


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Children are individual and unique. As such every parent, knowing their child best, should retain the right to choose the educative style and curriculum they believe will best suit and advance their child's learning and development. Children are often 'lost' or fail to have their particular needs met in the schooling system for a number of reasons - particularly if a child requires more individual attention or is unsuited to an institutional approach. Many children find it difficult to focus in a busy classroom environment brimming with distractions while a homeschooling approach can offer a quieter, one to one teaching ratio.

Learning can be tailored to suit individual students interests and needs thus promoting a sense of ownership and commitment on the part of the child to their education.

According to Brian D. Ray, Ph.D. research demonstrates that very often homeschooled children score better academically than their state school counterparts.

Academic Performance

- The home-educated typically score 15 to 25 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests (Ray, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2024). (The public school average is roughly the 50th percentile; scores range from 1 to 99.) A 2015 study found Black homeschool students to be scoring 23 to 42 percentile points above Black public school students (Ray, 2015).
- 78% of peer-reviewed studies on academic achievement show homeschool students perform statistically significantly better than those in institutional schools (Ray, 2017).
- Homeschool students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents' level of formal education or their family's household income.
- Whether homeschool parents were ever certified teachers is not notably related to their children's academic achievement.
- Degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement.
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the SAT and ACT tests that colleges consider for admissions.
- Homeschool students are increasingly being actively recruited by colleges.

In addition it has been found that home educated children are most often more socially, emotionally and psychologically well developed and resilient. Again, according to Dr Brian D Ray these children perform significantly better than those in conventional schools.

The current registration and reporting systems are working well and it is therefore unnecessary to change them.

I believe Education Queensland would be doing students, families and the community a great disservice by altering the current parameters to enforce the proposed amendments.