

BLUEBONNET COUNTRY



CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS

Proverbs 2:1-5

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, ...
if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures -
then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

BLUEBONNET COUNTRY CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS (BCCHE)

*Leadership Members for the school year
2011/2012:*

*Robert and Joy Buchman
John and Sheri Gervais
James and Joy Johnson
Cliff and Kelly Sorge*

2011/2012

Table of Contents

Page Three:	Welcome and Introductory Letter
Page Four:	Teaching and Ministry Opportunities
Page Six:	Introduction to Constitution and By-Laws and Statement of Faith
Page Seven:	Constitution and By-Laws Article I: Name Article II: Purpose Article III: Membership Article IV: Leadership Team
Page Eight:	Constitution and By-Laws Article V: Meetings Article VI: Execution and Amendment Article VII: Dissolution of BCCHE
Page Ten:	Statement of Faith Family Parental Rights and Responsibility in Education Nature of Education Additional Tenets of Christian Theology
Page Eleven:	BCCHE Discipline Policy
Page Twelve:	Conflict Resolution
Page Thirteen:	Common Questions (FAQ)
Page Fifteen:	BCCHE Membership Form
Page Sixteen:	BCCHE Signatory Page

Bluebonnet Country Christian Home Educators (BCCHE)

August 1, 2011

We are off to an early start this year with hopes that we can fully organize by the end of the summer. This will allow us to have everything in place for activities that begin in early September.

It is time for annual membership **DUES**. This year's dues are **\$30** for all families. We would like to be able to offer a variety of activities and academic opportunities. Our group is only as successful as our members make it – for example: planning, assisting with planning, organization of activities, etc. Please consider how your service to our group will enhance the overall success and fruitfulness of our members. Below are some suggested activities which have been successful in the past, however if you would like to head up a different activity than the ones suggested, please submit your proposal to the leadership team.

Please complete **ALL** enclosed forms and mail them along with your dues to BCCHE c/o Cliff and Kelly Sorge at: 44930 Qualls Rd., Hempstead, TX 77445. These forms **must** be filled out entirely and **returned by September 1, 2011** including a signed and dated Constitution and Statement of Faith for new **and** renewing members. Please send these forms by the due date in order for us to organize, complete phone lists, and fill all positions immediately.

We will have our annual back to school party in August and you will be receiving an invitation via e-mail giving more details.

BCCHE Leadership

Teaching and Ministry Opportunities

Here are a few **suggested** areas of opportunity to serve:

The purpose of BCCHE is to provide support to parents who educate their children at home. With each family serving as either a coordinator or assistant in just one activity, we can all work together to make this a fun and successful Home School Support Group.

Activity Day (coordinator and teachers)

Held once a month for 3 months –usually in the winter and early spring months. Coordinator secures teachers for varied classes that will appeal to multiple age groups. Also determines location and collects fees for classes from members prior to event.

Christmas Party

This is typically for younger children with a service project component. Activities in the past have included cookie decorating, ornament decorating, a birthday cake for Jesus, and singing Christmas carols. In 2009 the service project was stuffing 50 stockings for Adam's Angels (ministry for children diagnosed with cancer & BCCHE members donated items for the stockings). We also made 50 Christmas cards and attached them to the stockings.

Coordinator duties: Determine time and date, secure a place, and plan/organize the activities and food.

Father/Son activity

This is primarily a fellowship event. One popular activity is the camping trip.

Coordinator Duties: Determine the activity and the date, secure the place and distribute the information to the group.

Family Game Night (FGN)

This is a fellowship event. Families bring board games and snacks. FGN has typically been held in a BCCHE member's home with in-house child care provided for those too young to play board games. FGN has been held as often as every month, but is usually organized once in the fall and once in the spring.

Coordinator duties: Determine time and date, secure a place, and recruit volunteers for child care.

Field trips

This is an educational activity that is organized several times a semester. Examples of trips include the civil war reenactment, Houston Museums, Washington on the Brazos Museum and Barrington Farm, tour of Briannas salad dressing plant, tour of Blue Bell Ice Cream plant, tour of the castle in Bellville. Parent/educators attend as chaperones.

