

HOME EDUCATION

Across the United States

Home schooling is a flourishing phenomenon within the United States. In the 1980s, the general public had never heard of home schooling but today almost everyone has.

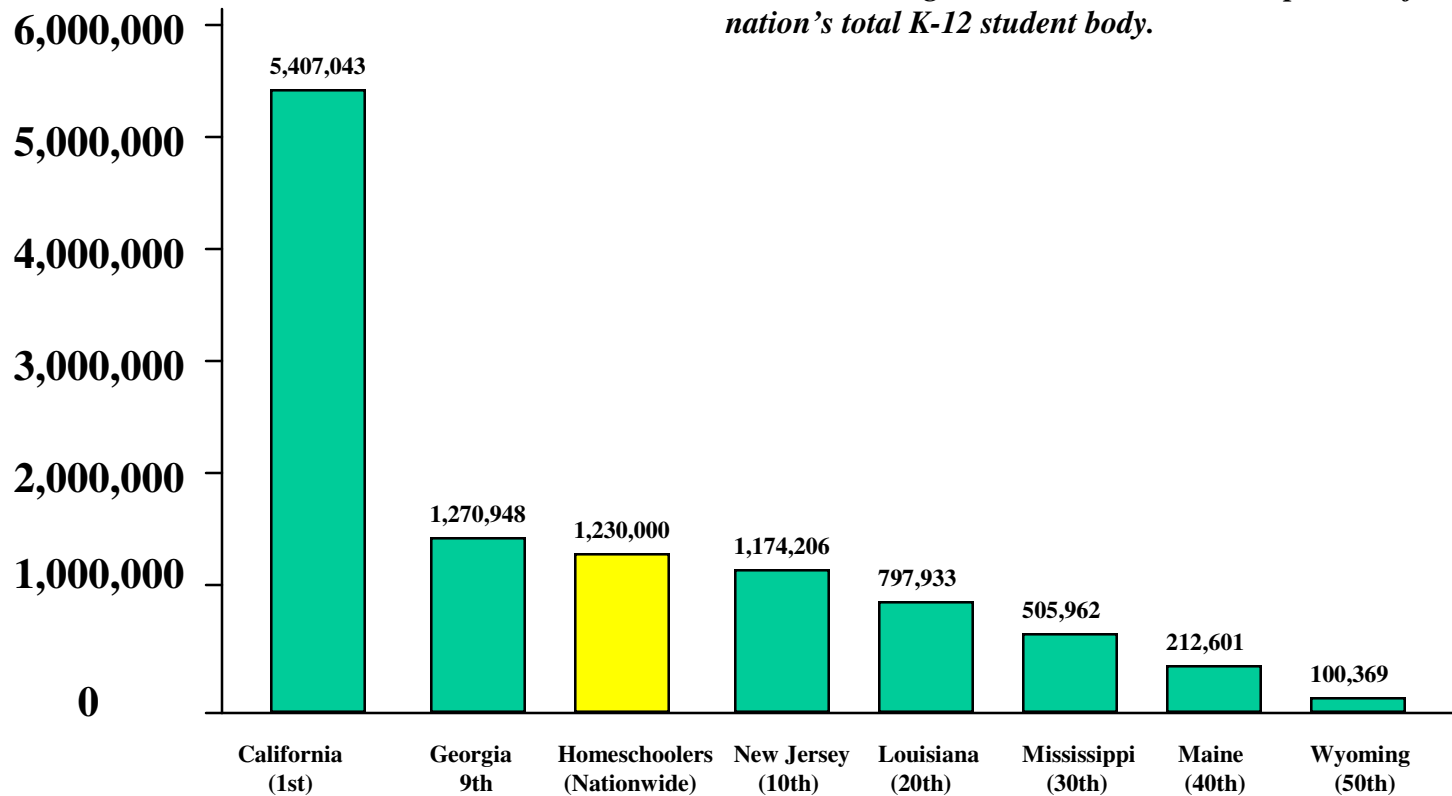
Still in the 21st century, society at large knows little about home schooling families: their backgrounds, their achievements, or their other activities. A recent study conducted by Dr. Brian D. Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, provides some answers. This study, *Strengths of Their Own: Home Schoolers Across America*, collected data on 5,402 home school students from 1,657 families for the 1994-95 and 1995-96 academic years. It is the largest and most comprehensive study on home schooling ever undertaken. It not only confirms many studies on similar investigations into aspects of home schooling, it addresses all the common questions and concerns expressed about home education. A summary of the most common questions asked and concerns expressed is given below:

1. How many home schoolers are there in the United States?
2. How do home schoolers education compare to those in public schools?
3. How can parents teach their own children? Is teacher certification required?
4. How much education does the parent have to have to successfully home school?
5. Isn't home schooling just the whites escape from school integration? How will the minority families achieve proper education if all the whites leave public education?
6. Isn't home schooling mostly made up of high income families? How will the poorer income families achieve proper education except in the public school system?
7. Is there a difference in home schooling boys versus girls?
8. How much money is involved in home education?
9. What about socialization of home schooled children? Are they being sheltered from "the real world"?
10. How many home schooled children can make in college?
11. How much state regulation is required of home schooling families to ensure the child get properly educated?
12. What level of education do home schoolers get or parents pursue?

How Many Home Schoolers Are There?

(Below are Home Schoolers Nationwide Compared to Selected State Public Schools Populations)

