

HOMESCHOOL *Arizona*

Fall 2023

Celebrating Arizona's Homeschool History

AFHE Archives

Arizona's 2023 Legislative Session

Jeff & Michelle Jibben

2023 Convention Highlights

Homeschooling ADHD:
Seven Keys for Thriving

Jeannie Fulbright

In This Issue: Memories of 2023 Graduation; Announcement of the 2023 Scholarship Winners



ABOUT AFHE

Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE) is the statewide organization that has been serving the needs and protecting the rights of Arizona's homeschooling families since 1983. AFHE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational, religious, and charitable corporation directed by a Christian board. AFHE membership is available to all Arizona homeschool parents.

OUR MISSION

AFHE exists to **INSPIRE** parents to home educate their children; **PROMOTE** parent-directed home-based education; **PRESERVE** the freedom to homeschool; and **SUPPORT** parents who choose a home-based education option for their children.

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Distributed via email to 8,000+

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COVER IMAGE

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Learn and Celebrate Arizona's Homeschool History

At this year's convention we observed AFHE's 40th anniversary with a special timeline display in the exhibit hall. That timeline is presented here (in a slightly shorter version) for all *Homeschool Arizona* readers to enjoy!

1912 Arizona became a state. The State Constitution required education through the 8th grade "by a competent teacher."

1982 Governor Bruce Babbitt signed the controversial home school bill, HB2116, setting parameters for a home school exemption from compulsory school attendance:

- Home schools were placed under the jurisdiction of County School Superintendents (CSS).
- Parents were required to file an affidavit with CSS.
- Teaching parent was required to pass the Basic Skills portion of the Arizona Teachers Proficiency Examination (ATPE).
- Annual standardized testing was required for each home school student; parents must report results to CSS.
- Yearly proof of academic progress was required and was subject to an independent evaluation at the discretion of CSS.

Education reformer John Holt spoke at "Arizona's First Home Schooling Convention" in September 1982.

1983 Two organizations merged (Arizona Home Education Association and Families for Home Education) to form **ARIZONA FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION (AFHE)**.

The Arizona Legislature passed SB1049, revising the home school law to require the teaching of reading, grammar, math, science, and social studies.

AFHE held its first statewide convention.

1985 SB1225 revised the home school law to clarify that a home school is not a private school.

1987 Legal home school requirements were updated to include providing a birth certificate to the County School Superintendent along with the affidavit.

1990 **AFHE** advocated for Pima County home school families when the Pima County Superintendent was illegally charging fees for them to retake state-mandated standardized tests following an independent evaluator's determination of insufficient academic progress.

The legislative session saw the passage of **AFHE**-backed SB1442 which allowed home schools to choose from four options for their mandatory standardized testing.

1991 An Apache Junction father was jailed when he violated the compulsory attendance law by failing to register his 14-year-old daughter as a home school student. **AFHE** assisted in negotiations to resolve the charges.

AFHE published an "Arizona Home Educator's Manifesto."

HB2393 was passed, lowering the compulsory age of schooling to 6 years old; **AFHE** secured an exemption for home school students until age 8.

1992 Arizona was one of only two states still requiring home school teachers to pass a proficiency exam.



Learn and Celebrate Arizona's Homeschool History

Please continue reading about important developments in our state over the last 40 years!

1993 Home schoolers celebrated as **AFHE**-proposed legislation, HB2262, became law. It included these expansions of home school freedoms:

- Reduction of mandatory standardized testing to every three years
- Specification that the affidavit requirement was a once-only filing
- Elimination of the academic evaluation
- Elimination of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Exam requirement
- Reduction of the criminal charge for violating the compulsory attendance law from misdemeanor to petty offense

AFHE presented its first senior graduation recognition ceremony.

1994 Arizona home schoolers joined with others nationwide to defeat H.R. 6 in Congress, a bill that would have effectively outlawed home schooling by setting extensive new certification requirements for all teachers nationwide.

1995 The Arizona legislature passed the "best home school law in the country." Sponsored by Senator John Huppenthal, SB1348 reduced home school legal requirements to only an affidavit plus birth certificate. Signed by Governor Fife Symington.

AFHE's annual statewide convention moved to the Phoenix Civic Center.