Coordinator duties: Find educational places that offer tours and special events and then set up the tours and provide the information to the group (cost, directions, time/date, etc).

Harvest Festival

This is a fellowship event typically held in the fall with many outside activities for those of all ages. Examples have been balloon races, sack races, relay events with eggs, scavenger hunt, and a favorite was the shaving cream and cheeto competition. Families bring food and share a meal (such as soups or chili and s'mores) after the outside activities.

Coordinator duties: Determine time and date, secure a place, and plan/organize the activities and food.

Men's Monthly fellowship

Once a month the dads meet to talk and share. This is a fellowship activity primarily. Meeting places have been at restaurants and homes.

Coordinator duties: Determine time and place and send out reminders

Mother/Daughter activity

This is a community service and fellowship event. One popular community service activity is volunteering to organize and sort donated items at Higgins Branch (a non-profit thrift store) in Brenham. Afterward, there is fellowship and playtime at the park or a child friendly restaurant.

Coordinator duties: Decide on a volunteer activity and coordinate/confirm with the organization. Also decide on fellowship activity following the volunteer time.

Nursing Home

A ministry to the elderly. Coordinator secures a nursing home that will be visited once a month and works with activity director of that facility to determine activities that will be done at time of visit.

Open Forum (Talent Show Night)

This is an opportunity for our children to share their gifts and talents with the entire group. Each child performs, sings, recites, dances, plays an instrument, tells jokes (these are just a few examples) on stage. After his/her performance, the child is given a reward which has typically been a very large candy bar. This event has been held at the Young Life building in Bellville. Families are asked to bring snacks.

Coordinator duties: Emcee the event, find and secure a place (preferably with a sound system) and buy the treats.

Park day-plans a monthly get together at a local park to allow children and parents to fellowship and play.

PSAT/SAT (College Entrance Tests) prep

The PSAT and SAT are the college entrance exams and are typically taken at the junior and senior level of high school. More information can be found at <http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>.

Coordinator duties: Determine a time and place where the jrs and srs can study and provides the study materials.

Robotics Team Coordinator

This activity is for older students who are interested in working as a team and creating a robot. The students work together using the engineering process to design, build, and test the robot. Every year in the fall there is a contest in Texas. For more information go to <http://www.txhs-robotics.org>

Coordinator duties: Oversee and provide guidance for the students.

Science fair-coordinates and distributes information to the group on details of a science project. Allows children to create a project in one of the sciences and have it judged.

Spelling Bee-coordinates/assists with planning a bee in the winter, securing a location, pronouncer, judges, and prizes

Speech and Debate Coach(es)

Locally, we have not had enough students competing to form a local club for the last 2 years. We now participate with a larger club, iCom (I Communicate for Christ) in Northwest Houston that hosts a summer debate camp, meets twice a month at a church in the Copperfield area, and has on-line meetings for the students. The minimum age for competition is 12 years old in the league in which we compete. Therefore, any family with a student 12 years – 18 years will be eligible to participate in NCFCA debate. The time commitment is largely what each team and student is willing to put into it. Parental involvement is important, as each of you will be your student's best coach. There are usually several tournaments in Houston, and also others throughout the state in the spring in which a student could choose to participate. Competition is the quickest way up the learning curve and these tournaments provide an excellent experience. Attendance in at least one tournament is encouraged. Any questions about speech, debate, costs and activities can be answered by Susan Hare or Sheri Gervais who have participated in the NCFCA for the last 5 years.

Coordinator Duties: liaison between the SD club and local BCCHE students, as well as host one of the largest state debate Round Robins (practice tournaments) in Brenham for the National Christian Forensics and Communication Association (NCFCA) students. You can read more about NCFCA at www.NCFCA.org.

Standardized Testing

Many parents want a formal way to measure academic performance and then compare their student to other students in the same grade. While several tests are available, we have typically used the Stanford Achievement Test 10th edition (Stanford 10) through Bob Jones University. Testing usually occurs in the spring.

