



# SNAPSHOT

*An informational brief covering issues affecting the lives of children and youth living in Prince George's County, Maryland*

## Homeschooling

Amidst “Waiting for Superman” and school reform, there is another alternative—homeschooling.

Homeschooling in Maryland is governed by Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.10.01. These regulations set forth the home schooling parameters that must be followed by parents/guardians who desire to teach a child at home. The regulations also establish a procedure for the local superintendent of schools or the head of a certified nonpublic school or religious institution supervising the homeschooling to determine if a child participating in a homeschooling program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age.<sup>1</sup>

### Homeschooling in Prince George's County

A parent/guardian who desires to homeschool a child should contact the homeschooling coordinator for the local school system in which the child resides. The parent/guardian must initially complete and sign a “Home Schooling Notification Form” to indicate his/her intent to home school a child and to comply with the homeschooling regulations.

Each year thereafter, the parent/guardian must verify the continuation of homeschooling with the local superintendent of schools or the supervising nonpublic school/institution. Additionally, the parent/guardian must notify the local superintendent of schools or the supervising nonpublic school/institution if the child's homeschooling status changes during the school year. A parent/guardian may instruct a child at home under the supervision of the local school system or through correspondence courses under the supervision of a nonpublic school.<sup>1</sup>

According to 2003 and 2007 National Household Education Surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Institute of Education Sciences, the three reasons selected most by parents who chose to home school their children were:

- Concern about the school environment
- To provide religious or moral instruction
- Dissatisfaction with the academic instruction available at other schools.

During that same time, the percentage of students whose parents reported homeschooling to provide religious or moral instruction increased from 72 percent to 83 percent.<sup>2</sup>

# Total Number of Students Taught Through Home Schooling as Reported by Each Local School System 1993-2007 <sup>7</sup>

Local School System	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
<b>Allegany</b>	89	100	110	129	154	172	152	180	191	191	188	199	220	233
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	1,067	1,003	1,271	1,631	1,800	1,775	1,745	1,940	2,235	1,675	2,100	2,140	1,975	1,826
<b>Baltimore City</b>	382	488	556	598	733	783	1,201	983	1,257	1,309	1,506	1,238	1,790	1,661
<b>Baltimore County</b>	785	1,077	1,137	805	1,707	1,910	2,147	2,343	2,440	2,642	2,686	2,979	2,968	2,914
<b>Calvert</b>	155	226	311	347	452	500	501	409	428	449	423	459	554	539
<b>Caroline</b>	63	95	115	121	149	157	151	155	163	167	114	135	147	166
<b>Carroll</b>	305	412	453	358	490	827	738	878	984	1,194	1,248	1,329	1,539	1,586
<b>Cecil</b>	270	304	311	386	521	446	503	610	663	706	975	1,157	1,145	1,245
<b>Charles</b>	169	172	182	351	354	411	529	560	621	722	774	749	809	823
<b>Dorchester</b>	25	66	60	58	57	69	96	90	71	78	93	86	79	86
<b>Frederick</b>	387	533	636	733	918	1,214	1,159	1,250	1,362	1,476	1,565	1,568	1,691	1,711
<b>Garrett</b>	123	132	168	177	199	226	225	209	229	234	248	277	307	291
<b>Harford</b>	440	605	719	809	943	1,078	1,194	1,251	1,303	1,251	1,351	1,700	1,529	1,593
<b>Howard</b>	538	608	678	794	876	954	994	1,039	985	1,113	1,325	1,224	1,447	1,694
<b>Kent</b>	42	49	55	18	59	57	64	66	106	79	50	76	80	68
<b>Montgomery</b>	756	968	1,228	633	953	1,251	1,384	1,777	1,942	2,252	2,201	2,268	2,461	2,242
<b>Prince George's</b>	338	447	534	1,383	1,874	2,295	2,571	2,146	2,409	3,018	3,335	3,904	3,372	3,759
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	61	84	121	128	170	173	206	215	235	247	255	257	291	283
<b>St. Mary's</b>	119	153	199	259	382	445	451	541	588	658	656	673	367	365
<b>Somerset</b>	43	43	56	52	46	49	45	44	63	67	61	56	57	74
<b>Talbot</b>	53	61	62	89	106	101	102	96	132	132	150	130	134	117
<b>Washington</b>	194	245	317	379	394	427	551	194	600	600	688	740	840	518
<b>Wicomico</b>	147	172	187	218	243	254	287	317	329	329	358	425	418	397
<b>Worcester</b>	46	55	63	92	85	77	90	90	87	87	71	107	109	86
<b>Total</b>	6,597	8,098	9,529	10,548	13,665	15,651	17,186	17,383	19,423	20,676	21,205	23,746	24,329	24,277