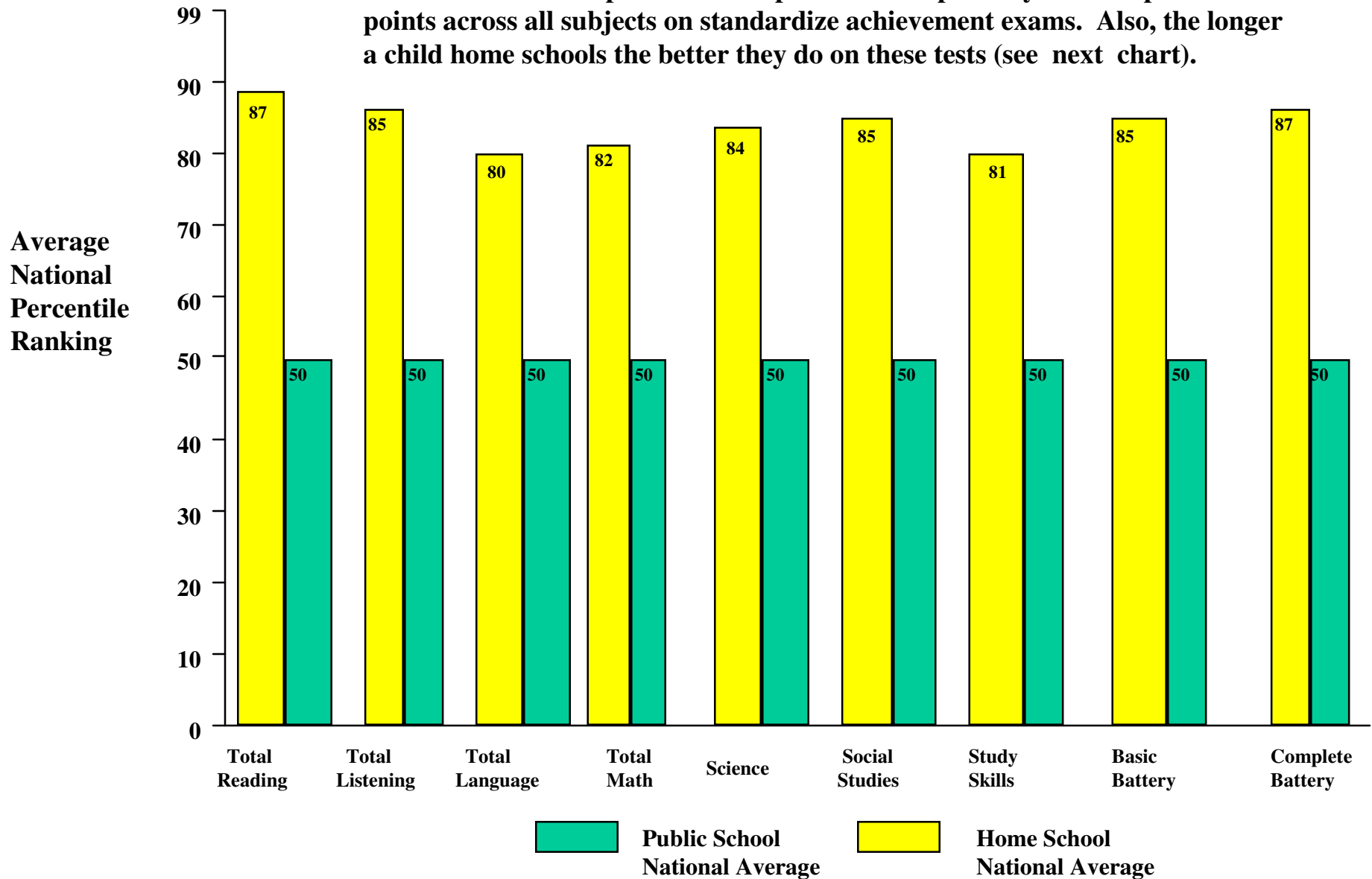
Number of Students, K-12th Grade



Footnote: This study calculated that there were 1.23 million home schoolers in the U.S. during the fall of 1996. The estimated margin of error is +/- 10% . This is similar to the total public school enrollment of Georgia or New Jersey (ranked 9th and 10th respectively among state public school population nationwide). Public school enrollment data is taken from 1996 U.S. Department of Education data regarding 1994 enrollment (most recent data).

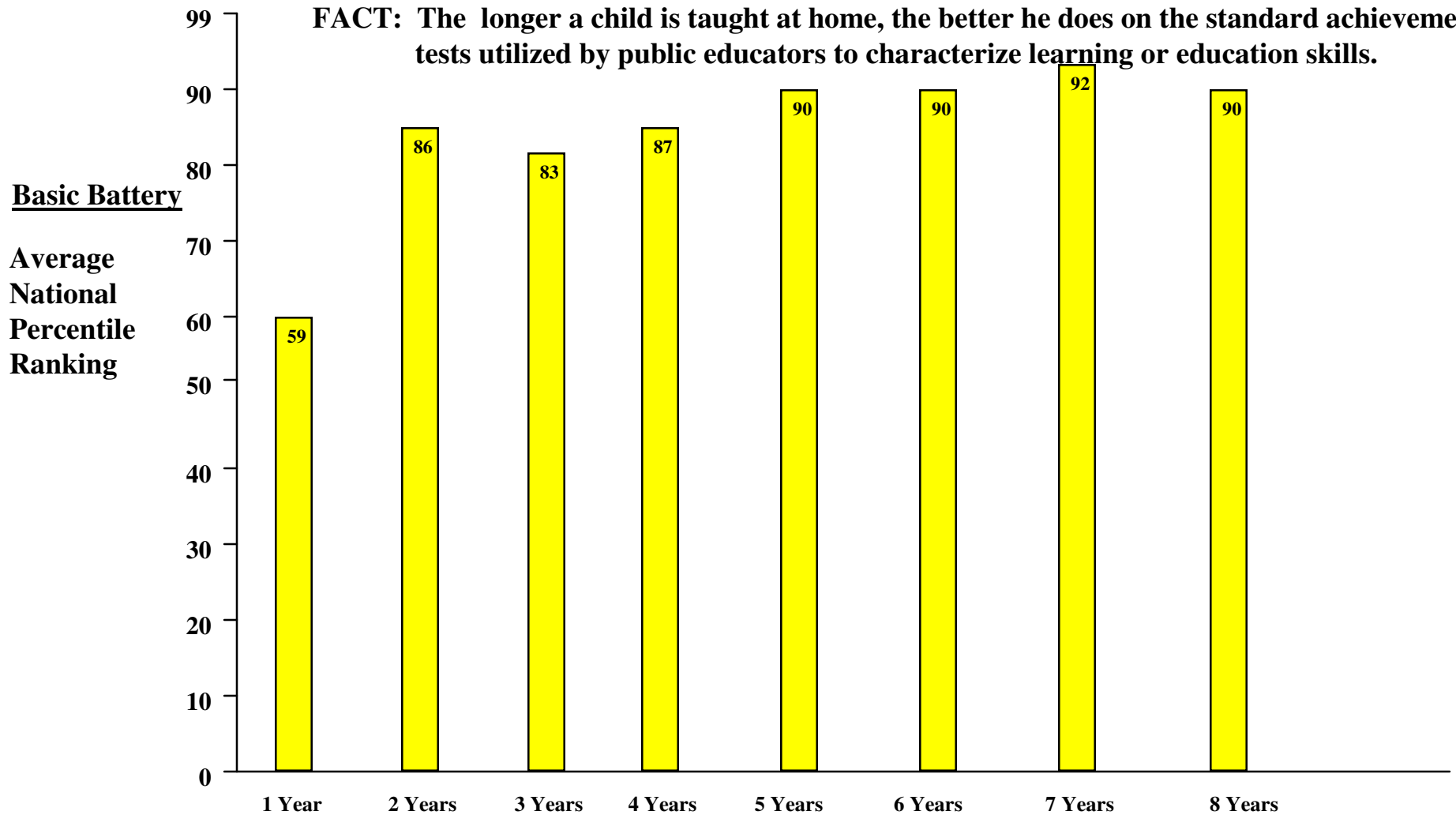
How Do Home School Children Compare Academically?

Fact: Home schoolers out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on standardize achievement exams. Also, the longer a child home schools the better they do on these tests (see next chart).



How Do Long-Term Home Schoolers Compare to Those Who Switch to Home Education Midstream?