1996 "**AFHE** is now on the Internet."
<http://www.primenet.com/~afhe>

SB1348 was passed. Modeled on a bill offered by a home school student at the 1994 Youth & Government Model Legislature, this law granted home schoolers the legal right to participate in interscholastic athletics at public schools.

1997 HB2057 expanded interscholastic access to include all interscholastic competitions, not just athletics.

1998 **AFHE** alerted its members to oppose HB2471, which would have imposed significant new and revived regulations on home schoolers, including increased criminal penalties.

AFHE migrated to its new website: AFHE.ORG.

1999 SB1282 was signed into law and dubbed Bethany's Law after its 17-year-old author, a home school student. This law granted home school students access to scholarships at the three state universities by requiring fair and equitable policies in awarding merit-based scholarships.

2000 The **AFHE** Scholarship Fund was established. The first winners were announced in Spring 2001.

2004 **AFHE's** newsletter, the Arizona Home Education Journal, published a legislative update titled "When It Comes to the Legislature, Nothing Much is Happening, and We Like It That Way!"

2005 *Loudermilk v. Arpaio*: Acting on an anonymous tip (later shown to be false), social workers and law enforcement officials in Arizona entered the Loudermilks' home after threatening to immediately remove their children. This violation of their constitutional rights prompted HSLDA to file a lawsuit which was finally resolved at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2015.



2008 **AFHE** celebrated its 25th anniversary by hosting Thank-You picnics around the state.

The National Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership released the video "Exposing a Trojan Horse." This video was critical in helping home school parents identify the hidden costs of participating in government-funded programs for home schoolers.

2009 **AFHE** began working to correct inequities in eligibility for the AIMS Scholarship. This was necessary because home school students were exempt from mandatory AIMS testing.

2010 **AFHE** drove legislation (SB1280) requiring all state universities to report and publish the scholarships they awarded, including information about the recipients' school type.

2011 **AFHE** secured the passage of SB1152 which clarified that homeschools are a form of nonpublic education, and all statutory references to "home school" were replaced with "**homeschool**." ARS §15.802(G)(2) now reads: "*Homeschool*" means a nonpublic school conducted primarily by the parent, guardian or other person who has custody of the child or nonpublic instruction provided in the child's home.

2013 HB2168 would have raised the compulsory age of schooling from 16 to 18 years old. Alerted by **AFHE**, parents rallied to defeat it in the House Education Committee.

2014 Due to the 2010 passage of SB1280, **AFHE** was able to prove that ASU was under-awarding scholarship amounts to homeschool applicants. Representative J.D. Mesnard helped **AFHE** achieve an agreement requiring ASU to fully accept homeschool and community college GPAs, agree to additional reporting requirements, and retroactively award all underfunded applicants from FY12 and FY13.

2015 The Arizona Home Education Journal, created in 1992, became *Homeschool Arizona* magazine.

HB2530 would have inadvertently reimposed standardized testing requirements on homeschool students. **AFHE** worked with the bill's sponsors to revise the language in the bill.

2017 **AFHE** drove the passage of HB2389, the diploma equivalency law signed by Governor Doug Ducey. The new law, ARS §1.701, required all government entities in the state to treat all diplomas and transcripts from legal schooling options in the same manner.

AFHE hired its first executive director.

To serve a growing segment of the homeschool community, **AFHE** introduced a new event: the Southwest Special Needs and Gifted Learners Homeschool Conference.

2019 **AFHE** marked its 25th year of holding the statewide home education convention at the Phoenix Convention Center.

2020 Nationwide shutdowns of public gatherings caused the cancellation of **AFHE's** annual convention. The keynote speakers presented their sessions online for **AFHE** members.

2021 **AFHE** launched a mobile app for wherever-you-are access to resources and information about homeschooling in Arizona.

We hope that reading about these events and milestones from the last 40 years is encouraging and inspiring!

2023 AFHE SENIOR HIGH GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Graduates!



On Friday, May 26, nearly 3,500 family members and friends celebrated with the Class of 2023 at Dream City Church. This moving cap and gown ceremony honored 213 excited graduates from many locations around Arizona. It was a wonderful demonstration of the extraordinary education—rooted in the context of home and family—that parents are providing for their children.