Coordinator: Contacts members with the information, collects the money, orders the tests, secures a site for administration of the tests, helps to administer the tests, and mails the tests to the company and then distributes the results. **You must be certified as a tester.** More information <http://www.bjupress.com/testing/pdfs/2010-sat-application.pdf>

Tester: Assists the coordinator and helps administer the tests.

Team sports-coordinates a sport, secures a location and supervises the activity.

Track Meet

This activity has been held at Holt Park in Brenham (other possible locations include Blinn College Track). Events included softball throw, sack race, relay race, sprints, and hurdles. Winners received medals/ribbons. After the meet, we launched waterballoons (that was a favorite). Families brought snacks to share and we had fellowship in the picnic/playground area.

Coordinator duties: Plan the events and bring whatever equipment/supplies are needed.

Valentine's Day Party

This activity has typically been held at the February homeschool skate at Silver Wings. Students bring valentines to share and a box to collect their valentines. Parents provide snacks.

Coordinator duties: Distribute the information to the group and make sure snacks are provided.

Women's Monthly Fellowship

Once a month moms meet to talk and share. This is a fellowship activity primarily. Meeting places have been at restaurants and homes.

Coordinator duties: Determine time and place and send out reminders

Yearbook - Adults & Student Editors

Coordinator and multiple youth of the group collect and assemble photos from BCCHE families and activities and assemble a yearbook which may be purchased.

We look forward to serving with you.

Sincerely,

Robert and Joy Buchman

John and Sheri Gervais

James and Joy Johnson

Cliff and Kelly Sorge

Bluebonnet Country Christian Home Educators
Introduction to the
CONSTITUTION & STATEMENT OF FAITH

Per our Constitution, membership in BCCHE shall be restricted to those families who concur and sign the Statement of Faith and agree to abide by the Constitution of the organization. Membership in BCCHE is conferred on an annual basis, and is valid through **May 31st** of each school year. (See Article III of the Constitution)

Therefore you are asked to read the attached Constitution and Statement of Faith and sign the signatory page and return it, along with your Membership Form and dues to the Leadership Team by **September 1, 2011**.

Sincerely,

Robert and Joy Buchman
John and Sheri Gervais
James and Joy Johnson
Cliff and Kelly Sorge

BLUEBONNET COUNTRY CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of the organization shall be Bluebonnet Country Christian Home Educators (BCCHE), a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE

The purpose of BCCHE is to provide support to parents who educate children at home. Support can include activities such as field trips, small group meetings (for fellowship, educational, academic, spiritual and emotional encouragement), regularly scheduled large group meetings (for information on curricula and special speakers and workshops), a newsletter, and information on legal concerns.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

Membership in BCCHE shall be restricted to those families who concur with and sign The Statement of Faith and agree to abide by the Constitution of the organization. Membership in BCCHE is conferred on an annual basis, **and is valid from September 1st to May 31st** of each school year. BCCHE's primary role is to provide support for parents and children, who educate at home - all BCCHE activities, outside the local monthly meeting and recreational summer activities, will be limited to only those children of BCCHE members who are home schooled.

Membership dues will be determined by the Leadership Team. Membership in BCCHE is granted to the family applying for membership, and should not be considered as an individual membership. Special provision will be made for those families who desire to be members but are unable to pay for membership. Special provisioning will be at the discretion of the Leadership Team.

If a member ceases to abide by the Constitution, ceases to agree with the Statement of Faith, or in some way brings disrepute on the organization, the Leadership Team will attempt Biblical reconciliation in accordance with Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; and 2 John 9-11. If restoration is not achieved, the offending member forfeits membership in BCCHE.

Non-members in sympathy with the aims and convictions of BCCHE are welcome to attend local monthly meetings of BCCHE for a limited time as guests. Such guest privileges are not to exceed one (1) year in duration. Non-members are not allowed to participate in BCCHE activities other than the local monthly meetings and summer recreational activities.

ARTICLE IV
LEADERSHIP TEAM

BCCHE's governing and voting organization shall consist of a closed, self-perpetuating body known as the Leadership Team. This team will consist of three or four married couples who voluntarily commit to actively serve as Leadership Team members. The Leadership Team members will be committed to actively pursuing and furthering the goals and directions of BCCHE.