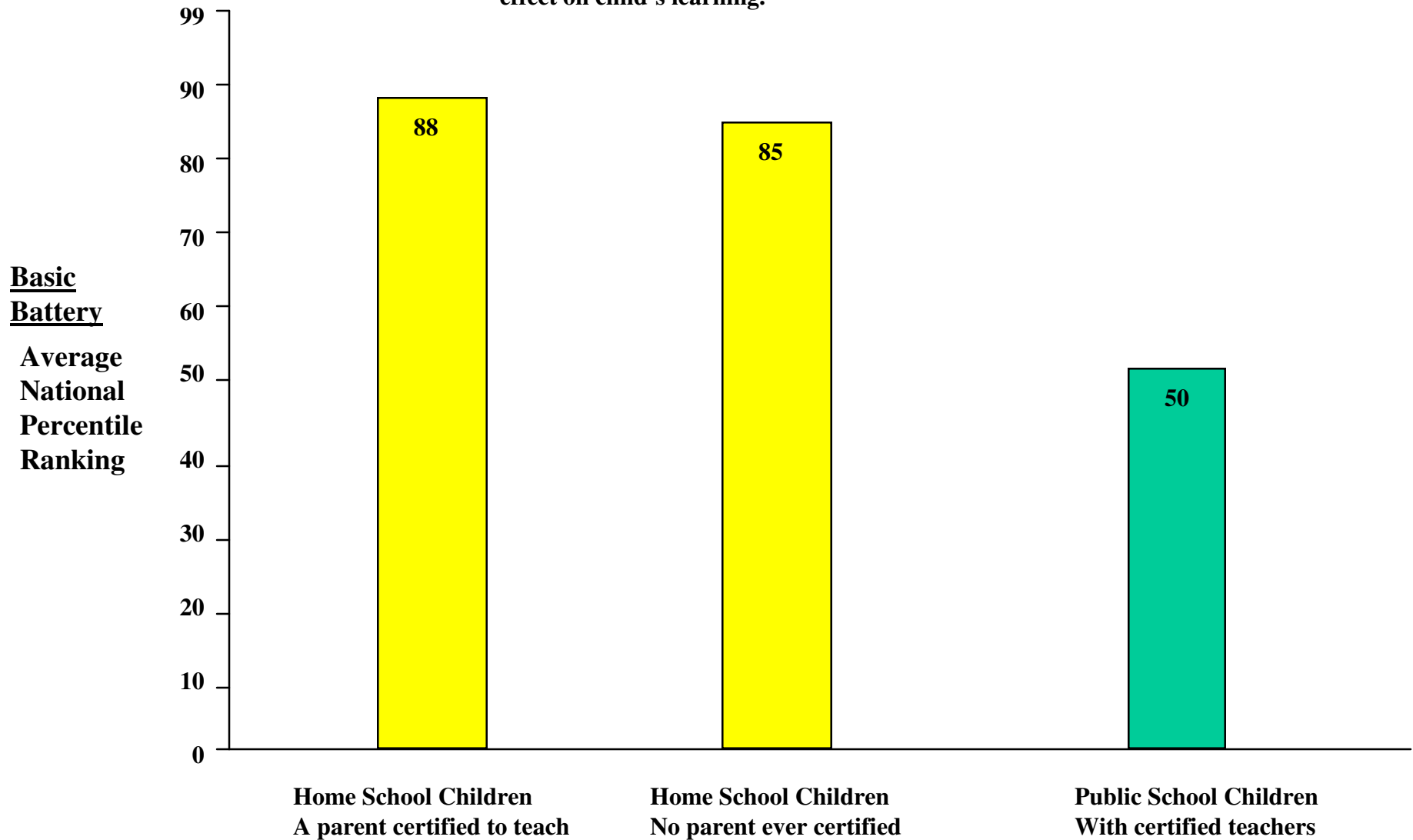
FACT: The longer a child is taught at home, the better he does on the standard achievement tests utilized by public educators to characterize learning or education skills.



Achievement for 8th Grade Home Schoolers Segmented by Years Taught at Home

Is Teacher Certification Necessary for High Achievement

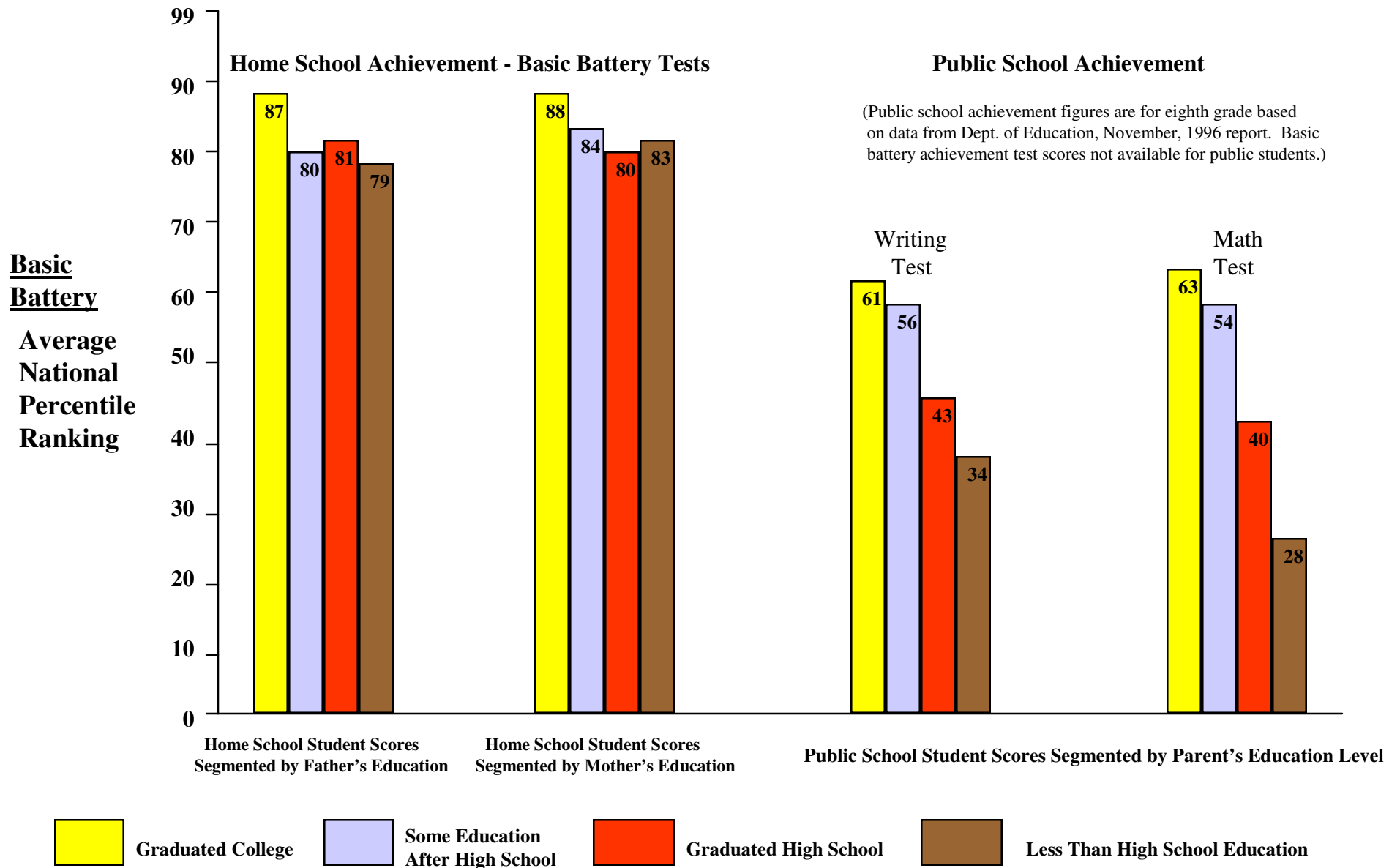
FACT: Studies show that teacher certification for home schooling parents has little effect on child's learning.