Several 2023 graduates were selected to make special contributions during the ceremony. Our music committee selected performances from two graduates. On guitar and vocals, Sophie Wilson opened the program on an inspiring note by performing "At the Cross" by Hillsong Y&F. Later in the program, Elliot Aw played an exciting piano piece entitled "Don't Stop Me Now" by Peter Bence. And when graduate Daniel Allison delivered the Senior Address, his stirring message to his fellow graduates was an exhortation to pursue and esteem truth and excellence.

The Commencement Address was delivered by Charlie Kirk, founder and president of Turning Point USA. Mr. Kirk's speech emphasized holding firmly to the excellent foundation of faith and truth that was developed during the graduates' homeschool years.

Before the members of the Class of 2023 came onstage to receive their diplomas, everyone enjoyed a video montage of the graduates' baby and senior photos—always a favorite part of the celebration! The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the graduates, the turning of the tassels, and a closing prayer. Fellowship and refreshments capped off this memorable evening. AFHE congratulates all the graduates and their families as they observe this special milestone. We are especially thankful to the Graduation Committee for their hard work in preparing this beautiful ceremony and for the many volunteers who made this evening a great success!

AFHE's 31st annual Senior Graduation was sponsored by Grand Canyon University and Cigna (Jack Martin).





ARIZONA FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION

2023 Scholarship Recipients

The Arizona Homeschool Scholarship Fund (AHSF) administers an annual scholarship opportunity which allows eligible Arizona homeschooled students to earn financial awards to help them as they pursue post-secondary education from a college, university, or trade school.

AFHE congratulates these students who received AHSF scholarships in 2023!



Jacinda Sweeten
\$2000 Lewis Scholarship

Each year the scholarship selection committee has the challenging task of selecting award recipients from dozens of applications submitted by outstanding students from all over Arizona. These inspiring applicants truly demonstrate the many personal and academic benefits of homeschooling all the way through high school. They also consistently express their gratitude for the efforts of their parents and appreciation for the opportunity to soar in their educational pursuits.



Jack Layman
AFHE \$1000 General Scholarship



Lucas Lo
AFHE \$1000 General Scholarship



Homeschool graduates from Arizona are attending college, launching businesses, learning trades, raising families, and impacting our country as engaged citizens and leaders.



Mark Mosiman
AFHE \$1000 General Scholarship



Landry Stow

AFHE \$1000 General Scholarship



Liana Sweeten

AFHE \$1000 General Scholarship

Thank You

for your donations to the Arizona Homeschool Scholarship Fund!

Your gifts make these awards possible, and your involvement encourages these students and their families.



James Wong

AFHE \$1000 General Scholarship

Since the Scholarship Fund started assisting students in 2001, AFHE has awarded more than \$143,000 to 129 recipients.

You can support homeschool graduates and invest in the future by making a tax-deductible donation.

Awards comprise 100% of funds donated to the AHSF.

[AFHE.ORG/GIVE](https://afhe.org/give)

The 2024 application will be available January 2, 2024.



Save the Date!

