

**Families for Home Education
Come Celebrate With Us!!**



FHE Turns 40 in 2023!!

We are very excited to mark this milestone.

- ⇒ Homeschool Day, March 7 with special events
- ⇒ Art/Photo Contest, submission deadline Feb 15
- ⇒ FHE in Review
- ⇒ Monthly Member Only Drawings

Stay up to date on what we are doing for this special year by going to the website and click on the 40th Anniversary tab at the top of your screen.



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Bulletin going Digital: Thank you for the responses to our survey about changing from a print version of the bulletins to digital. FHE is always trying to be good stewards of the money you entrust to us thru your memberships. With that said, this will be the last printed/mailed version of the Bulletin. In the future, we will continue to issue a bulletin at least twice per year, post it to our website, and then email you with the link for easy access. We appreciate your understanding. To access the bulletin online, either follow the link given in your email OR log into the website and the Newsletters are in the Members Only Section tab found at the top of the page.



ZOOMS and In Person Events:

Stay on top of ALL of our events coming up by frequently checking the **Events tab** on the website.

<https://fhe-mo.org/events>

FHE Turns 40

By Charyti Jackson, FHE Executive Director

Families for Home Education (FHE) turns 40 years old this year! What an amazing time we get to celebrate a sweet victory of having 40 years of homeschooling freedom in Missouri! It is hard to believe such a short time ago, homeschooling was illegal in Missouri and a group of families joined together in 1983 to support each other in the hard fought battle for homeschooling to become legal in our state. Watch our **FHE in Review** video on the website for a flashback in time over the last 40 years.

These families were truly willing to risk going to jail to homeschool their children. Homeschoolers of today don't have to worry about an emergency plan of what are they going to do if CPS shows up at the door to take their children because they are homeschooling or one or both parents going to jail over homeschooling. We don't have to stay inside with the blinds closed for fear of being turned in by the neighbors. Now, we are free to be out in public doing what we need to do for our children's education.

One of the most fantastic perks that we have homeschooling now is all of the resources available to us. There are so many different options from standard textbooks to on-line courses to co-ops. More and more curricula have become available to us whether you are looking for a religious or non-religious based education. The internet has exploded with free and nearly free YouTube videos, unit studies, games, supplemental resources, classes, Pinterest, Teachers Pay Teachers, etc. And over 100 Facebook groups around the state are full of homeschoolers eager to share experiences and learn from each other to build community. Find your local groups by going to our **Region page** and clicking on your region. Links to groups are on the pages.

Also, Missouri homeschoolers standing united as one is as important as ever during this 2023 legislative session. Never be lulled into false security. We must remain vigilant to safeguard our freedoms. There are various groups who would love to see Missouri homeschoolers lose their freedom to homeschool through more regulation and will look for every opportunity to open up our current homeschool law for scrutiny. We have to be smart and discerning when it comes to changing anything in our law, since once our statute (**RSMo 164.031**) is opened, unwelcome changes could be proposed that would be difficult to stop if there is enough momentum from that side. It could be like Pandora's Box if we are not careful. However, FHE remains always vigilant and hard at work behind the scenes with our legislators: reading pages of bills, making numerous trips to the Capitol, attending dozens of Education Committee sessions, giving testimony when needed, and watching hours of Senate and House floor discussions. As always, we will alert you to any issues that concern us, so stay up to date on our website at **<https://fhe-mo.org/capitolreport>**.



2023 Conventions—Mark Your Calendars

<p>Great Homeschool Conventions St. Charles March 16-18, 2023 Discount Code: FHE23</p> 	<p>Midwest Parent Educators Kansas City March 31-April 1, 2023</p> 	<p>Bloom and Blossom Conference Springfield April 22, 2023</p> 
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Homeschool Day in the Capitol Rotunda

March 7, 2023

12:15-2:00 PM



10:30 Arrive early for a parking place and meet us outside by the west stairs for a group picture

12:15 Music by Southside Sliders, homeschool group from Kansas City

12:30-2:00 Join us as we hear an update from the FHE lobbyist on any legislative issues that affect homeschooling, listen to some encouragement from our homeschool friendly legislators, find out the winners of the Art/Photo Contest and T-Shirt Design Contest, and some other surprises.

