



# SEIZING THE MOMENT

FOR HOMESCHOOLED KIDS



Coalition for  
Responsible  
Home Education

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Since COVID-19 closed schools and compelled thousands to start emergency homeschooling, the work of CRHE has felt more relevant than ever. We created new resources and informed educators and other professionals about the social and psychological needs of children who learn at home. We developed an “Introduction to Home Education” course for new homeschooling parents looking for guidance, as well as a suite of new how-to resources and guides.

We also built new partnerships. In the summer, we published two academic articles in the peer-reviewed journal *Other Education*. In the fall, Pamela Miller, Senior Policy Analyst for the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), joined our Board of Directors. Over the course of 2020, we also collaborated with both researchers and officials in state agencies.

This year has asked a lot of all of us. As we continue to advocate for homeschooled children in the legislature and to produce quality research centered on the needs of homeschooled children, our staff and volunteers have responded to the changing needs by developing new resources, and we have deepened our cooperation with individuals and organizations who share our commitment to children’s rights.

I have never been more optimistic about our ability to build awareness and support for homeschooled children’s needs and create effective change. Our best days are within sight.

Dr. Rachel Coleman  
Executive Director

## OUR 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.

## OUR 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.



# ADVOCATING FOR KIDS

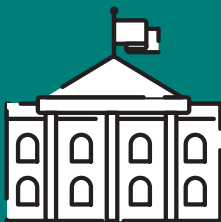
In 2020, CRHE tracked legislation in 26 states, published press releases on 16 bills, and provided testimony in Colorado. Also this year, we heard from policymakers about problems with the implementation of their states' compulsory attendance laws. CRHE is committed to identifying gaps in existing policy and working with strategic partners to create protections that safeguard *all* children's right to an education.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also advocated for children in ways that extend beyond the legislature. We published white papers for educators grappling with remote learning and social workers striving to meet children's needs from a distance. We were able to provide professionals with information on factors that impact the isolation of children educated at home or contribute to such students' educational success or failure. We collaborated with the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) on one white paper, and sent both to educator and social worker professional associations.

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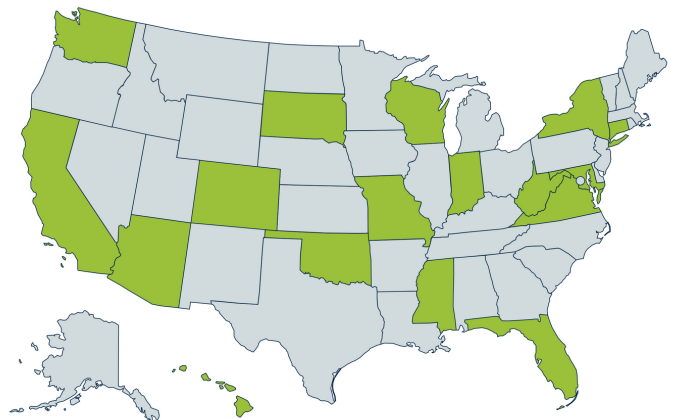
**During the COVID-19 pandemic, we advocated for children in ways that extend far beyond the legislature.**

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Coalition for Responsible Home Education worked with or advised policy makers in these states while tracking legislation in other states across the country.





# FINDING THE FACTS

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**White, middle- and upper-class homeschooled children underperformed compared to their public school counterparts.**

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This summer, CRHE published two papers in the peer-reviewed journal *Other Education*. “A Meaningful Measure of Homeschool Achievement” examined student test scores using a randomized data sample and a direct comparison with public-schooled children. The second paper, “Who ‘Counts’ as Homeschooled?” examined the history of Alaska’s homeschool programs, which offer parents access to public funding and resource centers.