Each Leadership Team position shall be filled by a married couple who jointly agree to serve on the Leadership Team. No individual shall serve without the active support of their spouse. The primary fulfillment of the responsibilities of Leadership Team positions shall be by the husband. The husband shall bear the title of office. No wife shall be prohibited from active service as long as she has the full support of her husband. The vote for each couple shall rest primarily with the husband, except that the wife shall vote for the couple in the absence of her husband. Each couple shall have one vote. All references herein to a leadership position shall refer to a couple filling that position.

Consideration of families to fill open positions on the Leadership Team will be prayerfully considered and approved by the current members of the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team of BCCHE shall appoint three officer positions from Team Membership: Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Chairman, or in his absence another officer designated by the Chairman, shall preside over all meetings of the organization and speak for the organization.

The Treasurer will receive funds and make disbursements authorized by the Leadership Team, and maintain an accounting of the organization's financial position.

The Secretary shall assist the Chairman in the performance of his duties, take minutes at official meetings, oversee new membership orientation, and oversee the maintenance and distribution of the membership rolls.

The Leadership Team has the responsibility of confirming qualified members of BCCHE to hold various positions within the organization (Activity Day Coordinator, Field Trip Coordinator, etc.). Coordinator positions will be held by only those who have been members of BCCHE for at least one (1) year. These confirmations are normally for duration of time not to exceed one (1) school year. After such time has passed, confirmation of members to selected positions will require the re-approval of the Leadership Team.

QUALIFICATIONS OF LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS: All Leadership Team members shall have a minimum of one year experience in home schooling, must be a member of BCCHE for a minimum of one year prior to their confirmation to the Leadership Team, and be active in their local church or actively seeking a church home.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

The time, date, place and frequency of general meetings shall be decided by the Leadership Team. There shall be a minimum of two meetings per year held by and for the Leadership Team. The dates shall be agreed upon by the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTION AND AMENDMENT

The Constitution shall become effective upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Leadership Team and the Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE VII DISSOLUTION OF BCCHE

Upon dissolution of Bluebonnet Country Christian Home Educators, the property then on hand, if any, after payment of all outstanding debts of the organization, will be donated without charge to a nonprofit foundation, charity, organization, or entity whose purpose is in unity with BCCHE. Said donation will require approval of the acting Leadership Team.

Amended & Approved: 06/28/2007

Revised: 10/28/2009

STATEMENT OF FAITH

FAMILY

We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social, and spiritual unit created by God. In it the child gradually learns self-governmental, social relationships, and develops a relationship to the Creator and Savior (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20).

We understand family to mean one husband and one wife with one or more children, all related by blood or through adoption (Gen. 1:26-28), though we realize the exceptions of a single parent (James 1.27).

We reject homosexual marriages or homosexual orientation and polygamists (Eph. 5:31) because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation (Romans 1: 1 18-32), and we believe, that such relationships are destructive to children and the very idea of family. In addition, we reject transitory cohabitation relationships as being equally in violation of God's laws and incapable of providing the long term nurture, and instruction needed by children and commanded by God (Prov. 1:8-9; 2:1-11; Col:3:21; Eph. 6:4) In view of this, no homosexual or merely cohabiting "parents" are eligible for membership.

PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

We believe the ultimate responsibility for the education of children belongs to parents (Deut. 4:9; 6:1-25; 4:1-4). Thus, we believe this is an inalienable right given by God which the State can neither create, destroy, nor alter. Parents may allow another to teach some of the cognitive information that children need to know, 'But all education must be under the control and supervision of the parents.

NATURE OF EDUCATION

We believe that all education is religious in nature since one's view of the world and life inevitably is involved in teaching (Prov. 2: 1-8 and. 3:1-2 with 6:20-23; Matt. 28:18-20). Every discipline of knowledge, whether it be subjects such as mathematics, science or history will have as its final reference point a theistic or humanistic view of reality (Col. 1:15-20; 2:8-15), and there is no neutral academic discipline.