# Maryland Homeschooling Trends

Based on seven Maryland counties—Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s—these official figures counting registered homeschoolers suggest the annual growth in homeschooling is 28 percent.<sup>3</sup>

<i>School Year</i>	<i>Official # HS Children</i>	<i>Increase</i>
1991-1992	1,798	N/A
1992-1993	2,041	14%
1993-1994	3,142	54%
1994-1995	3,577	14%
1995-1996	4,403	23%
1996-1997	6,219	41%

The homeschooling population of the above Maryland counties is now above 1 percent of the public school enrollment for the same counties.

## Nationally

- In 2003, 2.2 percent of all students - about 1,096,000 - were homeschooled, up from 1.7 percent of students (850,000) in 1999.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2003, over 43% of homeschooled students were in grades K-5, with about 28% in grades 6-8 and about 29% in grades 9-12.<sup>4</sup>
- Of the 1,096,000 students being homeschooled in 2003, 82% of them had no education other than homeschooling, while 18% attended another school part-time, most of those for less than 9 hours a week.<sup>4</sup>
- 41% of homeschooled students between 5 and 17 used distance learning in the year 2003.<sup>5</sup>
- Racial division: 2.7% of white students are homeschooled compared to 1.3% of black students and 0.7% of Hispanic students.<sup>5</sup>
- 2007-2008--2.0 to 2.5 million homeschooled students K-12.<sup>6</sup>
- Home education grows about 5-12% per year.<sup>6</sup>
- Sources used by HS families include the following: public library (78%) home school catalog, published or individual specialist (77%), retail bookstore or other store (69%) non-homeschooling education publisher (60%), and distance media (41%).<sup>6</sup>
- Average income of the homeschooling family is \$52,000.<sup>6</sup>
- Average testing scores – ACT: home school average was 22.5, national average was 20.8. SAT: home school average was 1092, national average, 1020.<sup>6</sup>

Continue reading about homeschooling and how one Prince George’s County family successfully homeschooled four children in *Homeschooling—Is It For Your Child?* via IN REACH’s blog, ViewPoints, <http://inreachinc.blogspot.com>. A list of resources can be found on IN REACH’s website, [www.inreachinc.org/links.html](http://www.inreachinc.org/links.html).

<sup>1</sup> “Home Instruction Fact Sheet.” *Maryland State Department of Education*. [http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/studentschoolsvcs/student\\_services\\_alt/home\\_schooling/docs/homeschool\\_factsheet.htm](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/studentschoolsvcs/student_services_alt/home_schooling/docs/homeschool_factsheet.htm)

<sup>2</sup> “1.5 Million Homeschooled Students in the United States in 2007” *National Center for Education Statistics Issue Brief*, December 2008

<sup>3</sup> Bunday, Karl M., *Homeschooling is Growing Worldwide*, (1995), [http://learninfreedom.org/homeschool\\_growth.html](http://learninfreedom.org/homeschool_growth.html)

<sup>4</sup> “Homeschool Statistics” *Let’s Home School*. <http://www.letshomeschool.com/articles39.html>

<sup>5</sup> “Homeschooling in the United States: 2003.” *National Center for Education Statistics*. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/homeschool/>

<sup>6</sup> “Homeschooling Statistics.” *Home School Living* (<http://www.homeschool-living.com/homeschooling-statistics.html>)

<sup>7</sup> “Maryland Homeschooling Statistics.” *The More Child*. Blog Post: October 8, 2008. <http://themorechild.com/2008/10/09/maryland-homeschooling-stats/>



**IN REACH, INC.**

3102 63<sup>rd</sup> Place ■ Cheverly, MD 20785  
301.789.7250  
[www.inreachinc.org](http://www.inreachinc.org)