

## OPPOSITION TO STATE “STANDARDIZED” TESTING OF HOME SCHOOLERS

*“A letter of intent to continue to provide instruction must include a report to the superintendent with proof that the testing plan for the previous year was fulfilled as agreed upon, a copy of the official test scores, and information required in paragraph (a) for each student for the upcoming school year.”*

I am opposed to the addition of the above language to the requirements being made by Minnesota of home schoolers. The purpose of many if not most home schoolers is to provide an education that they believe is superior to that which their children would receive from the state. This may include differences in both the *instructional methods used* and also the *content* of the education.

Public schools for decades have been using instructional methods that differ radically from those used by many if not most home schoolers, most especially:

- The use of [“whole language” methods in reading instruction](#), and
- the [teaching of abstract mathematics at young ages](#) during which children are better suited to the teaching of algorithms and math facts.

We may therefore expect that standardized tests may contain explicit references to reading methodology (e.g. [“three cueing”](#)) and [mathematical material](#) that home schoolers have intentionally not covered.

It also is widely understood that state curricula are being massively modified to focus many if not all subjects on new topics, including:

- [“Critical Race Theory,”](#) based the idea that white people are inherently evil;
- [left-wing political activism](#);
- [explicit sexual behaviors](#);
- [transgenderism](#), including promotion of the idea that children should engage in chemical and surgical transformation of their own bodies without the consent or even knowledge of their parents;
- [personal sexual “freedom”](#), including the idea that children should use abortion as a form of birth control without the consent or even knowledge of their parents;
- and possibly other concepts currently beyond our imaginations.

Evidence abounds that the state-provided curriculum is changing at a breathtaking pace. We may expect that standardized tests will soon be preoccupied with the above topics, possibly to the exclusion of all other topics such as mathematics, reading, documented history, etc.

It then stands to reason that home-schoolers will be expected to score well on a test that is designed to test them for radical new social norms and adherence to specific instructional methods that are completely at variance with many if not most home-schoolers’ preferences. I therefore oppose all efforts to force home-schoolers to conform to state educational requirements, including standardized testing requirements.