

**- EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS IN CALIFORNIA -**

*Prepared by Home School Legal Defense Association*

	<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL</b>	<b>CHARTER SCHOOL</b>	<b>CHARTER/PUBLIC SCHOOL INDEPENDENT STUDY AT HOME</b>	<b>HOMESCHOOLS ARE PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA</b>
<b>AUTHORITY AND CONTROL</b>	Children enrolled in public schools are under the complete authority and control of the teachers and administration in the public school.	Children enrolled in charter schools are under the complete authority and control of the teachers and administration in the charter school.	The charter/public school independent study administrators have control and authority over the child's education, but delegate some of the teaching responsibilities to the parents.	Parents exercise their God-given right and obligation to take full responsibility for the education and training of their children.
<b>PARENTAL CONTROL OVER CURRICULUM</b>	<b>NO CONTROL</b> , school boards may have some influence, which parents may run for, but the school is under government control.	<b>LITTLE CONTROL</b> , parents may be a part of a charter school board to help pick curriculum, but school is under government control and subject to the provisions of the charter.	<b>SOME CONTROL</b> , parents provide the education for their children and can add to the educational program, but cannot remove government requirements.	<b>FULL CONTROL</b> of curriculum while teaching the required subjects.
<b>INSTRUCTION TIME REQUIRED</b>	175 days per year. Six to seven hours at school, plus 1-4 hours of homework a day suggested.	135 days, but charter schools generally require 180 days, plus 1-4 hours of homework a day suggested.	135 days, but charter schools generally require 180 days. Independent study programs are the same as public schools.	There is no mandatory day or hour requirement for private homeschoolers in California. That is left up to the parent in control.
<b>COST PER CHILD</b>	\$6,000 according to latest financial information.	\$6,000, same as public schools.	Funding is about the same as public and charter schools.	\$400 median per student (Rudner study 1998).
<b>CHILD SAFETY</b>	<b>LOW</b> , most incidents of violence against school-age children have happened in or about public schools.	<b>MEDIUM</b> , most charter schools have few incidents of crime.	<b>HIGH</b> , children are with parents all day.	<b>HIGH</b> , children are with parents all day.
<b>RELIGIOUS CONTENT OF CURRICULUM</b>	No Christian or biblical curriculum allowed. Article IX, Section 8 of the California Constitution prohibits any religious instruction or curriculum in any subjects taught.	No Christian or biblical curriculum allowed. Article IX, Section 8 of the California Constitution prohibits any religious instruction or curriculum in any subjects taught.	No Christian or biblical curriculum allowed. Article IX, Section 8 of the California Constitution prohibits any religious instruction or curriculum in any subjects taught for credit.	As much as each family wants to impart to their children as they see fit.
<b>TESTING</b>	State mandated assessment tests will be given to each child.	State mandated assessment tests will be given to each child.	Shall participate in the state testing programs specified for public school students in the same manner as pupils attending public schools.	There is no testing requirement of any kind.
<b>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>LOW</b> , parents can be involved in classrooms with permission of school, but under teacher's control.	<b>LOW</b> , parents can be involved in classrooms with permission of school, but under teacher's control.	<b>HIGH</b> , the whole family can learn together at home.	<b>HIGHEST</b> , the whole family can learn together at home without any governmental intervention.