

Definition of Home Education for the Purpose of Membership & Participation

These Options are Considered Home Education or Home Schooling by the York Home School Association

- A. Act 169 determines the rules for running a home education program, which includes those instructing their children under the Private Tutor Provision. Students are NOT public school students. Parents choose and pay for curriculum, as well as when, where and how it is taught. Choice of curriculum is NOT limited. Parents can write their own curriculum or buy books to suit their needs and they can choose to complete those materials or not. Parents file affidavits at the beginning of each year for students age 8 and older. Parents hire an evaluator and submit a portfolio to the Superintendent of their school district in keeping with Act 169 each year.
- B. Private Cyber-Schooling - Parents pay the school, parents report to the school, parents still file an affidavit, complete a log and portfolio. Parents are NOT accountable for how the child performs in the cyber-school.
- C. Children who have not yet reached compulsory attendance age in Pennsylvania (age 8 in Pa.) who are not enrolled in a cyber-charter school.
- D. RFPA (Religious Freedom Protection Act of Pennsylvania) - Those parents home educating their children under the RFPA.

These options are NOT Home Education or Home Schooling:

- A. Public School - Students going to the brick-and-mortar building
- B. Charter School - Brick-and-mortar building that students attend. Apply for a 5-year charter that is reviewed and renewed every 5 years. These schools often serve a specific purpose, such as a school for the arts, or for the gifted, etc.
- C. Cyber-Charter School - This is NOT a brick-and-mortar school. Parents enroll students, educational material is provided by the cyber-charter school, it occurs at home, over the internet. PDE wrote, "Cyber charter schools are independent public schools. One would enroll their child(ren) directly with the charter school that would best meet the needs of the child. The instruction is done from home, but computer/printer is supplied by the cybercharter school. These schools are public schools so the state subsidy they receive would be forwarded from their home school district. All of these children would be considered public school students." Curriculum selection is limited to what the cyber-charter offers. Parents are accountable to the public school system for how the child performs. Teacher checks in, etc.
- D. Private/Christian School - Students going full-time to a brick-and-mortar building, paid by the parents.

Information to help you make an informed decision:

ARTICLE 2 - MISSION STATEMENT

- a) YHSA is a Christian support group, and it strives through all efforts to bring glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as prescribed in the Nicene Creed.
- b) The mission of YHSA is to encourage excellence and integrity in home schooling.
- c) YHSA exists to serve the interests of parents educating their children at home under Act 169, the Pennsylvania Home Education Law of 1988; this does not include those enrolling their children in cyber-charter schools, which are part of the government school system in Pennsylvania.
- d) YHSA is a volunteer-run ministry. Through the involvement and effort of all of its member families, YHSA can provide encouragement and resources for families, assist new home schoolers, and provide academic and social interaction with other parents and children with similar concerns and educational goals.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

- a.) Membership shall be open to anyone who will abide by the mission and purposes of this Home School Group.

YHSA's Position on Home Education:

YHSA was formed as a Christian-based, volunteer, grass-roots support group for those who wished to educate their children apart from and with minimal interference by the public school system or government expectations. It has always been and will continue to be our first calling to abide by the legislation (Act 169, the Pennsylvania Home Education Law of 1988), which includes the Private Tutor Provision, families who are home educating their children under the Religious Freedom Protection Act of Pennsylvania. This also includes those families with children who are not yet of compulsory attendance age (age 8 in Pennsylvania) who are not enrolled as a student in a public school or cyber-charter program, private/Christian school program or charter school program.

We understand that parents who have home-based students enrolled in cyber-charter school programs provided and funded by the Pa. Department of Education through the public and independent school systems, under Act 22, have made a large and lifestyle-affecting decision to keep their children within the home atmosphere for their studies. Much of the day-to-day activities and operations in these homes will be no different from those that occur in the homes of children registered under Act 169 or RFPA. However, we must acknowledge that with the current legislation in Pennsylvania, there are clear and fundamental distinctions between these two situations.

Because of these clear distinctions, and because cyber charter-based students are covered under Act 22, and independent home schooled students are covered under Act 169 or RFPA, YHSA would be in a conflicting position to completely serve the interests of parents educating on behalf of cyber charter-based students. Keeping within our focus and due to some limited seating, there will be a few opportunities that will only be made available to members who are home schooled as defined below. These opportunities will be clearly indicated in our newsletter. In addition, we feel that YHSA Board Members must be home schoolers, as defined below, in order to adequately represent our mission. Regular membership is not defined; in fact, you don't have to be a Christian or even have to home school to support YHSA by membership. If your family enrolls in a cyber charter program and would like to support the work YHSA does in supporting Act 169 and RFPA as a viable educational option as well as receiving the helpful newsletter listing various events, we welcome your membership. We do ask that you please understand our position and our limitations as far as support is concerned. If the parents of publicly or independently enrolled cyber charter-based students experience conflict or have questions within their chosen program, we advise that they deal directly with their program officials or Pa. Department of Education officials (or independent school officials) to find solutions.

We, the Directors, have made these decisions based upon YHSA's Mission Statement. The choices available to those who desire to educate their children at home have become greatly varied. In order for YHSA to maintain its focus in providing home schoolers with support, it has become necessary for us to keep our focus directed to the grass-roots ideals which were formed during the Association's beginnings. We respect the individual education decisions that each family makes, and ask that each of our members, therein, extend the same respect.

