

Though I am sure there are many different reasons that parents will cite for not having the requirement of submitting written tests every year, I think for me the biggest two that come to mind contribute heavily to the fundamental reasons that I have opted out of putting my children into public education.

Children do not learn every subject at the same rate. For example: My son excels at math but struggles in spelling. He excels at grammar, but struggles in comprehension and retention of his reading if he is not interested in the subject matter. These strengths and weaknesses are addressed because I am allowed to tailor his curriculum to reinforce the skills he excels in and to better bolster and hone the skills he needs extra work at.

This means that when I give him his end of the year exam I am aware of the areas he will grade highly in and the areas I will notice struggles. I can then assess whether we are gaining ground or stalling out. The test scores have value to me as a teacher going from year to year, but as a school that does not have to teach my student nor do they have to attend to his learning aptitudes these tests are merely a way for them to exert an unnecessary and often unwanted expectation on how I may or may not hone my curriculum.

Also, our society seems to be rapidly demonizing the recognition of gender, the importance of complete understanding through showing your work, the value of patriotism and our constitutional rights, and the significance of history in teaching us to learn and grow as a society through analyzing the mistakes and triumphs of the past. These are trends that stand out in our college campuses and spread to our schools and they are much of the reason that parents are willing to invest more so than ever before in the homeschool environment. They want less of these ideologies being forced onto their children, often without their say. They want less teacher bias superseding the values of the individual family.

The schools themselves only administer these types of tests on a limited basis, usually every other year, and yet they have no way of altering their curriculum to fit the majority of students despite the results. They are constricted by funding and often by a social climate that is very contradictory to many homeschool parents' interests. The motivation of schools demanding annual test results can only be that they want to exert a greater influence over how parents prioritize, structure, and grade their curriculum subjects. It is unwanted, unwarranted, and disrespectful to the parents who have dedicated time, money, effort, and love into teaching their children in a way that not only educates the child in vital subjects, but also fosters family, responsibility, confidence, and religion.

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