Does Parent's Education Level Predict Student Achievement?

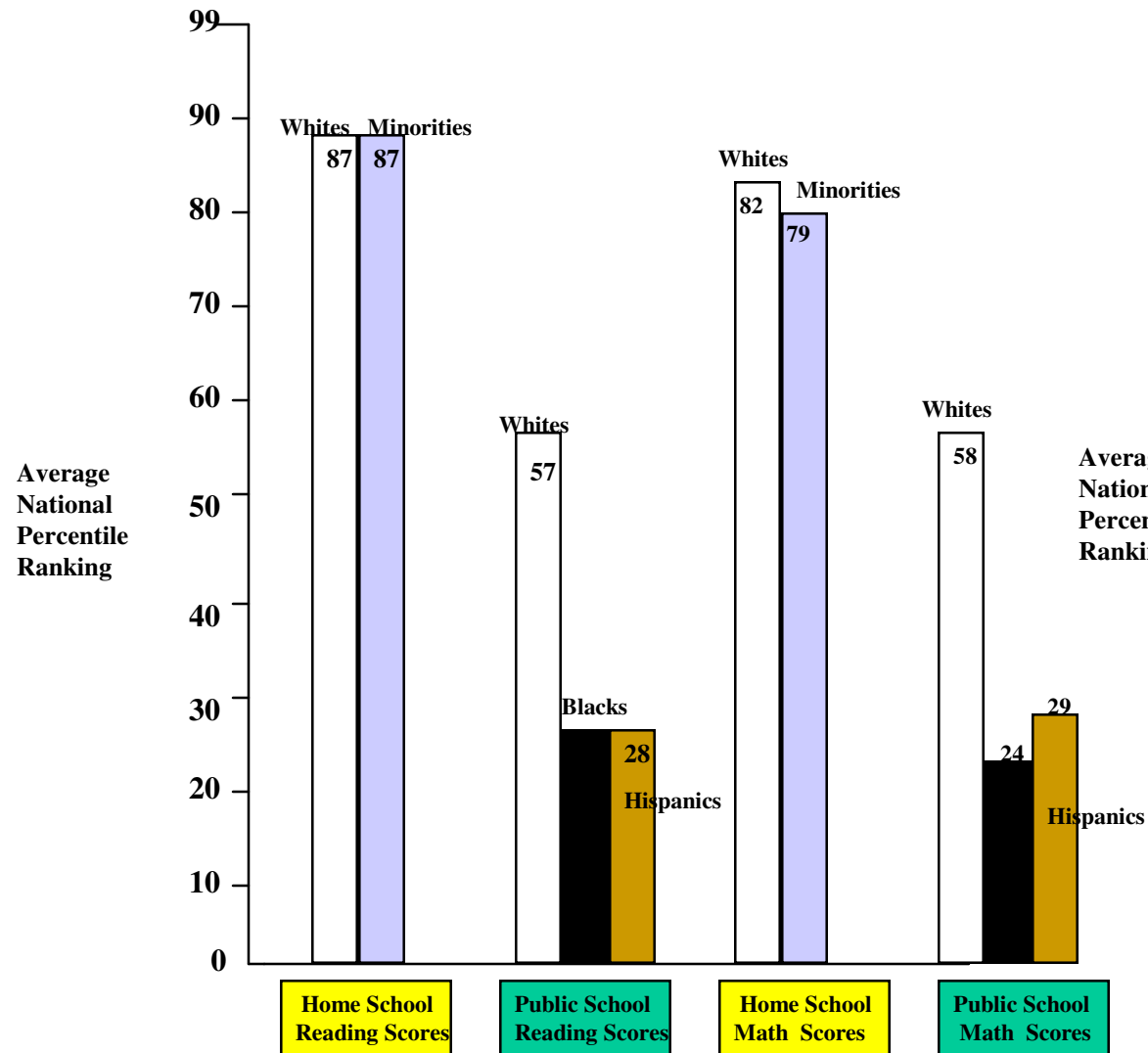
For Home Schoolers: NO!

For Public Schoolers: YES!



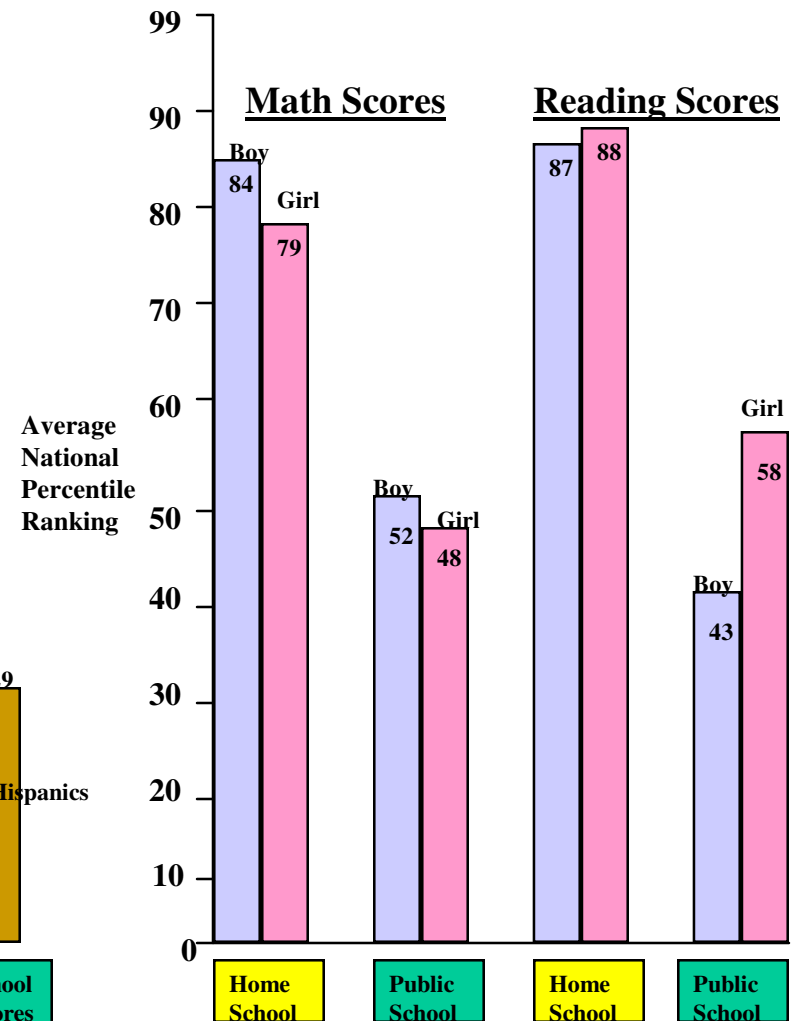
How Do Minorities Fare in Home Education?

