HOMESCHOOLERS AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ABOUT DEANNA

17 years homeschooling experience with her three children

Leadership roles in the homeschool community:
Support Group
Academic Co-Op

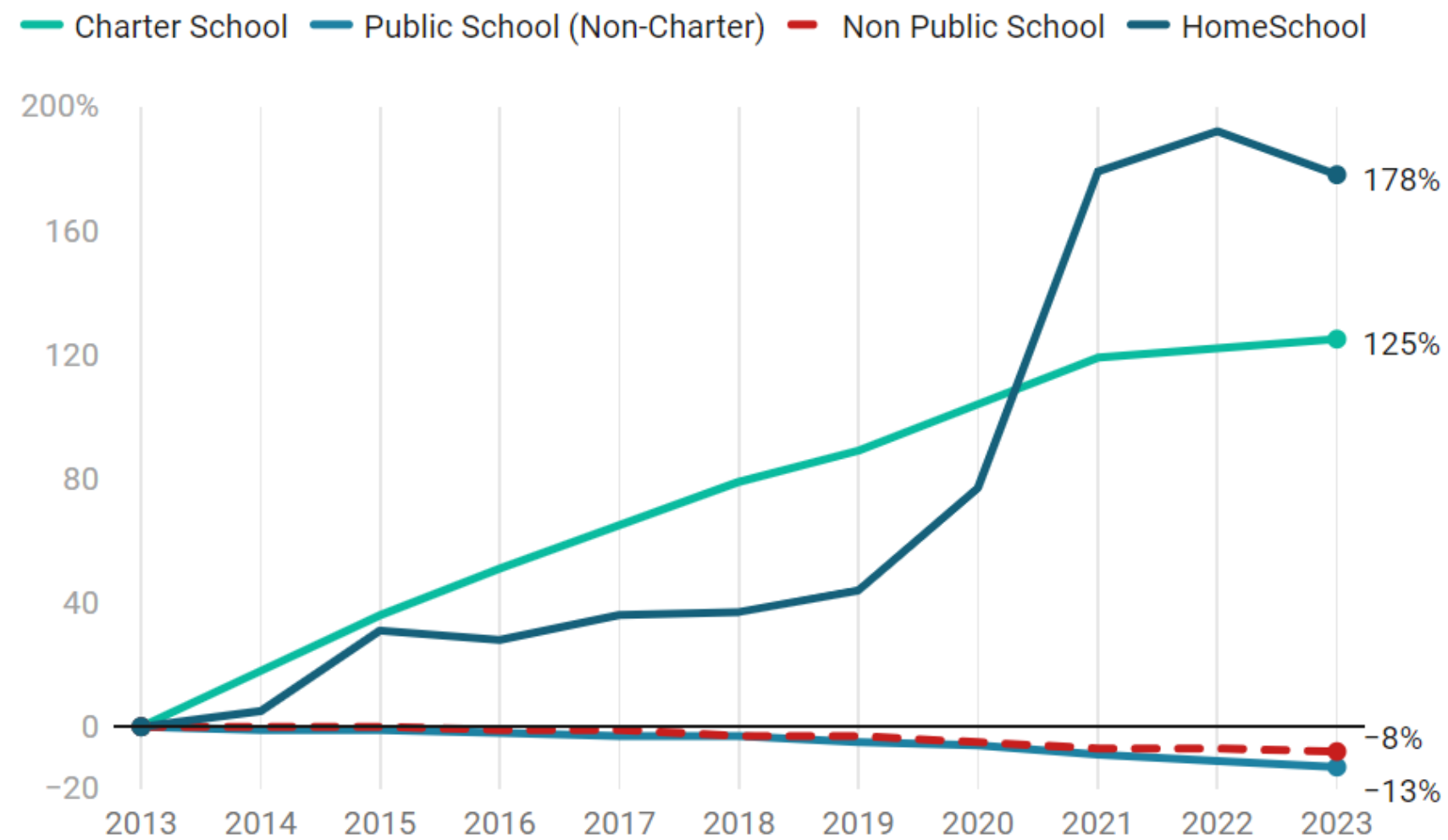Homeschool Liaison Librarian
Small City Branch
Suburban library

WHO IS HOMESCHOOLING?