Make it a day! This is a great field trip opportunity for the whole family. Make arrangements to visit with your legislators, but make an appointment early to get that on their calendars. Tours of the Capitol and Governor's Mansion can also be scheduled in advance. There are 2 museums on either side of the Rotunda that are great to visit. Let's show Missouri that our homeschool community is alive and well by making our presence known at Homeschool Day! Find details here:

<https://fhe-mo.org/2023fhehomeschooldayatthecapitol>

Convention Season, Here We Come!!

While most states have at least one homeschool convention/conference, Missouri is fortunate to have 3. No matter where you are in the state, you can likely get to one.

- Great Homeschool Convention— St Charles, March 16-18 (Help FHE and get a \$10 Discount when you use Code **FHE23** at registration.)
- Midwest Parents Educators—Kansas City, March 31-April 1
- Blook and Blossom Conference—Springfield, April 22

This time of the year is always exciting and a bit scary, especially for the new homeschooler. While the speakers and curriculum do not fit every family's homeschool philosophy, conventions are a great place for gaining some encouragement, learning new tools, and making friends. Often during the winter, we deal with burn out and questions. Is the school year over? Am I doing enough? Are my children learning what they should? However, the conventions are a time to reset and re-evaluate where we are.

- ◇ Workshop speakers on a variety of topics are there to help you navigate curriculum, learn about

special needs struggles, think through high school ideas, and minimize/eliminate burn-out. Don't be afraid to ask your questions.

- ◇ Vendors representing a variety of organizations are there to answer your questions and help you decide the best fit for your family. Take the time to talk to them and learn.

Tips and Tricks for the event:

- Wear comfortable shoes and take a sweater. Rooms can be cold and you have a lot of walking.
- Bring a roller suitcase or cart. Books and supplies get heavy, so use a cart to stash them until you go out to your car.
- Have a list of what you must purchase. Think through your budget and what you absolutely need to buy first. The rest of your budget can go for fun and interesting extras.
- GHC has a program for children for an extra fee OR you can have children bring some quiet things to do while you are in the workshops. And they love to shop so maybe give them a bit of spending money for a book, puzzle or game.
- Bring Address Labels to put on raffle and drawing forms at the booths.

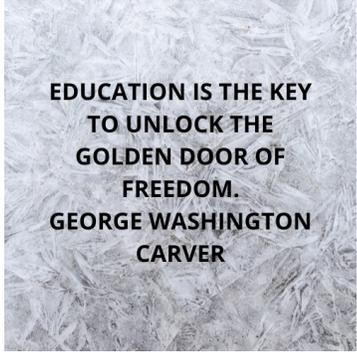
A Voice for Missouri Homeschoolers

By Al Schmidt, former FHE Executive Director
2015-2017

In the 40 years of FHE's existence as an advocate for homeschool freedom in Missouri, there has been an ever increasing number of families that have opted to educate their own children. We have seen the evolution of computer based information and the migration of many to home based instruction vs. brick and mortar schools. Yet FHE's core purpose has remained the same. FHE remains a voice for Missouri homeschooling freedom across the state, in and out of Jefferson City. Over the years, our members have raised their specific concerns with state legislators while our lobbyists have sought to build relationships at the Capitol whereby unfriendly legislation might be defused.

FHE is also an educating voice not just to lawmakers but, most often, to the wave of new homeschoolers who seek direction on how to lawfully and practically begin their homeschooling journey. It works hand in hand with local support groups who are willing to link arms with it.

May it continue to prosper to the degree it remains faithful to its purpose.
(Al and his wife, Sheryl, served as the FHE Executive Directors from 2015-2017.)