Math and reading scores for minority home schoolers show no significant difference when compared to whites. However, a similar comparison for public school students demonstrates a substantial disparity.

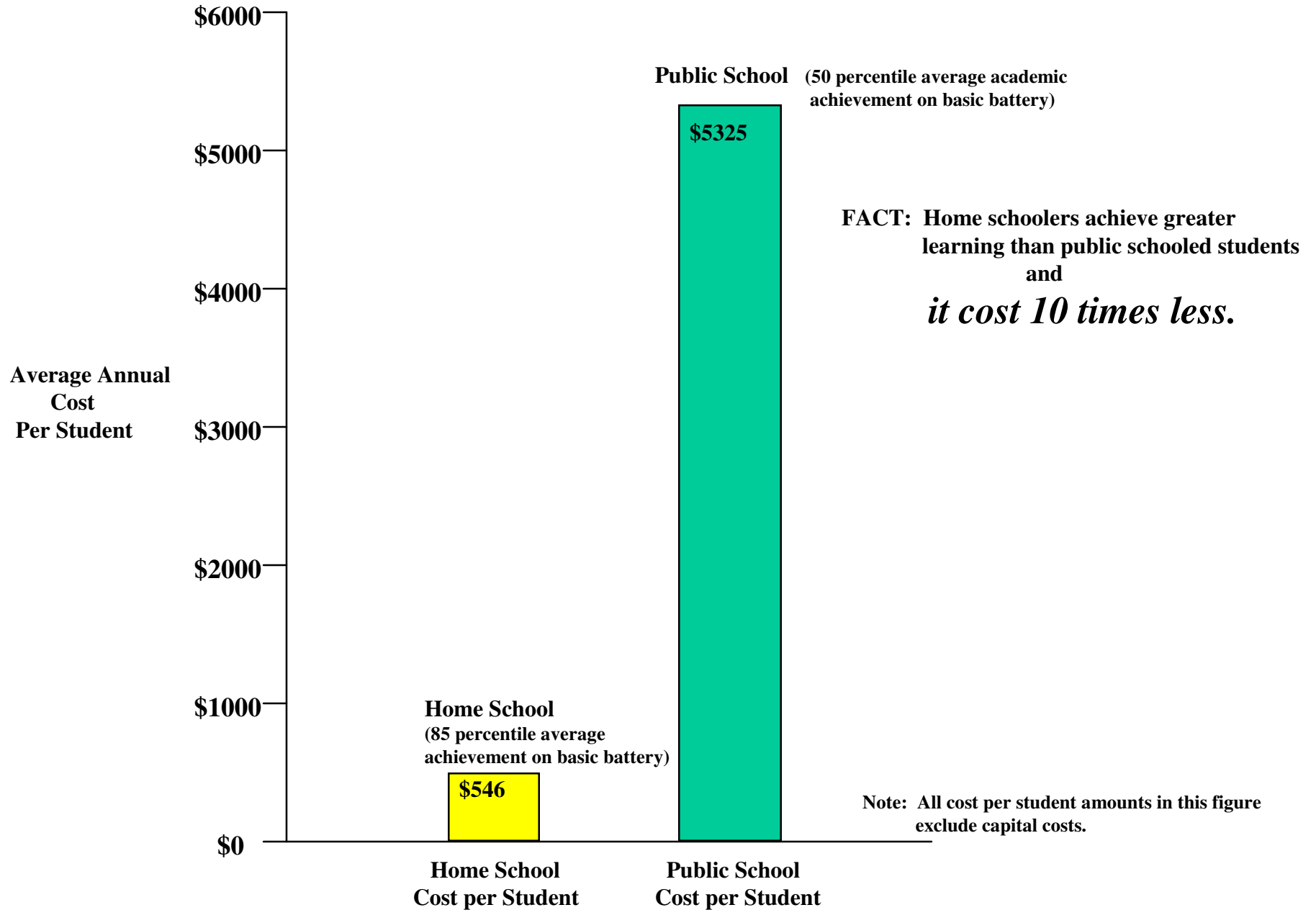


What About the Gender Gap in Academics?

When segmented by gender, test scores for home schoolers reveal that boys are slightly better in math, and girls in reading. Public school student performance in math follows a similar pattern but boys reading scores are markedly behind girls, a 15 percentile difference.