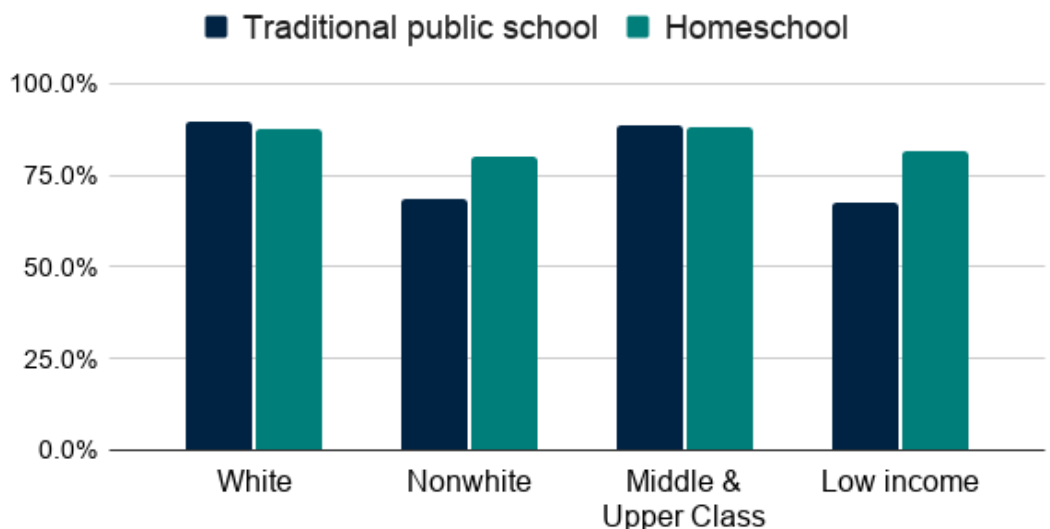
Early in the pandemic, CRHE conducted a study on parents’ feelings about the sudden move to distance learning. The parents of nearly one in five children reported that they were considering un-enrolling their children in the fall due to their dissatisfaction with distance learning. The survey found that technology issues, concerns about disability services, and curriculum disagreements contributed to the parents’ dissatisfaction with distance learning.

Our analysis in *Other Education* found that homeschooled students who were white or middle- or upper-class had lower scores than their peers in traditional public schools. Where homeschooled students outperformed their peers, low-income students & non-white students were responsible for higher scores.



Homeschooled students in every demographic category scored lower in math than their peers who attended traditional public schools.

## Alaska Study, Reading Proficiency





# HELPING HOME EDUCATORS

This year, we developed and ran an Introduction to Home Education course for new home educators. We also created a new suite of resources for home educators, including pages on socialization and a section on curriculum and learning standards. Our goal is to provide parents with a practical, evidenced-based foundation that introduces them to the basics and encourages them to be child-centered in their approach to homeschooling.

This year, our social worker, Sarah Morton, responded to 532 requests for help. Many of these queries were from parents considering homeschooling to keep their children and families safe during the pandemic. Sarah also answered requests for help from homeschool graduates in need of a diploma or transcript or individuals worried about specific children they know.

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## CRHE's Introduction to Home Education Course

### Student Reviews...

“Very comprehensive. Liked that it reviewed the legal, encouraged communication with the district, and as sad as it is, cautioned on what to look for in abuse. Overall, if you are serious about homeschooling and doing it right I would recommend this course.”

“Good comprehensive overview of home education history and issues, including topics not usually discussed in other homeschooling communities, such as biased curriculum, child abuse and neglect.”

### Topics Covered:

- ☒ Legal requirements
- ☒ Educational standards
- ☒ Curriculum
- ☒ Instructional design
- ☒ Child development
- ☒ Child protection
- ☒ Children's rights
- ☒ Assessment & evaluation



# RAISING AWARENESS

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Rachel Coleman from the Coalition for Responsible Home Education says more state oversight could save lives. "We generally recommend that the child welfare systems be involved in these discussions because they often know what they see on the ground," Coleman says.

-- "Dayton Boy's Death Prompts Calls For More Home Schooling Oversight," WOSU Public Media, Jan. 10, 2020

"We have seen a similar pattern play out repeatedly in state after state: A child dies or is severely harmed after their abusive parents use home schooling to isolate them, local state lawmakers introduce legislation intended to protect children in similar situations, and home-schooling parents turn out en masse to oppose the legislation," said Rachel Coleman, co-founder and executive director of the Coalition for Responsible Home Education.

