



WORKING FOR HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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This summer, our board of directors met in person and spent three days building a vision and a strategy for our organization’s future.

The ideas we shared were invigorating: a social work department to help connect homeschooling parents and homeschool alumni with resources and information; a network of pro-bono lawyers willing to help those with specific needs; trainings and resources for homeschooling parents; a lobbying arm that works directly with lawmakers to center policy on the needs of homeschooled children; a research department that publishes studies, writes policy briefs, and collaborates with outside researchers; and more.

But we did more than dream. This year CRHE assisted the passage of a bill designed to protect homeschooled children in Georgia. We accessed new data which points to a need for more support for homeschooled high school students. And we expanded our capacity to support homeschooled families.

I am extremely excited and positive about our future and everything we have accomplished thus far. We have a lot to look back on, as this year ends—and a lot to look forward to. Thank you for coming along on this journey with us.

Dr. Rachel Coleman, Executive Director

CRHE in 2019

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36 media mentions

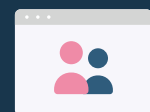
36 press releases



80 requests for help



27 testimonials published on the CRHE website



45 new abuse cases entered in the Homeschooling's Invisible Children database



MARKING A MILESTONE



In 2019, lawmakers in five states—Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Georgia—proposed legislation to protect homeschooled students. In Georgia, one of these bills passed—the first time this century that lawmakers have amended a state’s homeschool statute to protect and empower homeschooled children.

House Bill 530 was introduced in Georgia after the deaths of Elwyn and Mary Crocker, two children whose parents removed them from school to homeschool them following a history of child abuse and neglect reports. While the parents told school officials that they were going to homeschool the children, they failed to file the required paperwork with the state. HB 530 instituted a child welfare check for all cases where parents tell the school that they are withdrawing to homeschool but fail to file homeschool paperwork with the state.

While HB 530 is a small step forward, its passage marks a major milestone. CRHE was there every step of the way, speaking with lawmakers, submitting written testimony, and helping shape the media narrative. We can't wait to put what we learned into practice in additional states going forward.



For the first time this century, lawmakers have passed legislation to protect homeschooled children.



BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE

Each year, we see more legislators proposing laws to protect homeschooled children.



One bill in VA



Two bills in IA and MI



One bill in LA



Two bills in KY and IA



Five bills in CA, HI, MD, NH, and KY



Five bills in IA, IL, TN, LA, and GA



MEETING NEW NEEDS

Each year, CRHE responds to an increasing number of homeschooling families asking us for help and support--often seeking information about curriculum or legal requirements or help accessing public school disability services, individual classes, or extracurriculars. As an increasing number of parents homeschool their children due to individual problems in the school system rather than religious or pedagogical beliefs, the needs of homeschooling parents shift as well.

This year, CRHE hired a homeschool graduate and social worker as our very first Advocacy and Support Coordinator. She answers questions, points parents to resources, and helps individuals experiencing challenges with schools. In the future, we hope to develop a full social work department to connect homeschooling parents and homeschool alumni with the resources and information they need.

CRHE also laid plans this year to create a new parent portal for our website. Ultimately the portal will include best practices information, trainings for homeschooling parents, and links to additional resources, all developed in conversation with education professionals. Our goal is to have a hand on the pulse of homeschooling parents' and others' current needs, so that we can develop resources that meet those needs. We know that well equipped homeschooling parents will be better able to meet their children's needs.



I am a home school parent
and I support CRHE's mission to protect
children from abuse and neglect.



-Catherine Alvarez-

www.responsiblehomeschooling.org/signatures



RAISING NEW QUESTIONS

In 2019, new data from Kentucky and Indiana provided CRHE with a clearer picture of homeschooling during the high school years. Data in a report published by the Kentucky Office of Educational Accountability shed light on a link between chronic truancy and high school students being withdrawn to homeschool. The report found 62% of children removed from school to be homeschooled were chronically truant prior to being removed. Also this year, a reporter in Indiana publicized data revealing that some public and charter high schools reported that 25% or more of their students transferred to homeschooling.

