

# PENNSYLVANIA HOMESCHOOLERS

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"BACKPACK"

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A Statewide Network Sharing Information about Homeschooling in PA.

## KIDS! HERE'S A CHANCE TO CHANGE HISTORY BY CHANGING A LAW!

from Madalene Murphy and Susan Richman

On May 12 Parent Educators of Pennsylvania will be hosting another legislative breakfast in Harrisburg and trying again to convince our state representatives and senators to pass a good homeschooling law. And this time we will be relying on kids to show why homeschooling is important and a very good way to learn. We are asking you -- the homeschooled kids across Pennsylvania -- to give the legislators a picture of how good homeschooling can be. You may choose one of these topics to write about; and/or create a display about:

-Tell the story about a project (art, music, science, composition, practical work, etc...) you have engaged in at home which shows how unique or special home education is.

-Tell about an incident in your home education which helped you become a better person (i.e. community service work, volunteer work, visiting nursing homes, religious education).

-Think of what you know this year that you didn't know last year and write about how you learned it (such as how to read, how to wire electrical fixtures, how to publish a newsletter...) especially pointing out things that might not be possible in school.

-Describe a typical day of learning at home, showing the variety of things you do.

-Address the "social life" question, describing perhaps how you make friendships while homeschooling (through homeschooling support groups, family-to-family visits, scouts or 4-H, church groups, neighborhood friends, out-of-home classes, etc.). What's positive about the social life of homeschoolers?

If you need help with editing what you wrote, ask your parents or someone else to help you, then write or type it up neatly and send it; and a very brief description of any display to:

Tom Eldredge  
1071 Pocopson Creek Road  
West Chester, PA 19382

Some essays will be chosen to be read at the breakfast by their authors and as many of the others as possible will be displayed there (if the possibility of reading makes you nervous, then just enclose a note saying, "Display only"). We will have table space for project displays. Be sure to arrive early enough to set it up neatly (doors open at 7 a.m.).

You or your parents could also use this opportunity to contact your senator and representative, tell them you have written an essay on homeschooling and personally invite them to the breakfast to see or hear it. We will need your writings by April 15. Be sure to keep a copy to practice reading, if you are chosen, or to bring with you and personally present to your legislators.

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS COOPERATING WITH HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES IN PA

(NOTE: LOCAL POLICIES VARY WIDELY, BUT THESE DISTRICTS HAVE DEALT WITH HOMESCHOOLING-- YOU WON'T BE A FIRST CASE IN THESE DISTRICTS, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAYING APPROVAL WILL NECESSARILY BE EASY, FAIR, OR ASSURED. GUIDELINES SOME FAMILIES CAN LIVE WITH WILL BE INTOLERABLE TO OTHERS)

ABBINGTON	FLEETWOOD	PARKLAND
ALLENTOWN	FOX CHAPEL	PEN ARGYL AREA
ALTOONA	FRANKLIN REGIONAL	PENN HILLS
APOLLO-RIDGE	GIRARD	PERKIOMEN VALLEY
ARMSTRONG	HIGHLANDS	PETERS TOWNSHIP
BANGOR	JEFFERSON-MORGAN	PINE-RICHLAND
BEAVER	HOPEWELL	PITTSBURGH
BETHEL PARK	KANE	QUAKER VALLEY
BLACKHAWK	KISKI	RED LION AREA
BUTLER	LAKEVIEW	RINGGOLD
CANTON AREA	ATROBE	SHALER
CHESTER UPLAND	ARPLE MEWTOWN	SOLANCO
CENTRAL BUCKS	ALLCREEK	SOUTH WEST BUTLER
COMMODORE PERRY	. LEBANON	SOUTHERN TIOGA
CONEAUT LAKE	. PLEASANT	SLIPPERY ROCK
CRAWFORD CENTRAL	. UNION	TAMAQUA
CRESSON	THAMPTON	TREDYFFRIN-EASTTOWN
DOWNINGTOWN AREA	TH HILLS	TRINITY
EASTON	TH PENN	TROY
EAST PENN	TH WESTERN	TYRONE AREA
EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY		UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD
FAIRVIEW		WEST CHESTER AREA
		WEST JEFFERSON HILLS
		WILLIAMSPORT
		WYALUSING
		YOUGH

## Districts Change Policies!

The best news about cooperative school districts right now is that two new districts added to our listing-- Solanco and Wyalusing-- were formerly included in the Home School Legal Defense Association's Class Action Suit! They both decided that rather than fight it out in court, it would indeed be better to just change their local policies so that their homeschooling families' rights would not be violated. The HSLDA is now adding several other districts to the suit, and are hoping that soon more districts will feel pressured to change their restrictive policies before the suit even comes to court. There is no date set yet for a hearing on the federal suit, but Attorney Chris Klicka of HSLDA hopes that certainly by the beginning of the next school year some ruling will be made.

PA. HOMESCHOOLERS  
Masthead lettered  
by Jesse Richman, age 9½