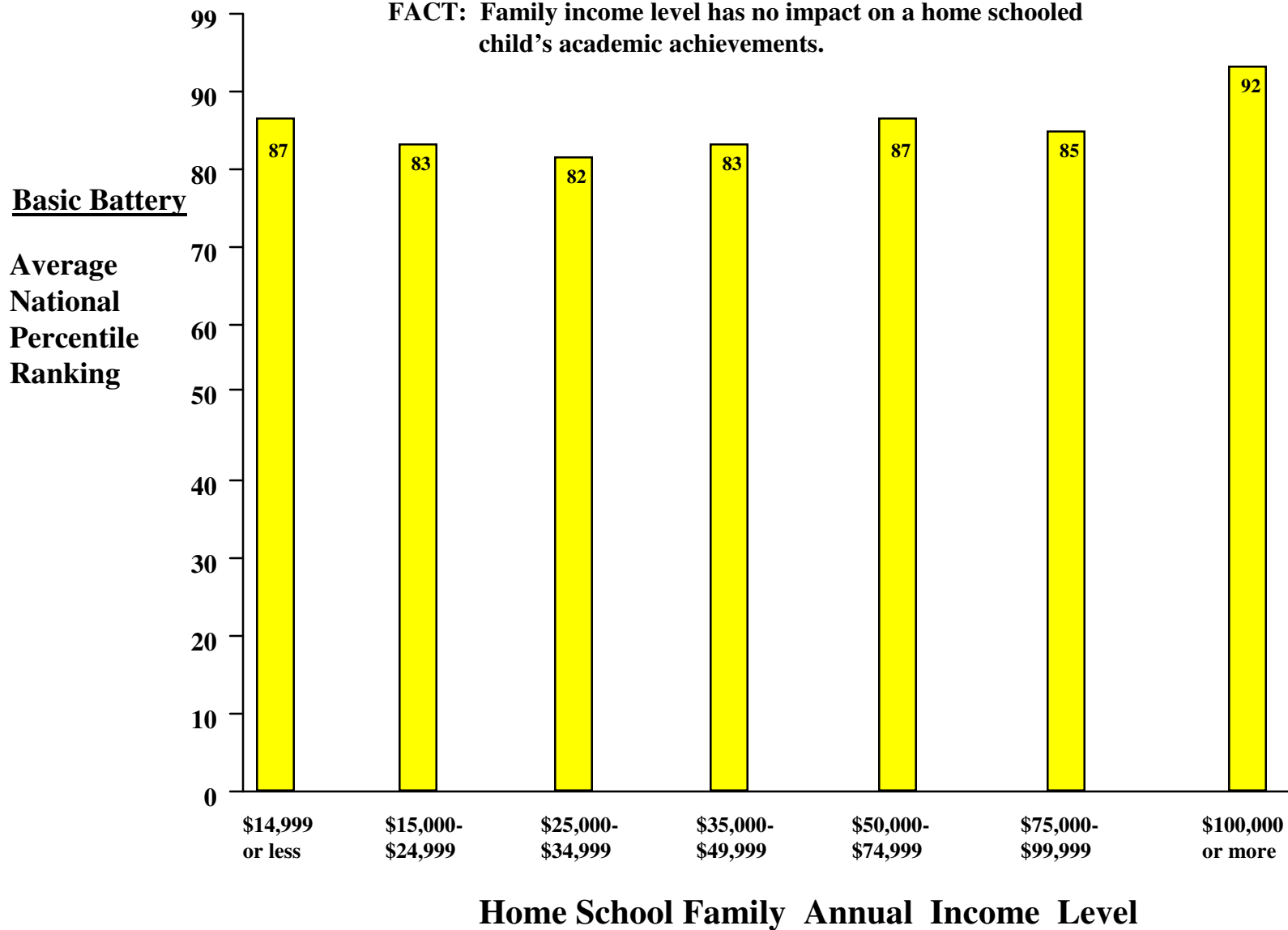


How Does Dollar Investment Correlate with Student Achievement?



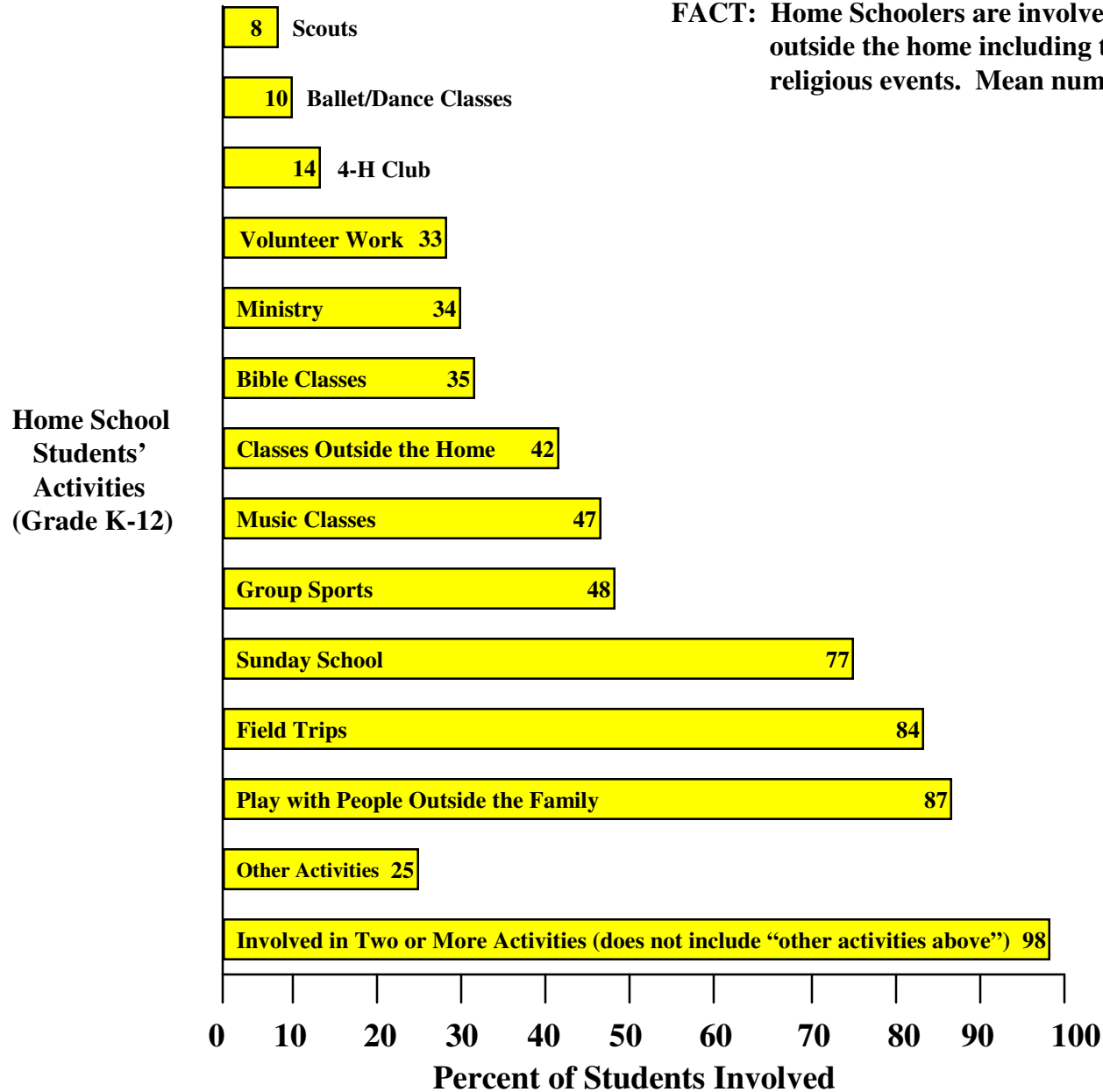
Is Family Income a Predictor of Academic Achievement for Home Schooled Children?

FACT: Family income level has no impact on a home schooled child's academic achievements.



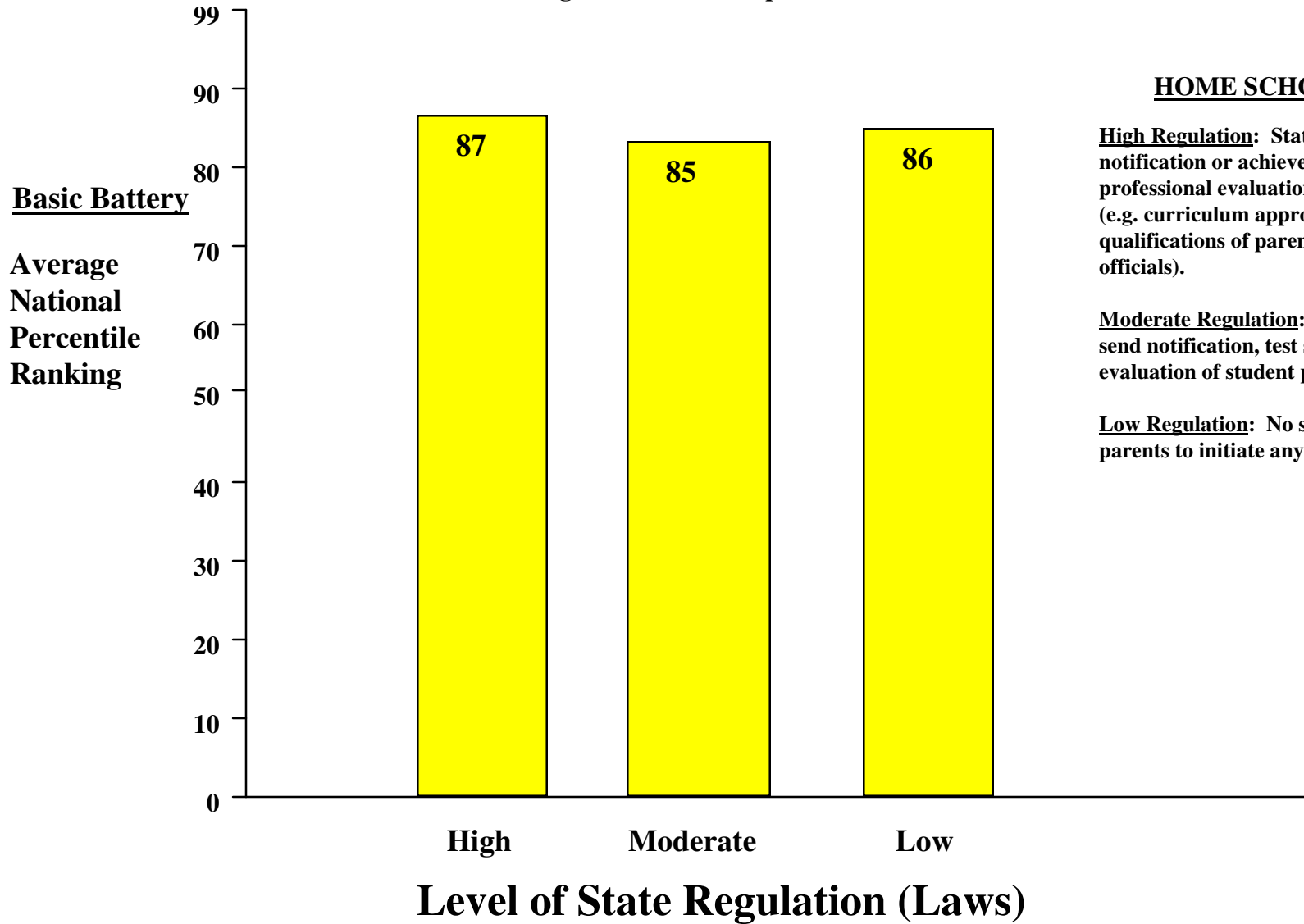
What About Socialization of Children Home Schooled?