Policymakers in Kentucky have expressed concern that families are using homeschooling as a way to avoid legal problems related to chronic truancy. Policymakers in Indiana have grown worried that some public high schools may be padding their graduation rates by fraudulently listing dropouts as homeschool transfers.

At CRHE, data like this helps us better identify areas where families or students need more support--and areas where policy should change. We are also able to place this data in context and share it with reporters and policymakers. One thing seems clear: families who homeschool students during the high school years do so for complex reasons and need support. Policymakers and advocates need to ask more questions, and the data we have explored this year has given us a better idea of what questions those are.



Kentucky policymakers are concerned that some families use homeschooling to avoid legal problems related to truancy.



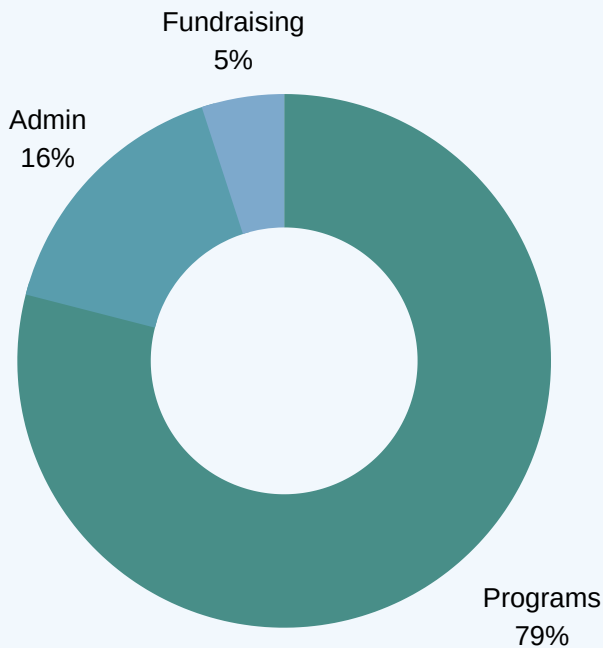
IN 2019

Senior Research Analyst Dr. Chelsea McCracken and Executive Director Dr. Rachel Coleman coauthored a research article analyzing over a decade of data on homeschool achievement in Alaska. The article was accepted for publication by the peer-reviewed journal, *Other Education*, and should be published in 2020.

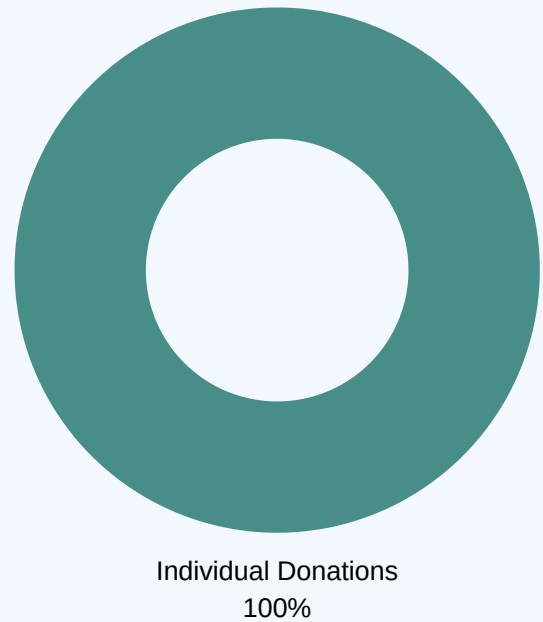
CRHE IN 2019

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EXPENSES: \$10,652



REVENUE: \$8,611



MISSION

The Coalition for Responsible Home Education empowers homeschooled children by educating the public and advocating for child-centered, evidence-based policy and practices for families and professionals.

VISION

We envision a future where homeschooled children's right to a comprehensive and empowering education and a safe and supportive home environment is affirmed and protected by laws, stakeholders, and society as a whole.