do. At ALA we also have guest speakers, fieldtrips, and workshops to meet the needs of socialization.



Q) What Are The Benefits of Home Schooling?

A) Family life often improves with siblings and parents spending more time together. Flexible schedules allow children to work at their optimum learning hours and at their own developmental pace. We can tailor educational instruction to a child's unique learning style. Children with a high need for physical activity or rest, privacy or socialization can move, eat and play with fewer restrictions. There is less peer pressure and more focus on learning, more time to learn subjects in depth, more time for reading. Parents can enjoy watching their kids learn, and they can revive their own joy of learning. You and your children can choose books and activities for learning that excite you. ADHD and learning disabilities often disappear. A relaxed pace means happier kids. Families can take vacations off-season. And there are many more reasons, such as meeting academic needs for your child in a stimulating and nurturing environment. We at ALA practice an eclectic mix, incorporating some texts or workbooks and everyday experiences to create a learning environment unique to our families' needs, style and expectations.



Q) How Much Time Does It Take To Home School?

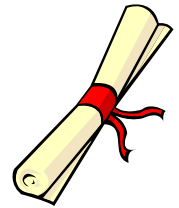
A) A great deal of traditional school time is spent in waiting, behavior management, lunch, recess, etc. In school, it is usually not possible to tailor lessons to each child's



specific needs. With the individualized conditions that home schooling offers, ALA children can learn very efficiently. Also, at home, education happens throughout the day and evening and often by chance. Often, it takes an observant parent to keep notes and records of learning that happens throughout the course of a day, and over the course of the year. Older children often keep their own records and work many hours on their own. Many high school home school students desire to study extra hours with specific texts for college preparation. We set up an educational program to meet your child's needs

Q) Can Home Schooling Provide A High School Diploma And Get My Student Into A Good College?

A) A high school student has many options. Some colleges accept home schooled teens without a diploma and are very interested in recruiting home school teens. Some teens have learned initiative and independence. Some colleges require a portfolio or transcript which may consist of essays, detailed lists of accomplishments, subjects and books covered, projects, reports, classes attended, recommendations from others who have worked with the teen in volunteer work, scouts, church, community work, sports, etc. Other colleges will accept a student who has completed community courses, and some will accept a GED or SAT scores that prove the student is competent.



The key to getting into the college of your choice is the same for all students. Contact the admissions office early. Establish rapport, ask advice, and participate in co-op, online or early admissions programs. Colleges accept students who have pursued a non-traditional, self-designed course study, as well as students following traditional curricula. Home schooled teens often show a great depth of learning, a self-directed approach and a serious attitude about studying, which are traits sought after by colleges. (Many home schooled teens benefit by working or traveling to gain more life experience before choosing to go into college.) Some choose to pursue alternatives to a traditional college education such as apprenticeships, internships, and online education.

Q) Where Can I Receive More Information?

A) For further questions and information on home schooling your child/children, contact your local school district and our academy. We're happy to help guide your students on the path to educational success, if not through schooling, then through counseling and aide. We give you the support for a successful home



school experience. We can oversee your child's progress and achievements. We provide report cards and newsletters quarterly, and promote daily communication between students, families, and staff. Field trips, guest speakers, Spelling B's, contests, and Science Fairs are just some of the exciting ways we make learning fun. The 6 to 1 ratio is guaranteed. We can raise your child 1 to 3 grade levels in one academic year. (15-20 hours a week is recommended.) By adapting schooling hours and teaching style to your students' special needs, a problematic course at public school can become a welcomed activity in our academy. By working in conjunction with your district or nationwide program, a curriculum can be adapted and presented to meet your child's needs. Class credit is given in such instances and our skilled educators teach the class material. Nurture is in our nature; we cultivate excellence through academic success.

Armenta Learning Academy

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