May 24, 2024

**32nd ANNUAL
ARIZONA
HOMESCHOOL
GRADUATION**

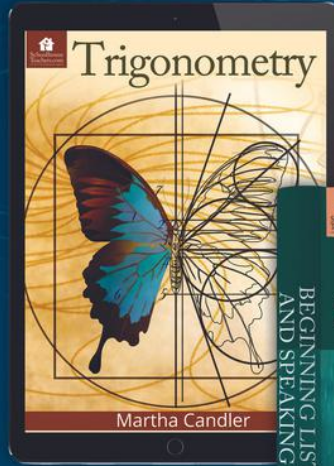
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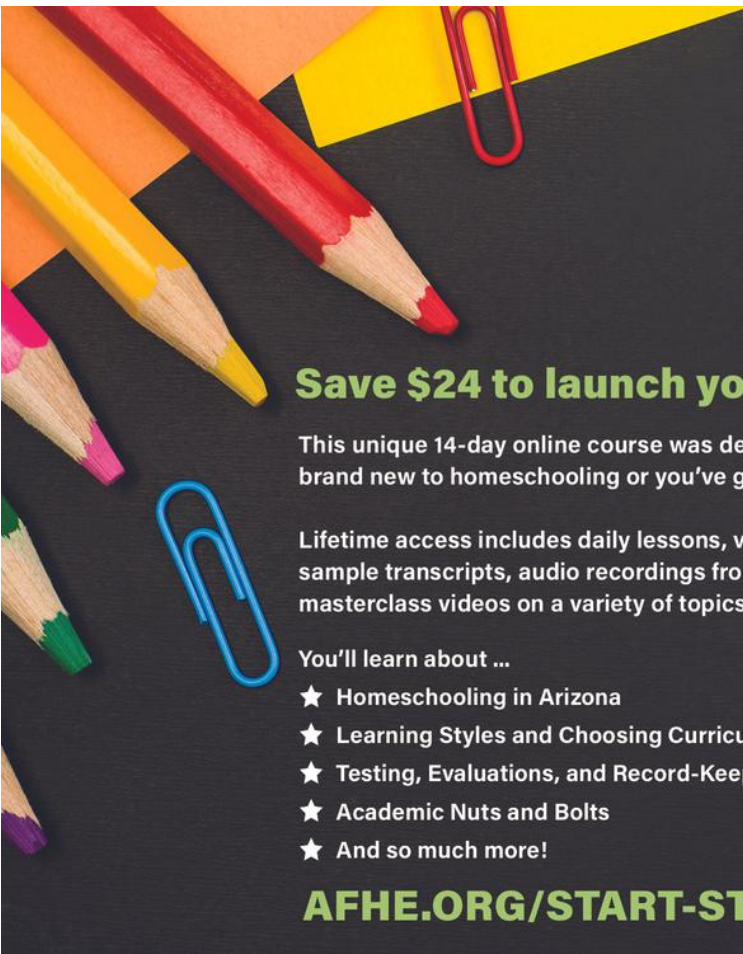
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Homeschooling ADHD: Seven Keys for Thriving

by Jeannie Fulbright

I assumed all boys were like mine—full of energy, easily distracted, quickly bored, capable of intense and lengthy focus on current interests, yet unable to focus when not interested.

I didn't notice they had ADHD because the methodology I used made homeschooling these brilliant, bouncy boys a breeze. It created an environment that allowed my two spontaneous Spartans to thrive academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

Implementing the seven key elements of this tried-and-true methodology from Charlotte Mason—one of the foremost experts on what a superior education requires—will enable your students to thrive, too, especially those with ADHD.

Out of Door Time

Charlotte Mason tells us, *"In this time of extraordinary pressure, educational and social, perhaps the mother's first duty to her children is to secure for them a quiet growing time—spent for the most part in the fresh air."*

I remember the day I received a call from my youngest son who was a freshman in college. He'd just left a history lecture and wanted to tell me about his huge revelation. "I was sitting in class trying to pay attention when it hit me. All these kids have been sitting in a classroom for hours and hours every day since they were five years old. It's how they spent their childhood. I spent my childhood climbing trees. I feel sorry for them."

It was true. My son spent most of his childhood outdoors. The things a child naturally learns outdoors—climbing trees, digging holes in the ground, collecting rocks, planting a garden, examining caterpillars, and watching clouds move across the sky—are essential to his education.

Charlotte Mason tells us, *"Play, vigorous healthful play, is, in its turn, fully as important as lessons, as regards both bodily health and brain-power."*

Hundreds of studies conducted on millions of people prove the incredible benefits of spending time in nature. Researchers who study the effects of nature on children with ADHD have concluded that time in a green outdoor environment significantly reduces symptoms of ADHD.

My children were outside in the morning before school. On lovely days, we ate lunch outside. After school, they headed outdoors. Every week we had park day with our homeschool group. Every Sunday, we hiked after church. And a few times a month, we went on nature excursions.

Charlotte Mason tells us that time outdoors is essential for a child's education. I would say it's **indispensable** for a child with ADHD.

"The claims of the schoolroom should not be allowed to encroach on the child's right to long hours daily for exercise and investigation." —Charlotte Mason

Short Lessons

No child, ADHD or not, can attend to a lesson beyond his attention span. Studies reveal a child's attention span is 5–15 minutes. By requiring a child to focus for more than 15 minutes, we waste his and our time, creating great angst and frustration.

A study measuring the ability of medical students to concentrate found that concentration rose sharply and peaked at 10–15 minutes. Afterward, it fell steadily



to zero. The researchers suggested reducing the lectures to 30 minutes for these young adults.

