

## Glossary of Terms

### Glossary of commonly used home school terms

“Boxed Curriculum” - A purchased curriculum that provides everything a home school family needs for one student, one grade level, one school year. Usually contains a scope and sequence, textbooks, teacher keys, assessments and a daily lesson plan.

“Brick & Mortar” School - school outside of the home. Also referred to as, “traditional schooling.”

Charlotte Mason Method - Charlotte Mason was an educator in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She believed that education should be based on wholesome literature and the arts. It is a leisurely, student-driven style of education that includes observation, reflection, discussion and journaling.

Classical education - A method of education that is based on the ancient principles of three developmental phases - Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric. Also referred to as the “trivium.”

Compulsory Attendance/Age - the ages during which the state requires students to receive formal education. PA law is age 8.

Cooperative (Co-op) - A group of home schooler families working together to meet a goal. Usually, the goal is to provide additional education opportunities for their children. All the families enrolled in the co-op are expected to contribute their time in some way., whether it been administrative, teaching, or assisting, etc.

Cover School - A school that allows a dual enrollment of home schooling and public/ private schooling or offers services that support home schooling. Frequently called, “umbrella school”, as well.

Curriculum - the materials used to complete a course - usually includes a text-book, teacher manual, lesson plans, and tests and teacher keys.

Curriculum Map - Also called a concept map - lays out how the different subject and education levels relate in sequence and dependency. It would illustrate that to teach one concept the other concepts listed need to be mastered first.

Cyber School - Home schooling online. Schools offering this option range from public to private to charter. In PA, those who are enrolled as cyber school do not have to compile a portfolio at the end of the year. Students being cyber schooled are considered public school students because of the curriculum being used. Homeschooling parents do not have sole responsibility for their child’s education.

Core Subjects - Those subjects that are to be taught each year regardless of grade. Usually include, but not limited to - \*English, Reading/Language Arts , Math, Sciences, Foreign Languages, Music and Art, Social Studies.  
\*<http://www.pde.state.pa.us/teaching/lib/teaching/HQTRrequirementsFeb202007.PDF>

Eclectic approach - A method of teaching that does not rely on any one approach or curriculum company, but takes the most appropriate benefits of each and brings them together to teach their students.

Home schooling - education, usually in the home setting, where the parent is the primary supervisor of the students education.



## Glossary of Terms cont.

Homeschool Support Group - A group of home schoolers who come together on a regular basis for support, an exchange of ideas, creative inspiration, and to provide opportunities for student socialization.

HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) - a group of attorneys who offer their services to homeschoolers who may have legal issues with their school district.

Learning Styles - refers to ways people learn through their senses. For instance: Auditory (listening and talking), Visual (learning through seeing), and Kinesthetic or Tactile (learning through movement and touch).

Lesson Plans - a plan that lays out how lessons will be taught, materials used, pages reviewed, etc. to cover each topic.

Portfolio - An accumulation of materials that demonstrate your child's learning. Some items included are : logs: (attendance and reading), assignments ( samples from each subject take from throughout the school year) awards, certificates of participation, lists of curriculum or materials used for each subject, pictures, and other items that illustrate your child's school year. The items are usually arrange in an organized fashion and contained in a 3-ring binder. However, they could be online, in file boxes, or any other organized arrangement that suits your needs.

Relaxed home schooling - similar to "unschooling", but takes a more blended approach of learning through living and "book learning."

School at Home - Another method of home schooling that is most commonly used by families new to home schooling. The family recreates a classroom experience within their home.

Scope and Sequence - An outline of skills and information to be taught, typically organized by grade or by course. Provides information on what will be covered.

Spiraling - a student learns about a topic in one grade and then the following learns about the same topic, but a little more in-depth. The process continues each year and range of knowledge gathered gets deeper and broader.

Supplemental Resources - additional education materials, projects, field trips, etc. that are used to enhance the learning experience.

Unschooling -Student led education in which students study only those topics that interest them, in the way that interests them rather than follow a pre-defined curriculum. Many times textbooks, worksheets, tests, etc. are not utilized.

Unit Study - an educational approach where learning is focused around a common theme. For instance, a unit study on horses would teach the history of the horse (history), different breeds of horses (science), the discussion