EDUCATION IS THE KEY
TO UNLOCK THE
GOLDEN DOOR OF
FREEDOM.
GEORGE WASHINGTON
CARVER

Remembering A Tradition for the Future

By Brad Haines, former FHE Executive Director
(Retired after 23 years)

We started home educating our children the year it became protected by Missouri Law (RSMo 167.031 et al). Home education has always been legal, but biased judges beholden to the public school lobby sometimes ruled otherwise. FHE (founded in 1983) was instrumental in creating what was, at the time, the best Home School Law in the nation. Other states used our model, and in some cases, improved upon it. Missouri's law is still excellent, but there are still concerns about working for "improvements", since once a statute is "opened", those that want control also have the opportunity to insert restrictions or requirements to which we may object.

In the past, some states only allowed home education if the family sought a religious exemption, and then only if their religion did NOT have their own parochial schools. FHE has always believed that PARENTS were the primary and sole authority over the decision regarding how to educate their children (absent a legal mandate declaring them unfit). This is one of the primary reasons FHE is NOT a "Christian" organization. While we have always operated on Christian principles, we represent HOME EDUCATORS, regardless of their religious affiliation. If the State can manipulate who home educates based on their religious affiliation, the State can whittle that down to restrict the rights of most parents, and isolate the remainder.

For ALL of my 23 years as Executive Director (and to this day), FHE has represented ALL Missouri Home Educators. We can only continue our Tradition and Legacy if we stay the course, and represent Home Education as an absolute Parental Right, given by God to ALL parents as a Birth Right. Thanks to FHE (and our great friends at HSLDA), home education in Missouri is thriving, and will continue to thrive and grow.
(Brad and his wife, Deana, served as FHE Executive Directors for 23 years.)

3 CONTESTS to Celebrate 40 Years

<p><u>T-Shirt Design:</u> Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all who entered this contest. Head over to our FHE store at TeePublic to purchase merch from this contest. The winner and runner up designs are available in T-shirts, hoodies, notebooks, coffee mugs, travel mugs, stickers, pins, and magnets. Have fun. https://www.teepublic.com/user/fhe-mo</p>	<p><u>Art/Photo:</u> All homeschooled students from age 5-18 are welcome to enter. All entries must be submitted by Feb 15, no exceptions. Head over to our website for the contest rules. https://fhe-mo.org/art-photo-contest We cannot wait to see your children’s entries!</p>	<p><u>Monthly Drawings:</u> To show our appreciation to all our FHE Members, this is just for you. Each month during 2023, we will draw a winner from our membership list to receive either a free Homeschool Journal, First Things First book, 1 year membership, OR a 2-year membership. Membership winners will have that added to their current membership. Watch our website for the list of winners. https://fhe-mo.org/DisplayMember/monthly-drawing</p>
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Paving the Road to Success Cultivating a Lifestyle of Learning Cari Rogers, Region 6 west

“HELP! My child is not engaged. How do I get my child motivated to want to learn?”

“My daughter refuses to even TRY to learn to read.”

“My son takes forever to do one worksheet. Send help.”

“I want to engage my child with interest-led learning, but I have no idea where to start or how to plan, much less how to log for it.”

Do any of these sound familiar? Homeschool parents are not alone when it comes to hitting a road block. We begin this journey so hopeful that our children will learn without tears, they will get along fabulously, they will always be engaged because you took the time to create the perfect Pinterest inspired project, and you will forever be the calm and collected homeschool parent you always aspired to be. But, no. No, that’s not the way things are going at all and now you don’t even know what to do about it.

Way too often, we cannot fix a small bump in the road because we do not know how to pave the WHOLE road. When homeschooling, you need to know your foundation, and you need to be able to see the end of the road. Once you can see what you want your path to look like, you can pave the way down it. It’s time to get busy making your pathway to success.

See the road: This is when you sit down and think, “what is the big picture here?” Why are you homeschooling? Think big picture and well into the future. Don’t even think of this as a homeschooling

issue. This is a “molding this child into a functional adult” issue. What kind of person do you want to turn out when they hit the world solo? What traits do you want to avoid? Do you have any fears?

