

Homeschooling at private expense may be appropriate for some children, but the state has an obligation to protect children being homeschooled for the purpose of hiding abuse and neglect. In Ohio, lack of regulations could in some cases hide abuse and neglect.

Those who conscientiously and capably homeschool their children are worthy of admiration. Those who homeschool their children to hide abuse and neglect should be prosecuted.

Ohio has never sufficiently regulated homeschooling to protect children from incompetent and/or abusive parents. The state budget bill (HB33) eliminated some of the previous scant homeschooling regulations.

Under current law, homeschooling parents in Ohio have very minimum requirements with which to comply:

1. Notify their school district Superintendent.
2. Complete 900 hours of instruction.
3. Teach language arts, geography, Ohio and U.S. history, government, math, science, fine arts, physical education, and health and safety.
4. Provide yearly assessments.

There are no provisions in the law to permit or require any inspection of the homeschooling environments by any state agency. Public school children go to buildings that are regulated for health and safety and are protected insofar as possible from neglect and abuse. Ohio law, at the very minimum, should provide for a process to at least determine if homeschooling is being used as a cover for abuse and neglect.

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