-- "Coronavirus home schooling highlights the religious right's education system influence," NBC News, July 20, 2020

If parents will be working full time, [Rachel Coleman] advises considering whether the child might be better off at school. Home schooling works best when a parent is available to fully concentrate. She issued the same caution for any ideas a parent might have of leaving, for example, a teenager home alone to learn independently or with a younger sibling. "It's just not set up to work that way," she said. "Education needs to involve engagement and interaction with someone who is not a computer."

-- "Some Illinois parents opt for home schooling instead of sending kids back to school in the fall," Chicago Tribune, June 29, 2020

"The Coalition for Responsible Home Education, a nonprofit group that is pushing for more accountability in home schooling, is a useful resource for parents."

-- "Not Everyone Hates School at Home," New York Times, July 16, 2020

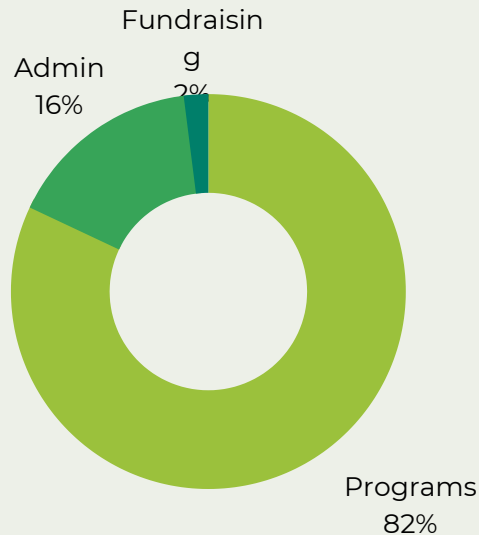
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"I cannot overstate the importance of supporting groups like the Coalition for Responsible Home Education! The efforts to protect the most vulnerable and tell their stories is a monumental undertaking, and we have to ACT by using our voices and dollars to be a positive tool for change. We as citizens and adults bear the responsibility to demand change and common-sense laws that protect those of us who don't have the power to demand it for themselves."

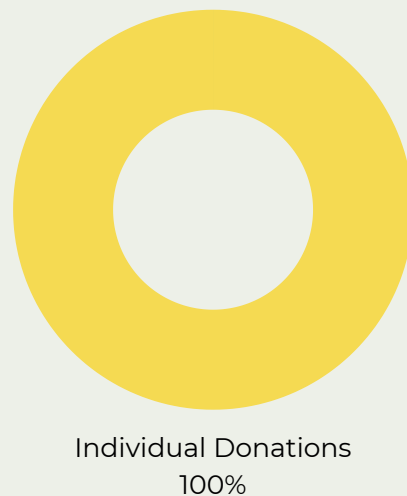
~ Kelley Richey, homeschool graduate, monthly supporter

# CRHE BY THE NUMBERS

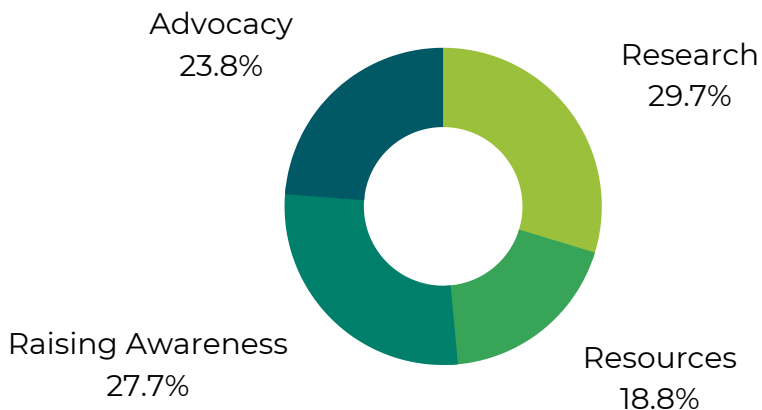
**EXPENSES:**  
**\$12,904**



**REVENUE:**  
**\$14,326**



## PROGRAM EXPENSES



## CRHE in 2020



**34** media mentions

**22** press releases



**532** responses to requests for help



**14** testimonials published on the CRHE website



**387** new homeschooling inquiries