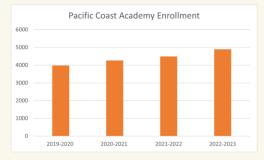


Developing a Homeschool Resource Center at the Public Library

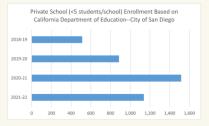
by Marika Jeffery, Youth Services Librarian, and Karen Reilly, Library Branch Manager Mission Valley Branch, San Diego Public Library

JUSTIFICATION AND COMMUNITY NEED

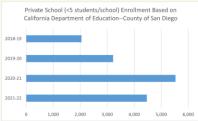
Homeschooling has always been popular in our area, but the pandemic increased homeschool enrollment overall. Even as we move further from the pandemic's height, homeschooling numbers remain higher than they were pre-pandemic.



The homeschooling charter Pacific Coast Academy--which serves many families in our area--has seen steady enrollment increase.



The state of California does not differentiate between brick-and-mortar private schools and residential home schools; they are all considered 'private schools." However, the Department of Education assumes that if private school has 5 or fewer students enrolled, then lit is most likely a home school.



WHY DO FAMILIES HOMESCHOOL?



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Hamlin, D., and Peterson, P.E. 'Homeschooling Skyrocketed During the Pandemic, but What Does the Future Holf?' Education Next, vol. 22, no. 2, 2022, pp. 18-24, https://www.educationnext.org/homeschooling-skyrocketed-during-pandemic-what-does-future-hold-online-gheightohood-pods-cooperatives/. Accessed 1 May 2023.

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Newberry, Laura. "The Pandemic Pushed More Families to Home-School. Many Are Stoking with It." Los Angeles Times, 21 Jan. 2022, https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-01-21/the-pandemic-pushed-more-families-to-homeschool-many-are-sticking-with-it. Accessed 1 May 2023.

COLLABORATIONS

Pacific Coast Academy La Mesa Homeschool

Soaring Minds

WHAT WE DO

- Educational kits for preschool through high school are available for a 30-day check-out with a library card.
- Homeschool-focused books can be checked out with a library card. In addition, sample curriculum (obtained through donations) are available for patrons to peruse inside the library. Curriculum catalogs are free to take home.
- Office supplies, such as a laminator, coil binder, and heavy duty stapler, are free to use, and consumables such as lamination pouches and bindings are also available free of charge.
- Laptops are available for homeschooling programs and other events.
- Targeted programs for homeschoolers are held early in the day during weekdays.

ABOUT THE HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

Our Homeschool Resource Center launched in 2023 with LSTA grant funds and Friends of the Library funds to provide educational resources, curriculum support, and community connections for homeschoolers and others engaged in non-traditional learning.

Located inside the Mission Valley Branch Library, our Homeschool Resource Center is available whenever the library is open.





LESSONS LEARNED

- Homeschool curriculum companies are often happy to provide free samples of materials and/or catalogs.
- Create relationships with homeschooling organizations. They will help you determine what materials are most needed in your center and assist in promoting your resources and programs.
- Gather names and emails of homeschoolers and advocates that you can contact to advertise events.
- Ordering materials takes a very long time when you are part of a large library system. Plan accordingly.
- Find a method to separate your homeschooling materials from your general collection. We use green color-coded labels and ILS cataloging notes to help identify items. We store homeschooling materials on separate shelves and in cabinets, and we keep a binder with pictures of all homeschooling kits.
- Understand that pieces in your educational kits will get lost along the way. It is not worth staff time to check that a 200-piece puzzle is missing 3 pieces. Encourage patrons to inform you when a kit is no longer useful.



*This project was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME VISITING MISSION VALLEY LIBRARY.

■ No, I've been here before. ■ Yes, it's my first time here. ■ I don't know.



I LEARNED SOMETHING USEFUL BY ATTENDING TODAY'S EVENT.

PROGRAM

SURVEYS

Agree Disagree



GOALS AND FUTURE PLANS

- We will continue to reach out to families who do not consider themselves traditional library users.
- We want our library to become a homeschooling hub, meaning that homeschoolers will value us as an important part of their education and visit us to make community connections and find helpful resources.
- We plan to continue expanding our collection and programming offerings to support homeschoolers and other non-traditional students.