If this is true for a 24-year-old medical student, how much truer is it for our children? Instead of saying, "Complete this assignment," we should say, "Do the best work you can on this assignment for fifteen minutes. If you don't finish it, that's okay. You'll work 15 minutes each day until it's completed." Instead of saying, "Read this book or this entire chapter," we should say, "Read for 15 minutes then explain what you read."

When I implemented short lessons, my boys could focus and concentrate better. It was rough at first. They were in the habit of being inattentive. I set a timer, and we moved on to the next subject no matter how much they had done. They didn't feel so overwhelmed and unmotivated when they realized how short 15 minutes was. As they strengthened their focus for that small segment of time, they began to develop the vital habit of attention.

Charlotte Mason affirms this when she writes, "We are able to get through a greater variety of subjects, and through more work in each subject, in a shorter time than is usually allowed, because children taught in this way get the habit of close attention and are carried on by steady interest."

Alternating Activities

Charlotte Mason encourages us to give the brain a variety of work. Different regions of the brain activate with different subjects and activities. Alternating the lessons and activities keeps the day running smoothly and the children focused.

After a math lesson, assign personal reading, an artistic endeavor, or a fifteen-minute recess outdoors. The next lesson should always require a different kind of focused concentration.

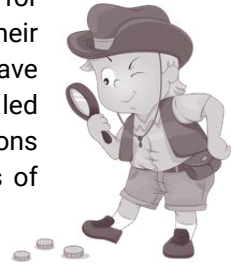
When my children became independent, I let them choose when they would tackle each subject. With a list, they knew what must be accomplished each day, and they decided when to do each item. If they wanted to shoot hoops for an hour before they finished their math lesson, that was their prerogative.



This freedom encourages children to take ownership of their education and helps nurture their innate thirst for learning.

Free Time

ADHD children have a high need for times of hyperfocus. Whatever their current obsession is, they must have time to pursue that divinely led curiosity. Overscheduled afternoons leave little time to fan the flames of these interests.



Charlotte Mason wisely explains, "If the whole afternoon cannot be spared for out-of-door recreation, that is the time for mechanical tasks such as needlework, drawing, practicing."

During free time, my daughters usually read or pursued some artistic endeavor. My oldest son had various obsessions, from wormholes to weightlifting. My younger son preferred climbing trees or practicing baseball. Today, they still use their free time to pursue their passions and grow their arsenal of skills.

Implementing free time requires scheduling margin into our days and weeks. We must be discerning and prayerful about what we sign up for. Guilt or fear of missing out should never be why we add something to our schedule. For children with ADHD to operate at their optimum capacity, we have to ensure they don't feel hurried and harried.

Narration

Worksheets are the bane of an ADHD child's existence. They are boring, ineffective, and only access the child's short-term memory.

Narration is simply the art of telling another what one has learned. It utilizes higher-level, deeper thinking and develops superior communication skills.

Charlotte Mason says, "Narrating is not the work of a parrot, but of absorbing into oneself the beautiful thought from the book, making it one's own and then giving it forth again with just that little touch that comes from one's own mind."

Narration actually creates physical changes in the brain. When a child explains what he's learned, he develops neural pathways that increase comprehension, understanding, and retention.

My ADHD boys thrived with this methodology. It shortened the lesson and was a change of activity that got them thinking and speaking.

Notebooking

Notebooking is the written or visual progression that follows narration. After a child learns, he reproduces his learning with words, illustrations, and creativity.

This is far superior to worksheets and tests and is even more potent than oral narration.



While a child uses creativity to express his learning, the hippocampus, where creativity and memory work together, is stimulated. Children who notebook remember what they learned—even 20 years later.

For the ADHD child, creating notebooking pages can be delightful if you use living books that stimulate the child's interest in the subject. Because it's essential to keep the lessons delightful, use notebooking sparingly, once a week for each subject at the very most.

Charlotte Mason says, *"Children who had been reading Julius Caesar were asked to make a picture of their favourite scene, and the results showed the extraordinary power of visualising which the little people possess. Of course that which they visualise, or imagine clearly, they know; it is a life possession."*

Faith in God's Purposes

God created your children exactly as they are, complete with the gift of ADHD. He gave them everything needed to fulfill His great purpose for them. He knew they must have the strengths and unique characteristics that come with ADHD—obsessive focus, resiliency, a need to master their interests—to accomplish His purposes.

