



A STATEWIDE NETWORK SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT HOME EDUCATION Editors: SUSAN & HOWARD RICHMAN

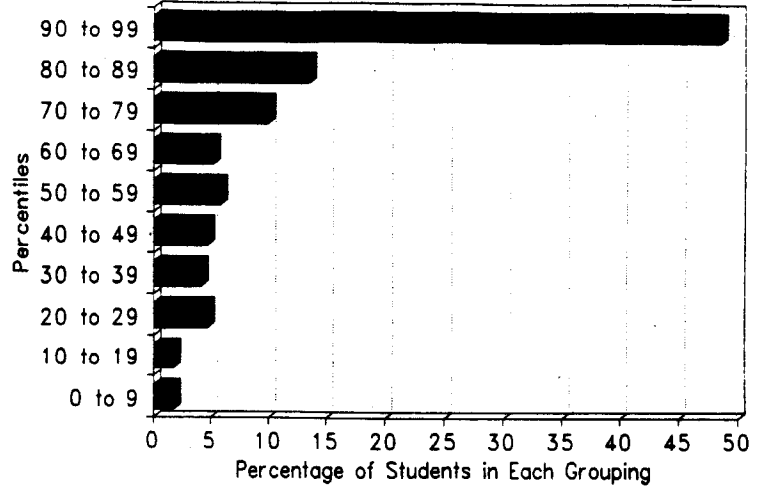
PA Homeschooled Students Score High!

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from Howard Richman, Bill Girten, & Jay Snyder

Reading

Distribution of Home Educated Students



Here are the results of the testing study that we conducted in the fall of 1989. These results were based upon CTBS/4 standardized achievement tests which PA Homeschoolers administered to 174 children at locations sponsored by support groups throughout Pennsylvania. The tests were all administered in a group setting, usually in the Sunday School rooms of a Church. All test administration was closely supervised by either Dr. Howard Richman or Susan Richman, Pennsylvania certified teachers. The test results were matched with surveys that 76% of the parents filled in while their children were taking the tests. Three test results were eliminated from consideration because the wrong test level was administered.

The home educated students scored very well. In statistics there is a term called the "median" which roughly means "middle". The median score falls exactly in the middle because half the scores are lower, and half are higher.

When the CTBS test was normed, it was given to school students. Half of them scored above the 50th percentile and half scored below the 50th percentile (that's how the 50th percentile was calculated).

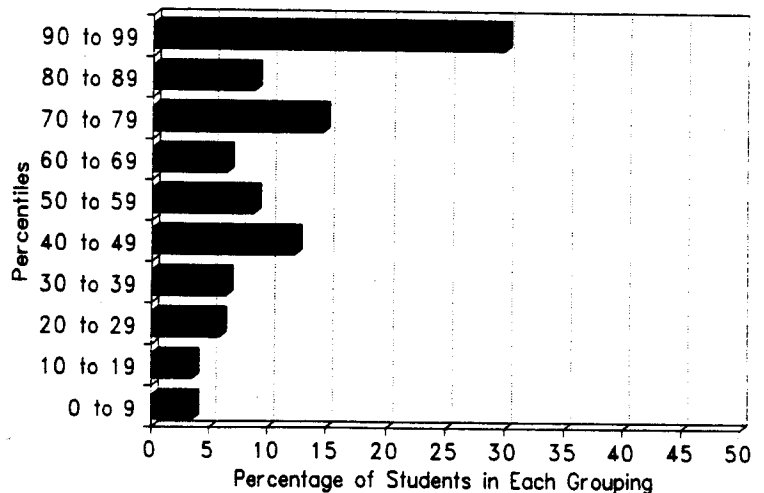
When the same test was given by us to 171 homeschooled students, the homeschooled students scored much higher. The middle reading score was the 89th percentile, and the middle math score was the 72nd percentile. These scores were far higher than the 50th percentile which is the school median, and higher than median scores that were reported for homeschoolers from Washington state in 1986 (about the 65th percentile in reading and the 55th percentile in math.)

Since science and social studies tests are optional in Pennsylvania, only 81% of the students took these sections. These scores were also quite high. The middle science score was the 87th percentile, and the middle social studies score was the 81st percentile.

It is difficult to determine why the homeschoolers in Pennsylvania scored so much higher than the homeschoolers in the state of Washington. The families in both samples had about the same income levels (median income about \$32,500 per year) and the parents had about the same amount of schooling (median educational level of the parents was about 2 years of college). The tests were even administered in similar settings. The main difference was that the Pennsylvania students took the CTBS test in the fall while the Washington students took the Stanford Test in the spring.

Mathematics

Distribution of Home Educated Students



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PA Homeschoolers masthead hand lettered by Jesse Richman, age 13.