

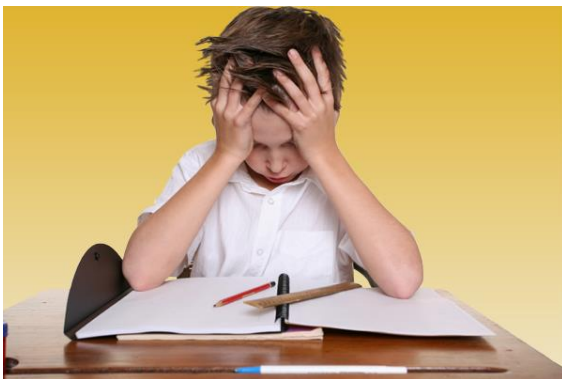
NEA 'Attack' On Homeschoolers Blasted As 'Outrageous'

Writers rebuff idea 'comprehensive education experience' lacking

June 29, 15

By Paul Bremmer

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/06/authors-nea-attack-on-homeschoolers-outrageous/>



The National Education Association has launched an attack on the practice of homeschooling, and one leading education expert is not taking it lying down.

“The National Education Association’s radical attacks on constitutionally protected liberties and homeschooling families in particular are outrageous and should be vehemently denounced by every real educator and every real American,” internationalist journalist and

educator Alex Newman declared.

The [NEA’s 2014-2015 resolution on homeschooling](#) begins like this: “The National Education Association believes that home schooling programs based on parental choice cannot provide the student with a comprehensive education experience.”

Freelance writer Patrice Lewis, who homeschools her children, seethed at that line.

“Who has the authority to define ‘comprehensive?’” Lewis asked. “The NEA? Why should they be the ones to define comprehensive and not the parents? Each family may define a ‘comprehensive’ education differently, and each parent should have the right to choose how they want their children educated.

“‘Comprehensive’ as defined by a far-left progressive agenda-driven union and special interest-supported legislators and bureaucrats is almost guaranteed to fly in the face of the morals, values and traditions of parents who don’t have similarly leftwing progressive agenda-driven views.”

Newman, who co-authored the book [“Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America’s Children,”](#) pointed out that if homeschooled children weren’t getting a good enough education, they wouldn’t be beating public school students like they are now.

“The undeniable fact is that homeschooled children outperform victims of NEA-controlled government schools on every objective metric by huge margins,” Newman claimed. “The

NEA knows this, and it is undoubtedly one of the association's central motivations for this reckless attack."

Lewis, a [WND columnist](#), seconded that point.

"To the frustration of the NEA, homeschoolers have become well-known for their academic strengths," she said. "This has been demonstrated over and over again when homeschoolers whup the fannies of publicly educated kids on standardized test scores."

Indeed, the National Home Education Research Institute reports [homeschooled students typically score 15 to 30 percentile points higher](#) than public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests. And this is regardless of the parents' level of formal education or the family's household income.

Lewis noted homeschooled children [earn higher GPAs in college and graduate at higher rates than their public-schooled peers](#) despite the supposed lack of socialization associated with homeschooling. But the fact is they're actually more socialized than other kids, she said.

"That's because homeschoolers aren't locked in the artificial environment of classrooms, and instead are out in the real world, making friends of all ages and experiencing life outside of structured field trips," Lewis explained.

"Additionally, and unlike many public-schooled kids, homeschooled children are almost uniformly mature, socially capable, polite, well-spoken, ethical and hard working. These intangible benefits are every bit as important as the tangible academic subjects for a well-rounded 'comprehensive' education, and in fact arguably are more important in terms of long-term job prospects and security."

The NEA actually wants to discourage homeschooled kids from socializing with their public school peers. Part of the organization's resolution states, "The association also believes that homeschooled students should not participate in any extracurricular activities in the public schools."

Lewis' reaction was, "Um, who's paying for public schools in the first place? Answer: taxpayers, which include homeschooling parents. They should have every right to participate in extracurricular activities they've paid for."

To read this article in its entirety, go to: <http://www.wnd.com/2015/06/authors->