Our children are not broken.

They are gifted.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:10

We must know and honor this truth. Our children's inability to conform to the societal norms of the modern educational system should never be our focus.

Our primary job is to point our children to the One who created them and gave them His divine curiosity to dig and discover, to master a skill, and to follow new interests. They must know He's the One who guides them in their pursuits, and ignites and fans the flames of their interests, their passions, and their obsessions.

Most importantly, our children must understand that God is for them. He is always there to help them overcome every challenge they will face.

As Charlotte Mason tells us, *"We should allow no separation to grow up between the intellectual and 'spiritual' life of children; but should teach them that the divine Spirit has constant access to their spirits, and is their continual helper in all the interests, duties and joys of life."*



JEANNIE FULBRIGHT, veteran homeschooler of more than 20 years, is the author of the best-selling Apologia elementary science series: *Exploring Creation with Astronomy, Chemistry and Physics, Botany*, and other volumes. She also authors preschool science picture books, as well as two historical time travel series for kids.

JEANNIEFULBRIGHT.COM

Jeannie Fulbright was a featured speaker at the 2023 AFHE Convention. She has a special giveaway for one fortunate Homeschool Arizona reader!



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PLANNER GIVEAWAY



Learn more about this keepsake planner at shop.jeanniefulbright.com.

You can win this beautiful Charlotte Mason Heirloom Planner (\$55 value) from Jeannie Fulbright Press, just by reading *Homeschool Arizona* and entering the drawing in the **AFHE Homeschool Arizona** group on Facebook!

Beginning Tuesday, December 26, look in the **AFHE Homeschool Arizona** Facebook group for a pinned post about Jeannie Fulbright's article "Homeschooling ADHD: Seven Keys for Thriving." Follow the instructions in the post to comment and enter. A winner will be drawn from entries submitted December 26-28. Someone will win this lovely planner to use in 2024!

AFHE'S GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM REPORTS

BY JEFF & MICHELLE JIBBEN,
AFHE DIRECTORS OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1,562
bills introduced this session

348
bills transmitted to the
governor

143
bills vetoed

205
bills signed
into law

The first Regular Session of the 56th Legislature began on January 9, 2023, and adjourned sine die after a record-breaking 204 days on July 31, 2023.

1,562 bills were introduced this session. 348 of those bills were transmitted to the governor, of which 143 were vetoed and 205 were signed into law.

The AFHE legislative team reviews each bill that is introduced, looking for ways that homeschooling could be directly or indirectly impacted. AFHE is involved not only in legislation that positively impacts homeschooling, but we also watch legislation that may have a negative impact and act accordingly. It is our goal to ensure the protection of your homeschool freedoms as well as those of the next generation.

This year, we had the honor to speak with several state senators, representatives, and the Senate Education Committee in support of homeschool freedoms in Arizona.

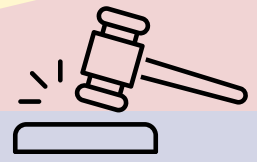
Arizona homeschool law is one of the best in the nation, and its strength lies in its simplicity.

In order to get started homeschooling, all parents need to do is file an affidavit of intent one time and provide their child's birth certificate to the county school superintendent within 30 days of beginning homeschooling for children who are within the compulsory education ages of 6 to 16. If parents wish to delay formal education until age 8, that is simply indicated on the affidavit of intent. This is a simple declaration of the intent to homeschool, not a request that requires approval. There are no requirements for student testing, parent testing, curriculum review, requirements for number of hours of instruction, or submission of grades, and the county school superintendents do not evaluate our work.

But it has not always been this way . . .



ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL



In the 1980s and 1990s, homeschooling looked very different than it does today.

Here's a brief look at the history of homeschooling in Arizona.

- Before 1982, homeschooling was not clearly defined in Arizona and many parents landed in court.
- In 1982, then-Governor Bruce Babbitt signed a bill that created a way for parents to legally educate their children at home.
- The teaching parent was required to pay for, take, and pass the Arizona Teachers Proficiency Exam. All three Basic Skills modules needed to be passed before homeschooling could begin, and the tests were only offered quarterly at sites near the three state universities. This requirement remained until 1993.
- Annual standardized testing was required for each homeschool student, and the results were reported to the County School Superintendents. At that time, there were very limited options and virtually no publishers would offer tests to homeschool families. Families had to rely on finding a private or public school to accommodate testing.
- Yearly proof of academic progress was required and subject to an independent evaluation at the Superintendent's discretion.
- As recently as 1991, a dad in Apache Junction was jailed for failing to register his daughter as a homeschool student.

