

Nevada Homeschool Network

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Homeschooling vs. Public School At Home

Many, especially board of education members, charter school administrators and the public at large are confused on the differences between Homeschooling and Virtual Charter Schools. During meetings of the Subcommittee on Charter Schools and the Regular Board Meeting in March of 2007 many comments were made equating homeschooling with virtual charter schools. For the record, NHN submitted the following information for consideration:

Charter Schools, whether brick and mortar or virtual, represent SCHOOL CHOICE in the Public School System. *Students enrolled in a virtual charter school are public school students and the parents are unpaid Teacher's Aides. Parents supervise assigned school work, but they do not choose or develop any part of the curriculum, nor do they grade their student's work or promote them to the next grade level. The Charter School is "responsible for the education of the child". Accountability is "based largely on performance on assessments aligned to state content standards", and works "under the auspice of guaranteeing all students the opportunity for and access to a challenging and meaningful educational experience."* (Dept of Education website)

Homeschools by law are separate from the public school system. *Under Nevada Law (NRS 392.070, 392.700) parents choosing to homeschool take "full responsibility for the education of the child while the child is being homeschooled", NRS 392.700, subsection 4(c), without public funding. A homeschool parent legally directs the education of the child by choosing the curriculum, facilitating the educational process and determining the academic needs, including promotion to the next grade level, of the child. Thus, accountability for the child's education is to the parent, who in turn may be accountable to a court of law if required to do so (NRS 392.700 subsection 12). Homeschool parents believe these are direct advantages for choosing homeschooling over virtual charter schools.*

With new homeschool laws in effect in Nevada, NHN hopes that misconceptions and misstatements such as "homeschooling through a charter school" will be recognized as incongruous. We applaud parents who enroll their child in charter schools for taking direct interest in their child's education, and encourage the State Board to accommodate them in every way possible within the public school system. Though homeschooling and public education at home are fundamentally and legally different, the two share the intrinsically beneficial advantage of direct parental involvement in a child's education.

The Officers of Nevada Homeschool Network