

3/9/2021

To Whom it May Concern,

We are concerned with the proposed additional requirement of “proof of prior testing plan” and a “copy of the official test scores.” We are not clear why the new requirement is being reintroduced at this time. There is no credible evidence to suggest that a change in homeschool standardized testing reporting requirements is necessary or useful. Also, this reporting requirement is contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill which paved the way to simpler reporting requirements for MN homeschoolers. At that time, the school districts also concluded that they did not want to receive and maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers.

This would be a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in MN. Parents are responsible to decide how their children are educated. If they want to use a public service such as public school they may. It is not and should not be the other way around i.e. the government deciding how a child is educated.

Please take a look at the following statistics. Homeschoolers do not need the government or public schools checking in on their test scores. They already have proven their method of teaching works better than public schools. Let homeschoolers do what they do best; and don't interfere.

Sincerely,  
Audry Hovland  
Northfield, MN

*From Business Insider:*

<https://www.businessinsider.com/reasons-homeschooling-is-the-smartest-way-to-teach-kids-today-2018-1#students-may-achieve-more-in-the-long-run-6>

*Homeschooling makes sense from an achievement point of view.*

*Research suggests homeschooled children tend to do better on standardized tests, stick around longer in college, and do better once they're enrolled. A 2009 study showed that the proportion of homeschoolers who graduated from college was about 67%, while among public school students it was 59%.*

*Students from Catholic and private schools fell even lower in college graduation rates, with 54% and 51% of kids, respectively, completing all four years.*