Statewide enrollment change by school sector (2013-23)

— Charter School — Public School (Non-Charter) — Non Public School — HomeSchool
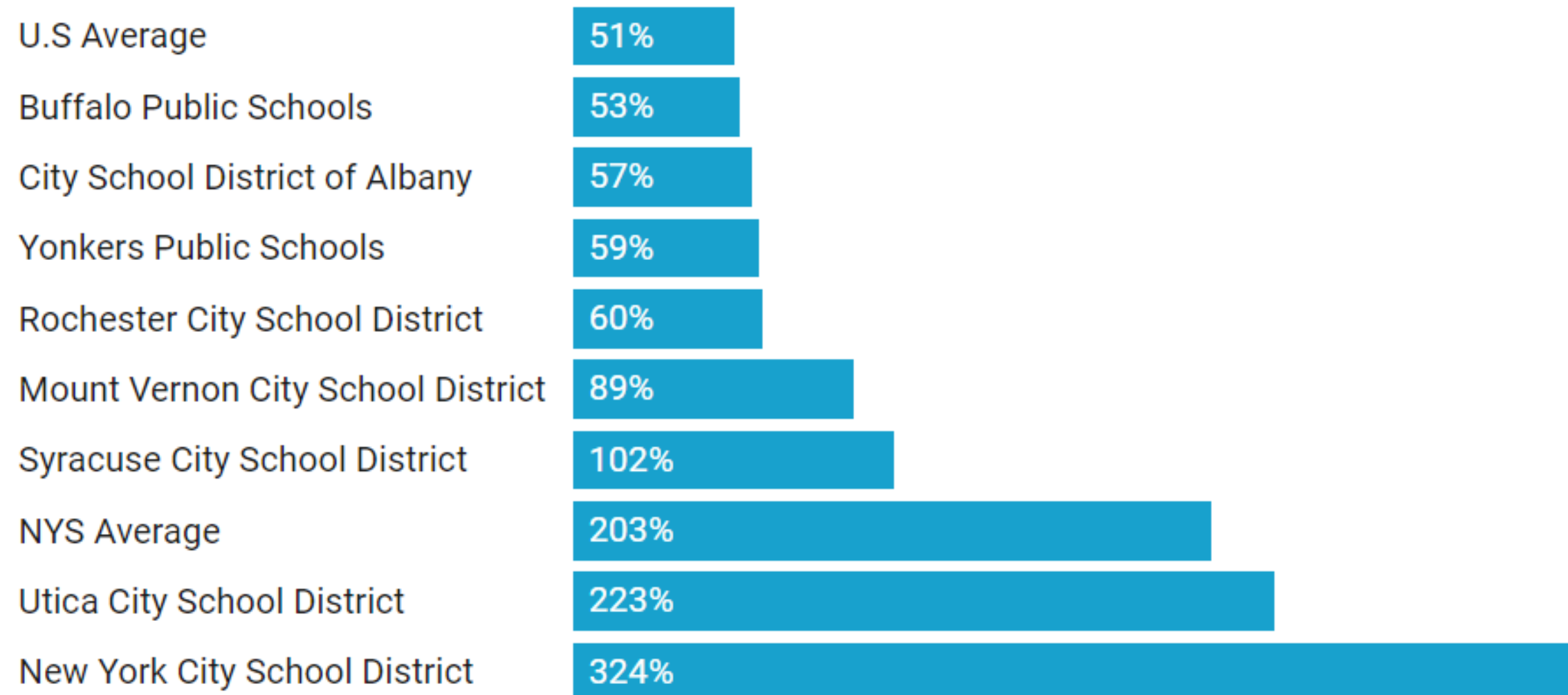

178%

125%

-8%

-13%

The years represent the end of the school year. For e.g., 2013 refers to the 2012-13 school year.

Chart: Empire Center for Public Policy • Source: NYSED • Created with Datawrapper

- > 50,000 homeschoolers in NYS in 2023

- Crosses political, geographical, and demographic boundaries

- Largest increase in Hispanic population

WHO IS HOMESCHOOLING?