ADDITIONAL TENETS OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

We affirm these additional tenets of Christian theology:

1. The Bible is the verbally inspired and only infallible, authoritative Word of God, inerrant in the autographs (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).
2. God is one Being who eternally exists as three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; all of the Persons are equal in power and glory (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14, John 17:5).
3. Jesus Christ is fully God and man (John 1: 1, 14) born of a virgin (Matt. 1: 18) and sinless in His life (Heb. 4:15); He died vicariously on the cross as a substitute for sinful men (Heb. 9:15); He rose bodily from the grave (John 20:1-9, 24-3 1; Acts 2:24) and now reigns with the Father (Acts 2:33; Heb.10:12); He will return visibly and personally to the earth both in salvation and judgment (Acts 1:1 1; Heb. 9:28; Matt. 24--30).
4. All humans are sinful by nature (Rom. 3:23- 5.12) and can only be forgiven by the expression of trust in Jesus as Savior (John 3:16) brought about by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7).
5. We believe in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Rom. 8:1-17).
6. We reject the anti-Christian tenets of secular humanism, including the general theory of evolution (Gen. 1:1, 2), one world government, government mandated sex education, government mandated parenting courses (Psalms 78:4-6), modern feminist ideology (1 Tim 2:9-12) and abortion (Psalms 139:13, 14).

BCCHE DISCIPLINE POLICY

One of our goals as Leadership is to provide a positive, safe, Christ-centered environment. The following Rules of Conduct will help to ensure that we meet this goal. Please explain to your children that if Leadership receives 3 complaints regarding their inappropriate behavior, **WE WILL EXPELL THE CHILD FROM BCCHE EVENTS.**** Membership fees will not be refunded. The family may still participate as members; however, the expelled child will not be included. It will be the family's responsibility to make arrangements in accordance with BCCHE guidelines if the rest of the family continues to attend. We WILL NOT tolerate disruptive behavior in any of our activities, nor will we allow children to speak disrespectfully to our parents/volunteers. AND in accordance with Proverbs 6:16-19, 'sewing discord' among the group will not be tolerated.

Rules of Conduct: The adults responsible for planning and/or sponsoring an activity or event may dictate what the rules of conduct will be for that event, making the rules clear in the announcement or invitation for that event. During all BCCHE sponsored events, the following general rules of conduct will be followed:

• Parents and students will dress modestly, reflecting godly character - Please be aware of your attire, considering how it can reflect both positively and negatively upon BCCHE

- Each person is responsible for helping to clean up after each activity.
- Inappropriate language, conversations, boy-girl situations are not acceptable.
- Children will be respectful to adults and/or peers and be willing to receive guidance from adults and/or teens in charge of activities.
- Do everything without complaining or arguing (Phil. 2:14).
- Honor your parents (Ex. 20:12, Eph. 6:1).
- Honor one another above yourselves (Romans. 12:10).

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but a guide to help set a standard of conduct which is expected to be followed by all the Membership.

** 3 months after being expelled, the parents may petition Leadership to consider restoring the child's membership.

Robert and Joy Buchman
John and Sheri Gervais
James and Joy Johnson
Cliff and Kelly Sorge

I have read the above Rules of Conduct and agree to discuss them with my children.

Conflict Resolution

As our membership claims and acknowledges Jesus Christ as Savior, we are called to be different from the world. Because we are different, we are charged to resolve conflict in a remarkably different way than the world.

For Conflicts within BCCHE, Matthew 18:15-17 will be the overarching guide:

15) If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16) But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. 17) If he refuses to listen to them tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)

Before any of the following steps are taken all offended members must:

Glorify God: Don't confront to get your own way. Instead, bring about resolution for the glory of God.

Remove the log from your own eye: Instead of attacking others or dwelling on their wrongs, we will take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts.

Step 1: Go to the brother or sister; show the fault to him or her in private.

Step 2: If he/she does not listen, go with one or two witnesses.

Step 3: If he/she refuses to listen, take the matter before Leadership.