Now that you’re looking down the road at the end result, lets back up a bit and see how you’re going to get there. While that precious child is in your home, you want to create the atmosphere to help your young person grow. So let’s look at your homeschool. What do you want your homeschool to feel like? Use good adjectives and make a list of positive attributes that you’d like for your home. This is not the time to be concrete and list things like “I want to start school at 8am” This list should include good descriptive imagery such as, “peaceful”, “warm”, “safe”, “fun”, “generous”, and so on.

Next, think of tangible educational and personal objectives you want to cultivate. Make sure to list your personal goals as well. Remember that you are still visualizing your entire road. Make as many goals as you like.

Your educational objectives might include:

- to be well read
 - to understand how to seek out knowledge and apply knowledge
 - to be prepared for college, trade school, or the work-force
- (cont. on page 6)

Paving the Road to Success (Continued from page 5)

Your personal objectives for your children might be something like:

- to be kind to all
- to love their families well
- to be a peacemaker

Prepare the surface: You have learned how to see the big picture, now I want you to prepare. This is where we look at those big picture goals for the family and homeschool. Prepping the surface is where you begin thinking of the big picture through “subject filters”. Let’s take our educational and personal objectives and think about what subjects can we teach to help attain those goals. I’m not asking you to teach your child all the things all at first. What this exercise is designed to do is to get your mind wrapped around how to apply the academic subjects to things not necessarily found in a textbook; more real world learning, if you will. You might have to ponder and think on this for a while. That’s ok. Home education is a marathon, not a sprint.

Here is an example:

”To be well read” indicates that you can enrich your child’s learning with good literature or academic texts containing strong vocabulary and word usage. Help your child grow in writing by learning to place thoughts on paper (age appropriate of course). You also can provide rich history lessons, applying cultural knowledge to modern texts, reasoning and deduction through study of scientific topics. Help them become good conversationalists by engaging in more spur of the moment discussions about historical or current events.

Laying the road: This is where you get to plan! This is the fun bit. If you are using a curriculum, you can still do this type of planning I’ll be discussing. You might modify it here and there or adjust your curriculum books as needed. Remember, YOU are the boss in your homeschool. As long as your children are learning, that’s all that matters. What I do to make a “planning calendar” is I list July through June on notebook paper making two columns, six months in each column with five spaces in between. Then, I write under the appropriate month any cool things that might happen or holidays that we may celebrate or learn about or otherwise important-to-me (or my kids) topics that coincide with a particular month or week.

For example: August is Space because of the Perseid

Meteor Shower, May is severe weather, and July is Lewis and Clark (we planned a trip to see some of the trail). I try to hit a science and a social studies topic each month. Language arts naturally happens when you learn about anything, as does reading. Math we do stand-alone with level appropriate curriculum.

After the time sensitive topics are filled in, I go through and put other topics of interest in our planning calendar. I always leave December blank because we do not do school in December. My children read and we have a lot of family game nights, but generally, this is our ‘time off’.

After the calendar gets at least one science and one social studies topic in each month that we do school, I look back through and either break it down further into weekly subtopics (our Space unit we do Solar System, Planets (each kid chooses one), the Perseid, and Constellations) or I add topics to round out the month. I am sure to include all forms of learning in each week. Hands on activities, reading, documentaries, art, a visit to a museum or planetarium (or friend with a cool scope), copy work, vocabulary, grammar, important people and places, the topic throughout history...and the list can go on and on.

Changing up all the different ways your child can learn and apply the knowledge helps to beat the monotony of textbooks and worksheets. Of course, some kids thrive with that learning modality, and that is perfectly fine! Other kids need to use all their wits and wiles and dive in.

With this method of learning, logging becomes very easy. We almost always do a science or social studies topic (occasionally we do a language arts topic like Shakespeare), I log it as what the main topic was and language arts. I could very easily also split the daily time between more of the required subjects. My children always read each day, so that is an easy logged item. We do our math each day. Another logged item. Then I take the time spent on the subject and split it 50/50 within the topic’s subject and language arts. Easy peasy!

