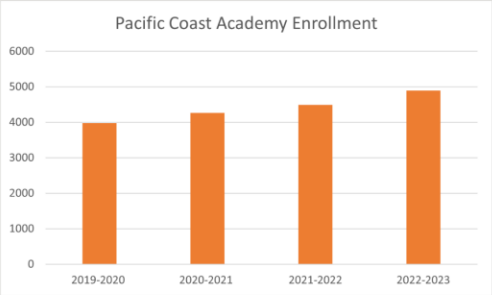


Developing a Homeschool Resource Center at the Public Library

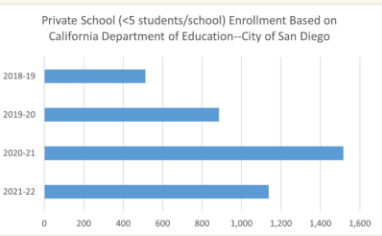
by Marika Jeffery, Youth Services Librarian, and Karen Reilly, Library Branch Manager
Mission Valley Branch, San Diego Public Library

JUSTIFICATION AND COMMUNITY NEED

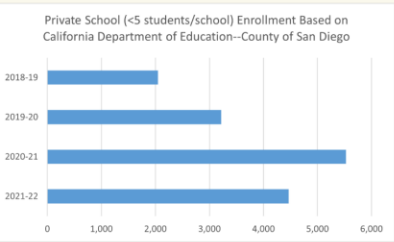
Homeschooling has always been popular in our area, but the pandemic increased homeschool enrollment overall. Even as we move further from the pandemic's height, homeschooling numbers remain higher than they were pre-pandemic.



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 a private school has 5 or fewer students enrolled, then it is most likely a home school.



WHY DO FAMILIES HOMESCHOOL?



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

Newberry, Laura. "The Pandemic Pushed More Families to Home-School, Many Are Sticking 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 Collective

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.



MATERIALS

PROGRAMS

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.

■ 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.



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