If the problem is not resolved after these steps have been carried out, the final steps to be taken are:

- Remove the one in error from the fellowship i.e. suspension from G.R.A.C.E. activities for a period of time. (1 Corinthians 5:2-13)
- Do not associate with the disobedient person; and if you must, speak to him/her as one who needs a warning (2 Thessalonians 3:14, 15).
- The group gives united disapproval, but forgiveness and comfort are in order if he/she chooses to repent (2 Corinthians 2:5-8).
- After two warnings, reject the person from the fellowship i.e. terminate BCCHE membership (Titus 3:10).

Amended & Approved: 06/28/2007

Revised: 10/28/2009

COMMON QUESTIONS

by Hank Tate

Because almost everyone enters the home-schooling arena with the same concerns for the academic, social, and emotional welfare of their children, those considering home education have the same basic questions. Home schooling is not necessarily difficult, but it is often intimidating. A brief review of common questions often alleviates many fears and provides vision for an exciting future.

WHAT IS HOME SCHOOLING?

Home schooling is a method of education through which the parents take sole responsibility to oversee the entire education of their children in a personal, direct manner. It is characterized by a one-on-one tutorial method of education using the parents as teacher/tutors and takes place within and through the home of the student.

This definition of home schooling makes some important points.

- The parents assume the sole responsibility to oversee the education.
- The parents do not have to do all of the teaching.
- Though characterized by the parent(s) teaching the child at home, many home-schooled children take courses out of the home under the instruction of others.

Throughout the entire process, the parents are in sole control of the educational methods and content of their children's education.

IS HOME SCHOOLING LEGAL?

Home schooling is legal in every state of the United States. Though specific requirements and laws vary from state to state, the United States Supreme Court and many state courts have numerous times firmly established the right of parents to home-school their children. The laws covering home schooling in the state of Texas are among the best in the nation.

In Texas there are three requirements to be a legal home school as established by *Leeper v. Arlington* in 1987 and upheld by the the Supreme Court of Texas, 1994:

Bona Fide Teaching

The parents must really be teaching the children in a bona fide, good faith manner. Parents can not just say they are home schooling and then do nothing.

Curriculum

The family must have a curriculum for teaching. The parents may select the curriculum from any source which may include video or computer-oriented instruction.

Required Subjects

The student must study at least five subjects: reading, spelling, grammar, math, and a study in good citizenship.

If the three requirements are met, then in the eyes of the state of Texas, the home school is a legal private school with all of the rights and privileges of a private school. (See pages 2-3,4 for more information.)

WHAT ABOUT SOCIALIZATION?

This is one of the most common questions about home schooling, yet numerous research projects show very clearly that home-school students usually have better social skills than their public school counterparts.

Smedley, Radford University - 1992

Smedley revealed through his research that "...the home-educated children in this sample were significantly better socialized and more mature than those in public school. The immediate implication is that home schoolers are providing adequately for socialization needs."

Shyers, University of Florida - 1992

This widely reported research showed that home-schooled children were found to have "consistently fewer behavior problems." The traditionally schooled children were more aggressive, loud, and competitive. The home-schooled children tended to talk quietly and play well in groups, and they took initiative in inviting others to play. Shyers conclusion was that "the results seem to show that a child's social development depends more on adult contact and less on contact with other children than previously thought."

Common sense also reminds us that the mass education classroom, public or private, is an artificial environment. Once a child graduates from school, he is never again in an environment where everyone is the same age. True socialization is the ability to interact with people of all ages, both older and younger. Home schoolers usually excel in this area due to the multi-age environment of a home.

ARE PARENTS QUALIFIED TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN?

This question is usually presented with the concern that most parents are not certified teachers. Numerous research projects show that certification does not correlate to educational results seen in the classroom. In fact, two studies indicated that teacher certification was a negative influence. Research also shows very clearly that the educational background of the parents does not appreciably affect the students' academic accomplishments. Students taught by parents with high school diplomas score approximately the same on standardized achievement tests as students taught by parents with college degrees.

The major issue that determines the success of a student is the commitment of the teacher to see that the child learns the required subject. Committed teachers do whatever is necessary

to modify the course to meet the needs of their students. No one can be more committed to a child than his own parents.

CAN ANYONE TEACH HIS CHILDREN?