FACT: Home Schoolers are involved in many social activities outside the home including the community and not just religious events. Mean number is 5.2 activities/student.



Is Government Regulation Necessary for High Achievement?

FACT: State Regulation has no impact on Home School Achievement.



HOME SCHOOL LAWS

High Regulation: State requires parents to send notification or achievement test scores and/or professional evaluations, plus other requirements (e.g. curriculum approval by state, teacher qualifications of parents, or home visits by state officials).

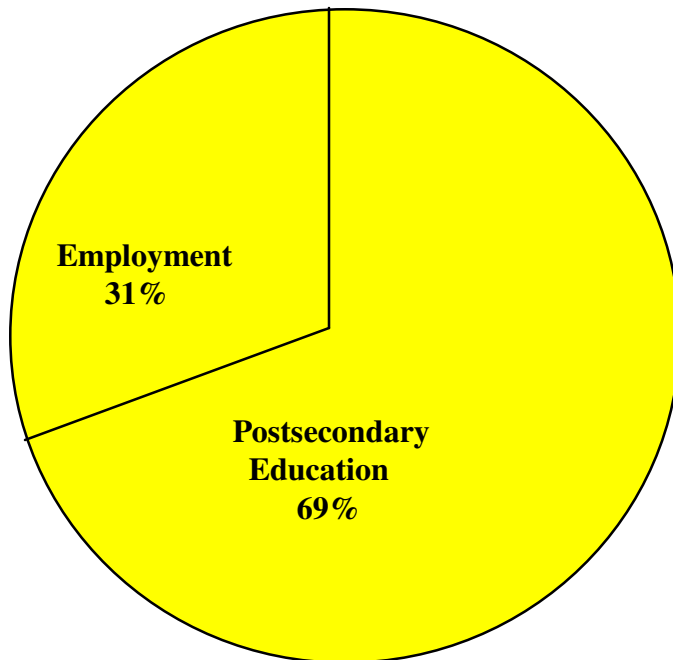
Moderate Regulation: State requires parents to send notification, test scores and/or professional evaluation of student progress.

Low Regulation: No state requirements for parents to initiate any contact with the state.

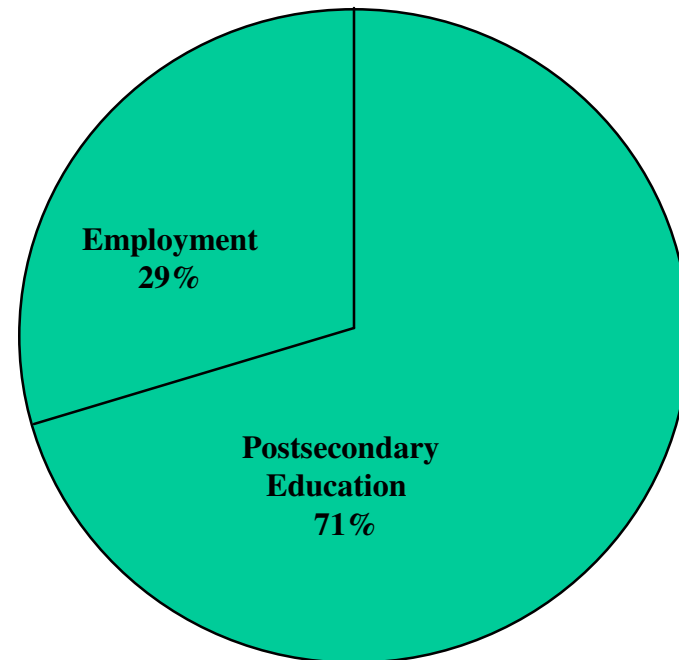
What Happens After High School Graduation?

FACT: Once they graduate from high school, home schooled children closely parallel their public school counterparts, whether they pursue more formal education or enter the job market.

Home School Graduates



Public School Graduates

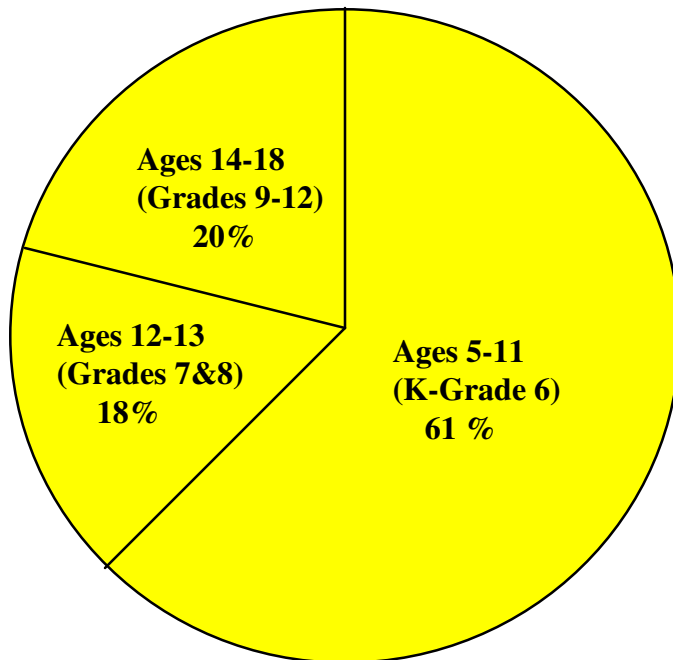


Note: Percentages do not include military, unemployed, missions, ministry, volunteer work, etc. since these categories were not available for both groups.

