

I was homeschooled in Colorado from Kindergarten through eighth grade. My parents homeschooled me for religious reasons, and they followed an extreme interpretation of the Christian faith.

When I was 14 years old my parents decided that I did not need further education. They believed Jesus Christ would be returning to earth any day to rule the world and that it was unnecessary to educate their children. They refused to buy textbooks for me to teach myself or to allow me access to free educational materials through public libraries or the internet and transitioned me to doing domestic labor in the home and raising my younger siblings.

My parent's choice to stop my and my siblings' education to focus on preparation for the Rapture had a destructive effect on our lives and futures. Before they stopped my education, I was thriving with the equivalent to a 4.0 GPA and could have pursued a degree and career in business or STEM with ease. Several of my siblings were younger than me when my parents made the decision to stop educating us. One of them was 12 years old before they learned how to read, which they had to teach themselves to do. Another spent years taking remedial classes to be able to pursue an associates degree needed for their job.

Personally, I have spent my adult life trying to teach myself remedial high school materials and take online college classes between being a supportive wife and parent. Having a subpar education also makes it hard to raise my child and help her with her education. For all of my family, the lack of education has severely delayed our ability to get jobs, buy homes, have families of our own, and participate in the American dream. If I had been given a proper education and access to opportunities I was well suited for, I could be another tax paying citizen building the economy of our great country.

To not give a child a well rounded complete education is like cutting their legs off at the knees and then blaming them for not keeping up with other kids their age in a race. Makeshift accommodations can be modge-podged together and we can continue to fight to survive, but it leaves us battling hurdles and challenges. It also risks each under-educated child being a drain on, instead of a benefit to, our country and world.

Signed,
BB