Generally the answer is YES! Research and experience show that parents are excellent teachers for their own children. Some practical requirements preclude some families from home schooling successfully. First, it requires a firm commitment from the parents to make the time to homeschool. This includes time for learning about home schooling, organizing the school, and carrying out the instructional program. This time requirement is often difficult for families if the teaching parent is working outside the home. Some families may also face limitations in finances, health, or personalities that make home schooling difficult. Parents can overcome these factors, but it requires a strong commitment.

DOES HOME SCHOOLING REALLY WORK?

A resounding YES! Home schooling, because it is a controversial method of education, has been one of the most widely studied areas of education over the last ten years. Over 80 independent studies, many by public education entities, show very clearly that home schoolers score, on the average, 30 to 40 percentile points higher on standardized achievement tests than their public school counterparts. The results are astounding:

- Home-school graduates consistently score 5% above the national average on the ACT college entrance exam, and Texas home-school graduates matched those numbers in 2001 reports.
- Home-school graduates score 80 points above the national average on the SAT college entrance exam.
- *Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998* by Dr. Lawrence M. Radner - This study showed that on average in grades 1-4 home-schooled students perform one grade level higher than public and private school counterparts. By the 8th grade, the average home schooler is four grade levels above the national average.

This does not mean that all home schoolers have high scores. Home schooling is not perfect-just excellent. There are families who fail at home schooling. Some do not make the commitment necessary to keep a schedule and accomplish the necessary objectives. Some students have learning disabilities for which parents may need to seek outside help. While some home educators may fail, that is no different than any other educational system. All schools, whether institutional or home, have their failures. The multitude of research clearly shows, however, that home schooling is an alternative method of education which generally produces excellent results. (See page 1-7 for more information.)

HOW MANY HOME SCHOOLERS ARE THERE?

The home-schooling community has grown rapidly in recent years. Accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, but data supplied from enrollment in state, regional, and local home school support groups can provide reasonable estimates.

Texas

Membership statistics from the regional and local organizations in Texas provide the following approximations: 100,000+ families in Texas are home schooling 300,000+ students (based upon an average of school-aged children per home-educating family).

United States

In Home Schooling on the Threshold: A Survey of Research at the Dawn of the New Millennium, Dr. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, estimates that there are 1.5 million children being educated at home in the United States, with the possibility of increasing to three million by the end of the first decade of the 21st century. (See Resources, p. 6-6,7, for information about this booklet.)

BCCHE MEMBERSHIP FORM

New *and* Renewing members should complete the information below:

Last Name _____ Home Phone _____

Husband's Name _____ H Cell Phone (optional) _____

Wife's Name _____ H Occupation _____
(For networking purposes)

Address _____ W Cell Phone (optional) _____

City _____ W Occupation _____
(For networking purposes)

Zip _____ E-mail Address _____

Children's Name _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Children's Name _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Children's Name _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Children's Name _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Children's Name _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Children's Name _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Will any of your children be graduating high school seniors this school year? YES NO
 If yes, will your family be participating in the BCCHE sponsored senior graduation in the spring? YES NO
 The deadline for submission to participate in BCCHE graduation events is January 1, 2012.

Name of graduating Senior _____

Curriculum (All) _____

Church Affiliation _____

LIST AREAS OF MOST INTEREST FOR SERVICE (PLEASE LIST YOUR 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th CHOICE):

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Renewal _____ New Membership _____ (please check one)

Dues: \$30 for new and renewing members. Must be postmarked by September 1, 2011
Mail to: BCCHE c/o Cliff and Kelly Sorge, 44930 Qualls Rd., Hempstead, TX 77445
Additional Note: When joining Home School Legal Defense Association our group no. is #296173
 BCCHE/forms04.doc 04/08

We, the undersigned Husband and Wife Team, have; Read, Concur and Agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of Bluebonnet Country Christian Home Educators, the Statement of Faith, the Disciplinary Policy, and the additional Tenets of Faith: concerning Bluebonnet Country Christian Home Educators.

Signed (Husband): _____

Signed (Wife): _____

Dated: _____

Please return this page and the membership form to leadership as soon as completed.