Homeschool enrollment growth (since SY 2017-18)

District	Growth
U.S Average	51%
Buffalo Public Schools	53%
City School District of Albany	57%
Yonkers Public Schools	59%
Rochester City School District	60%
Mount Vernon City School District	89%
Syracuse City School District	102%
NYS Average	203%
Utica City School District	223%
New York City School District	324%

Source: Washington Post • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

Find specific figures for your districts at NY State Department of Education (see resource page)

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MOTIVATIONS FOR HOMESCHOOLING

Top reasons for homeschooling*

Reasons parents choose to home-school their children

Q: Thinking about some specific reasons, did your family choose to home-school this child because:

Reason	Percentage
Concern about school environment	74%
To provide moral instruction	68
Dissatisfaction with academic instruction at schools	64
Concern about school shootings	62
Concern about bullying	58
Local public schools too influenced by liberal viewpoints	46
Concern about child being discriminated against	41
To provide religious instruction	34

Source: Aug. 1-10, 2023, Washington Post-Schar School poll of 504 parents with home-schooled children with a margin error of +/- 6 percentage points.

EMILY GUSKIN / THE WASHINGTON POST

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METHODS FOR HOMESCHOOLING

Distance Education

School at Home

Classical Education

Charlotte Mason

Unit Studies

Montessori

Project-Based

Unschooling

Parent Led
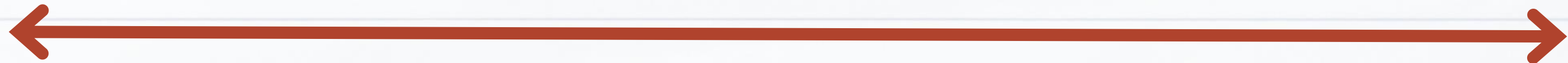
Continuum

Child Led

- Learning time is scheduled
- Follows grade level similar to traditional school
- Designed by curriculum

- Learning time not scheduled
- Grade levels flexible
- Very different than traditional school
- Designed by family

NYS HOME INSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

LETTER OF INTENT

- Parent sends a notice to the superintendent of their intention to instruct child at home.

- Due by July 1st **OR** within 14 days of commencing home instruction (anytime during the year).

- School district responds within 10 days by sending copy of regulations and blank IHIP forms.

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NYS HOME INSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

IHIP
INDIVIDUALIZED HOME INSTRUCTION PLAN

- Parent prepares based on required courses (see 100.10 e) and submits IHIP to school district.

- Due by August 15th **or** within four weeks of the receipt of regulations and forms from school district.

NYS HOME INSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

QUARTERLY REPORTS

- Parent prepares a description of the material covered in each subject listed in the IHIP

- Parent submits a Quarterly Report to the school district for each child at dates determined by parent.

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NYS HOME INSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

YEAR END EVALUATIONS

- Included in the 3rd Quarterly Report will be the method of annual assessment as determined by the parent.

- Assessment may include commercially published norm-referenced achievement tests (i.e., CAT or IOWA) **or** a written narrative, in accordance with the grade level of the student.

- Results of assessment should be submitted with 4th quarterly report.

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NYS HOME INSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

100.10 HOME INSTRUCTION

- Part of the NYS Education Law

- Universal for all school districts

- Universal for all homeschool parents

- Sets a *minimum* standard for graduation

- School districts **are not** required to provide curriculum, academic, or extracurricular support

- School districts **are** required to provide special services

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DEDICATED HOMESCHOOL COLLECTION

Children's Room, Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool, NY

- In the children's room

- Parent resources and circulating curriculum options

- Shelved by topic
  - homeschool theory/methods
  - school subjects (science, math, unit studies, skills, etc...)