How Long Are Parents Going to Home School?

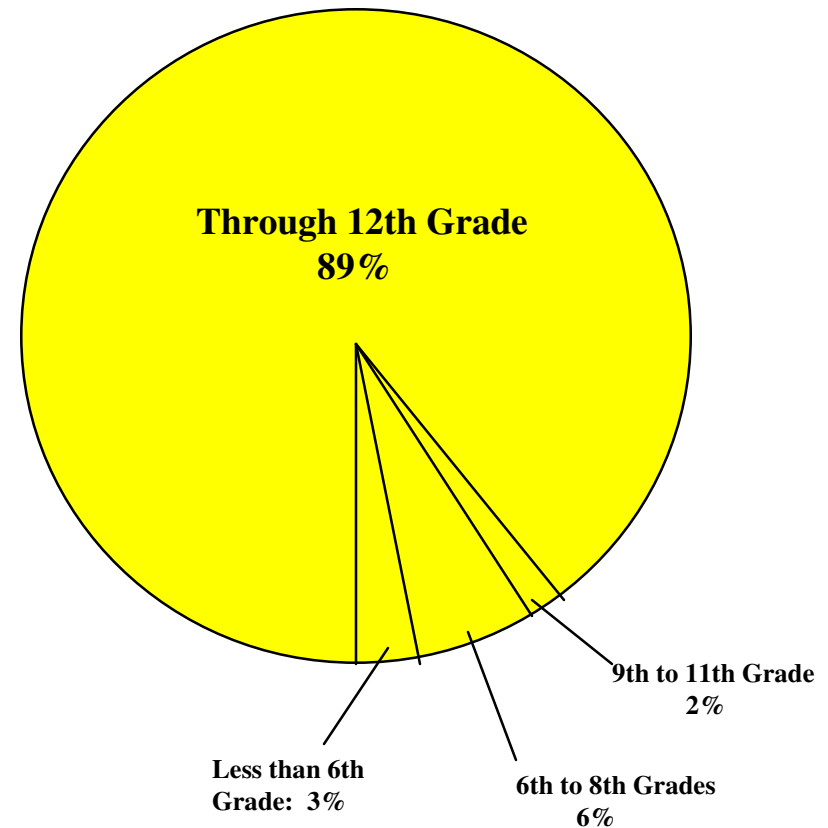
FACT: Parents are enthusiastic about their home schooling. The vast majority (89%) intend to continue teaching their children at home all the way through high school.

Ages of Home School Students in Study



Note: Less than 1% of Home Schoolers are over 18 years of age.

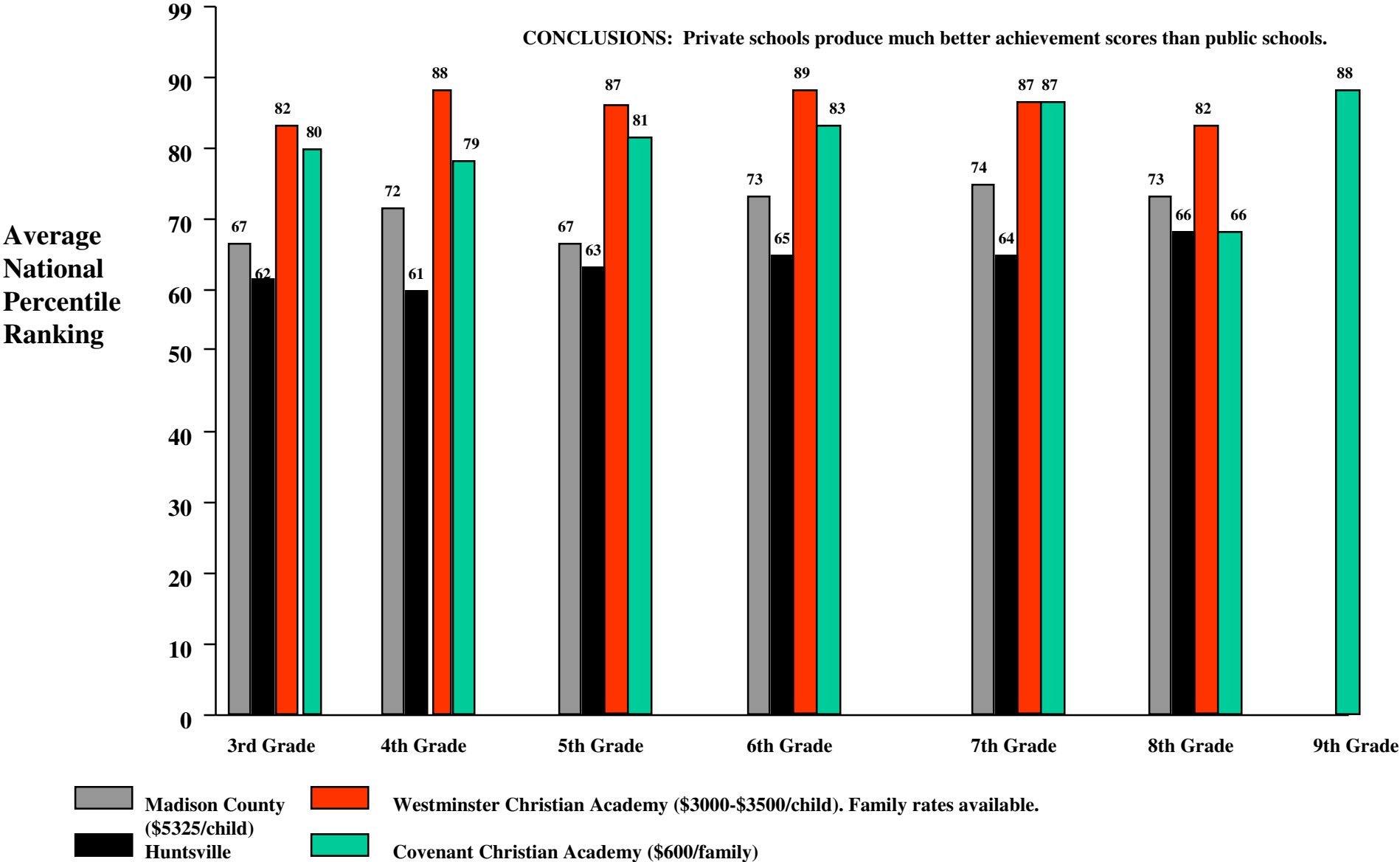
How Long Are Parents Going to Home School?



Stanford Achievement Test Results 1997 Complete Battery

An achievement test comparing performances in reading, mathematics, language, science and social sciences against scores of a national student sample. The national average is the 50th percentile. Battery = The average score, calculated from the total scores earned in tested components of the SAT.

CONCLUSIONS: Private schools produce much better achievement scores than public schools.



HOME SCHOOLING WORKS!

It could be the solution to our country's educational concerns. It's up to the parents not the government to decide. Both benefit from choosing home schooling.