Hopefully, by now you know that you need to visualize the big picture so you can see the small steps you need to take to accomplish your goals. Take small steps for you and your children. Don’t forget that even small wins give huge emotional boosts. Visualize how you want your ending to look like. When the last child has completed their home education journey, what memories do you hope they’ll share with you? Make that part of the pathway to success.

Report from the Capitol, January 2023

By Sheryl Schmidt, FHE Lobbyist



Wednesday, January 4, 2023, was the first day of the 102nd General Assembly, 1st Regular Session. The representatives and senators elected in the November 8, 2022, general election were sworn into office during the first session of this year's legislature. Many goals were expressed for this year. Many of which FHE will be following closely.

The week of January 9th will be a week of organization and committee assignments in the senate and the house. Please be alert to FHE's updates and calls to action if the need arises as the session progresses. We will be doing updates on the website, so visit the [Capitol Report](#) page often.

In the last 3 years there has been growth in the home school community. This has created some challenges. Throughout this time FHE has continued the commitment to protect home education as defined in [RSMo 167.031](#).

FHE Policy on Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Programs (ESA)

Tax-Credit ESA

FHE does not ask the government for money; therefore, for the most part FHE has been neutral on Tax-credit education proposals since it is private money supporting a school option allowed by the state of Missouri. Here are 2 court case links affirming the fact that tax credits are not government money: [Zelman v. Simmons-Harris, 536 U.S. 639 \(2002\)](#) and [Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn, 563 U.S. 125 \(2011\)](#).

FHE has diligently followed proposed ESA bills in the Missouri legislature to ensure Missouri home school freedoms are secure. As the MOScholar bill progressed through the legislature, we diligently watched and lobbied legislators with our concerns. The biggest concerns came when the Missouri state treasurer wrote the regulations for the program. FHE has asked the legislature to remove a home school from the MOScholars program.

As more tax-credit programs may be proposed for educational purposes, FHE will diligently evaluate every proposal and any state regulations connected to the passed bills.

Government funded ESAs and Educational Vouchers

FHE opposes government funded ESAs and educational vouchers. Along with government money comes regulations requiring accountability to the program. This would add more regulation on a home school than is required by the Missouri compulsory attendance statute, RSMo 167.031.2.

“There are always strings attached to government money” is still a true statement. Even though the MOScholars program is funded through private funds, it is overseen by the Missouri state treasurer. We have witnessed the dangers of a government official writing rules and expanding requirements such as testing of students and background checks for parents and guardians choosing to educate their children at home.

FHE Membership

1 year membership—\$20

2 year membership—\$35

Autorenewal after 1st year—\$18

First Things First—\$10 donation + \$3 shipping

Homeschool Journal—\$20 donation + \$7 shipping

Join/Renew/Order First Things First— www.fhe-mo.org

FHE Board of Directors and Staff

Erin and Charyti Jackson, Executive Directors/Region 1 Directors

Don and Kim Quon, Asst Executive Directors/Region 5 Directors

Scott and Cari Rogers, Region 6w Directors

Robert and Donyelle Barnett, Region 7 Directors

Sheryl Schmidt, Lobbyist

(All FHE Board & Staff are uncompensated, volunteer positions)

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Please note that the inclusion of any activity, organization, supplier, service, or company does not constitute endorsement by Families for Home Education. Each family should decide for themselves which, if any of these things, are appropriate for their own family.

Evidence of FHE membership is a copy of this Bulletin with mailing label attached and FHE membership ID number.

Visit FHE at:

www.fhe-mo.org

Facebook page: Families for Home Education

Facebook groups:

MO Homeschooling Parents

MO Homeschooling High School

Contact FHE at:

info@fhe-mo.org

877 My MO FHE (877-696-6343)



Help FHE continue to fight for Missouri homeschoolers.



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