Through the sustained efforts of AFHE over the years, burdensome regulations have been lifted and freedoms have been won. Significant legislation has been enacted in Arizona in the past 40 years. We invite you to review the timeline on pages 3-5 of this magazine to discover the history of homeschool freedom in Arizona.

OUR VIGILANCE CONTINUES

The government affairs team and the AFHE Board are prudent and careful in deciding how to respond to legislation that may infringe upon homeschool freedoms in Arizona. Sometimes that means recognizing that a bill will not have the support it needs to move forward. Other times, that means actively working with legislators to amend language that could have a negative impact. It also includes, at times, testifying in committees, as we did during this session.

This year has been no different. We reviewed all 1,562 bills that were introduced, and monitored any that could have a direct or indirect effect on homeschooling. When friends of homeschooling brought a bill to us that would inadvertently affect a portion of statute that is exclusively written for homeschoolers, we worked together with that organization, legislators, and the sponsor of the bill to recraft the language and location so that it not only met their objectives, but also left the homeschool statute unchanged.

While that bill ultimately did not make it to the governor's desk, we are thankful for positive relationships with other organizations as well as legislators who welcomed AFHE's efforts graciously, and who value retaining the strength of homeschool statutes.

Know that we are committed to working year round on behalf of the homeschool community. We look forward to continuing the work that AFHE has done for 40 years, and we ask for your prayers for continued success as we pursue AFHE's mission to preserve the freedom to homeschool in Arizona.

COUNTER CULTURE

change the future one child at a time

Memories of

The 2023 Arizona Home Education Convention in July brought together nearly 3,200 attendees for two full days of fellowship, inquiry, enrichment, and motivation. This annual gathering is the highlight of the summer for hundreds of families from around the state of Arizona.

This year's theme, **COUNTERCULTURE**, served to remind us that pursuing a homeschool education and lifestyle requires many decisions that usually take us in a different direction than most of the people around us. Those new to homeschooling received the information and guidance they needed to get off to a great start, and parents who are continuing on the path were refreshed and equipped for the coming year.

With 85+ featured workshops to choose from, everyone found sessions that met their specific needs and interests. Parent educators had the opportunity for "deep dives" into areas like special needs homeschooling, homeschooling through high school, and Bible-focused topics through targeted workshop tracks. The Christian teen program **TRUTH {Jeremiah 29:13}** offered a full day seminar with *Walk Thru the Bible*, and a second day of sessions about fiction writing and the nature of truth and success. Exhibitors also presented dozens of sessions informing attendees about the methods, products, and services they had to offer.

Our 2023 program featured many special elements such as:

- Keynote speakers Ken Ham and Connie Albers
- Friday night "Refresh & Recharge" event for moms
- Reaching Higher Fair for post-secondary education
- Educación en el Hogar Mini-Conferencia - intro sessions presented in Spanish



Thanks for all the work that you do!
We know what a huge task this is and always leave challenged and encouraged!
This was our 7th convention and we have never been disappointed!

The convention is always a refreshing time and a good reminder of why we are doing what we are doing.



Over 140 vendor booths filled the exhibit hall allowing attendees to find curriculum options, educational materials, special services, learning-oriented venues, and family-focused nonprofit organizations. Young Entrepreneurs booths also offered 29 homeschool students and grads the opportunity to sell their handmade goods, works of art (written and visual), and skill-based services. And kids had plenty of fun attending the programming offered in the Kid Zone and completing the All About Arizona Treasure Hunt!

the 2023 AFHE Convention



This was my third year attending, and I'm incredibly grateful to AFHE for putting this on every year.

This conference is such a blessing. I leave feeling encouraged, inspired, motivated, and more confident in our decision to homeschool.