- High circulating: high turnover rate

DEDICATED HOMESCHOOL COLLECTION

Low/no budget options

- Donated curriculum from HS community
  - connect with local leaders
  - used curriculum sales

- Order free curriculum catalogs

- [Cathy Duffy curriculum reviews](#)

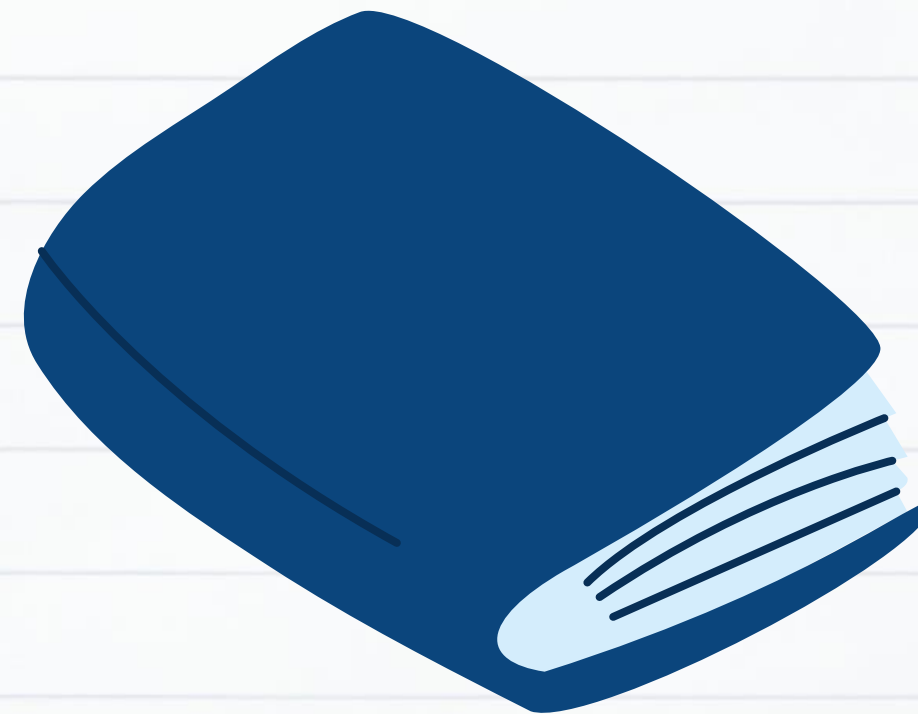- [Rainbow Resource](#), Amazon, directly from publisher

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

During the day

Encourage social connections

Supplement learning

Variety of ages

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR SOCIALIZATION

Homeschool Hangout
- Crafts
- Games
- Legos
- Parents network

Homeschool Hangout for Tweens/Teens

Homeschool Chess Club
- ChessKid.com free videos
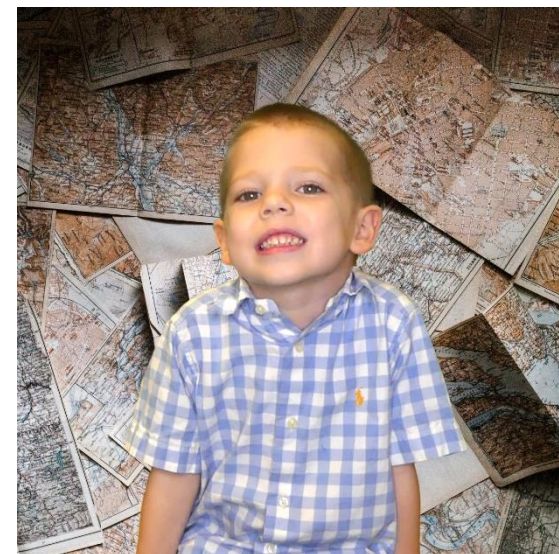- students bring their own sets
- volunteer led

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HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR SOCIALIZATION

Back to Homeschool Celebration
- Back to School Photos
- Amazing Race: Library Edition
- Curriculum exchange table
- Crafts
- Group games

Back to Homeschool Celebration Liverpool Public Library 2023

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HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS TO SUPPLEMENT LEARNING