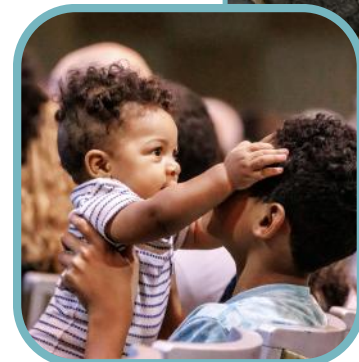


Great conference for so many reasons!
I will definitely be attending next year and encourage fellow homeschool friends to attend!



This year marked AFHE's 40th anniversary! We celebrated at the convention with video greetings from friends of AFHE, a new multi-panel display about the history of Arizona's homeschool freedom, and a special grand prize in our Buy It Here! drawing.

It is our privilege and joy to produce the AFHE Convention each year as we seek to refresh you in your role as homeschool parents and support your home education efforts with materials, tools, training, and ideas from reliable sources. Planning for the 2024 Convention is already underway, and we can't wait to see you there!





This is one of my family's favorite events of the entire year. We get to reconnect with old friends and are very encouraged on our homeschooling journey.

We appreciate the young entrepreneurs so much. It has given my children so many opportunities.



As a veteran homeschooler of ten kids for over 20 years this was the first convention I've attended in over a decade! I must say it was very well done. It was organized and laid out supremely.

Thank you to the entire convention team for putting on such a well-organized and informative convention. I'm already looking forward to next year!





If you volunteered at this year's AFHE Convention, you have our sincere thanks. Thousands of people were impacted by your kind service.



I loved volunteering! The people who ran the convention registration were kind and supportive and made it a great experience.



Thank you for a wonderful two days. I learned and grew greatly! I can't wait for this year of homeschooling and I will definitely be attending conferences in the future!





Fantastic job! Exceptionally high value for the time and money invested. Thank you to the Convention committee and all those who served throughout the weekend.



The man that prayed for Saturday morning... was phenomenal. And how he (prayed) in both English and Spanish? Outstanding and unforgettable.



AFHE thanks our Convention Sponsors



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IS KHAN ACADEMY ADEQUATE TEST PREP FOR THE SAT?



Reading and acting on this article might prove to be a very valuable five minutes. Ultimately, whatever actions you take in the lead up to college entry, you want them to yield the best possible results. When it comes to college, that means any or all of the following benefits: some kind of grant, bursary, scholarship, and entrance into a college of your choice.

I'm a parent. I know how hard it can be to afford extra stuff for your kids. But if you don't want to gamble your children's financial future on a bet that will not pay, then stick with me because I want to give you as balanced a view on the whole Free vs. Paid Test-Prep Company scenario as I possibly can.

It's a really valid question. "Why should I pay for test-prep help, when I can get my kid to do the Khan Academy's program—for FREE?" And I get it. When you've got the College Board backing Khan Academy to the hilt, why wouldn't you believe it to be the best thing on the market? I mean, the SAT is written by the College Board. It just makes sense. Or does it?

Khan Academy has been a valuable and vastly growing educational resource since its inception in 2008. Salman Khan originally created it to help a family member across the country. The whole system has had enormous benefits for content-based learning. The partnership with the College Board is a noble attempt—with its heart in the right place—to provide accessible help for the SAT.

And here's the issue. *The SAT, and other similar tests are not examining high school content.* They are standardized tests that measure your logic and critical thinking. They just

happen to be using high school content for college entry (because they have to hang their questions on something). Khan Academy's weakness in providing help for college-bound students is in its focus on content. Unfortunately, this approach won't cut it when it comes to acing the SAT. Practice is an important part of the college prep process. But you have to be targeted with your approach.

Real Test-Prep Strategies vs. the Khan Academy Approach

Here are the major problems and weaknesses:

- » While practice tests are provided, the test-prep help only tackles questions from the level of answering and working out the problem.
- » With its high school content approach, the default focus is on academic achievement. And standardized tests do not function that way.
- » There is no focus on teaching you test-taking techniques and strategies.
- » There is no focus on helping you use the strategies to answer the questions as fast as you can . . . to save time and score you more points.

In the Reading section, Khan's instructors will read a passage slowly and break down each one. In the real SAT tests, on average you have about a minute per question and six passages to tackle. There is simply not enough time to take the long road through the tests. Learn the right strategies and you can skip as much as 75% of the passage. A student should learn the five types of questions, how to rearrange them in the correct order, and how to eliminate the wrong (trick) answers first.