- Book Clubs
- Family book clubs
- STEAM Club
- Creative Writing
- Teen Life Hacks
- Field Trips
- [Science & Engineering Fair](#)
- [Workshop for Writing a Research Paper](#)
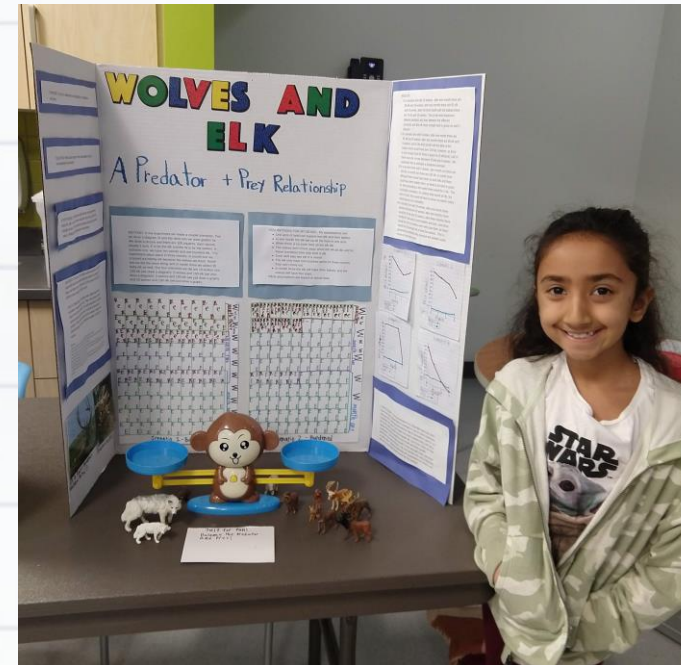
HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS

Homeschooling 101 for Parents
Monthly support group with focus on homeschool topics

- NYS paperwork
- Homeschool in high school
- Curriculum reviews
- Learning Games
- Portfolios
- See LPL's Homeschooling Guide for some previous topics

Homeschool Resource Fair
Tabling event for homeschool support groups

- Library table
- Homeschool NY (LEAH) local rep
- Co-ops
- Extracurricular (YMCA, theatre)
- Free curriculum exchange
- Craft/activities for kids

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Gathering space at your library
  - often during typically quiet hours

- Information center
  - free catalogs from curriculum providers
  - local homeschool activities
  - Free HSLDA pamphlets
  - physical or virtual (LibGuide)

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HOW TO REACH(OUT) TO THE HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY

- They may be in your library!
- Search Facebook groups in your area
- Offer to have a library day at a local co-op
  - Free library cards and check out materials
- Connect with local Homeschool New York (LEAH) representative

RESOURCES

"Children Instructed at Home". *Information and Reporting Services*. New York State Department of Education. 27 JUN2023 https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/statistics/HomeSchooled/home.html

D'Vertola, Emily. "NY 2nd in the Nation for Homeschooling Growth". *Empire Center*. https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/ny-2nd-in-the-nation-for-homeschooling-growth/#:~:text=Over%20the%20past%2010%20years,enrollment%20has%20dropped%208%20percent.

Duffy, Cathy. Cathy Duffy Reviews. 2024 https://cathyduffyreviews.com/ Good for curriculum reviews and Learning Style assessment.

Jamison, Peter, et al. "Home schooling's rise from fringe to fastest-growing form of education". *The Washington Post*. 31 Oct 2023. https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/interactive/2023/homeschooling-growth-data-by-district/

Home School Legal Defense Association https://hslda.org/ Good source for getting started, legal requirements for each state, required paperwork, much more.

Homeschool New York: Loving Education at Home https://www.leah.org/get-connected/ Contact information for local representatives. A good site for NYS regulations and getting started.

Homeschooling Guide for Parents. Liverpool Public Library. 2024. https://lpl.libguides.com/lpl/homeschoolingparents Example of virtual information center for patrons homeschooling or inquiring about homeschooling.

Homeschool curriculum ordering:

- Rainbow Resource https://www.rainbowresource.com/
- Amazon
- Directly from publisher (see Cathy Duffy reviews)

Massey, Leah. "The Continuum of Homeschooling Styles". Fearless Homeschool. 2019. https://fearlesshomeschool.com/homeschooling-styles-infographic/

Meckler, Laura, et al. "Home schooling today is less religious and more diverse, poll finds" The Washington Post. 26 SEP 2023.https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/09/26/home-schooling-vs-public-school-poll/

"Research Basics for Junior and Senior High School Students". Liverpool Public Library. 2024 https://lpl.libguides.com/researchbasics

Thank you!

Q&A

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