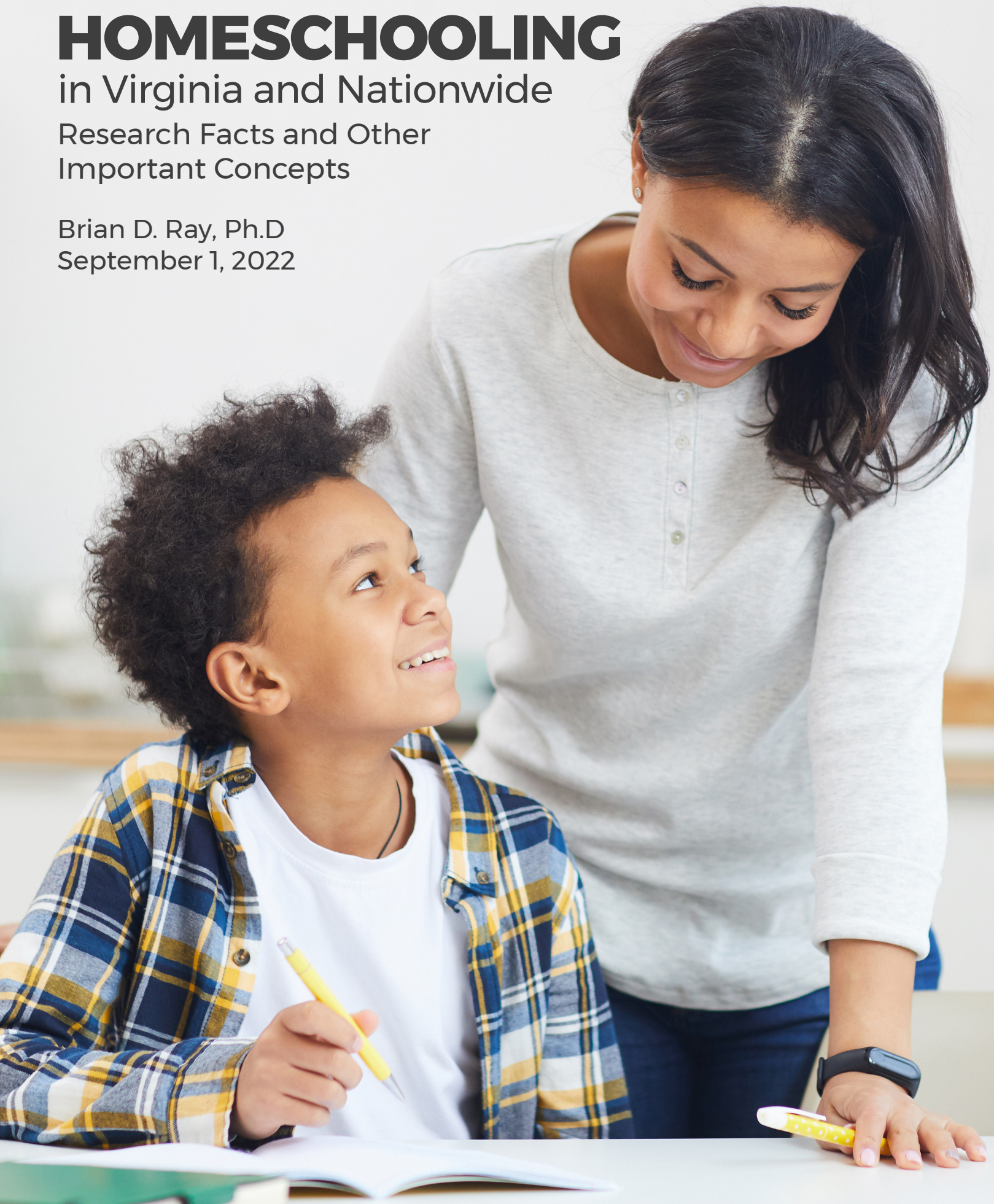


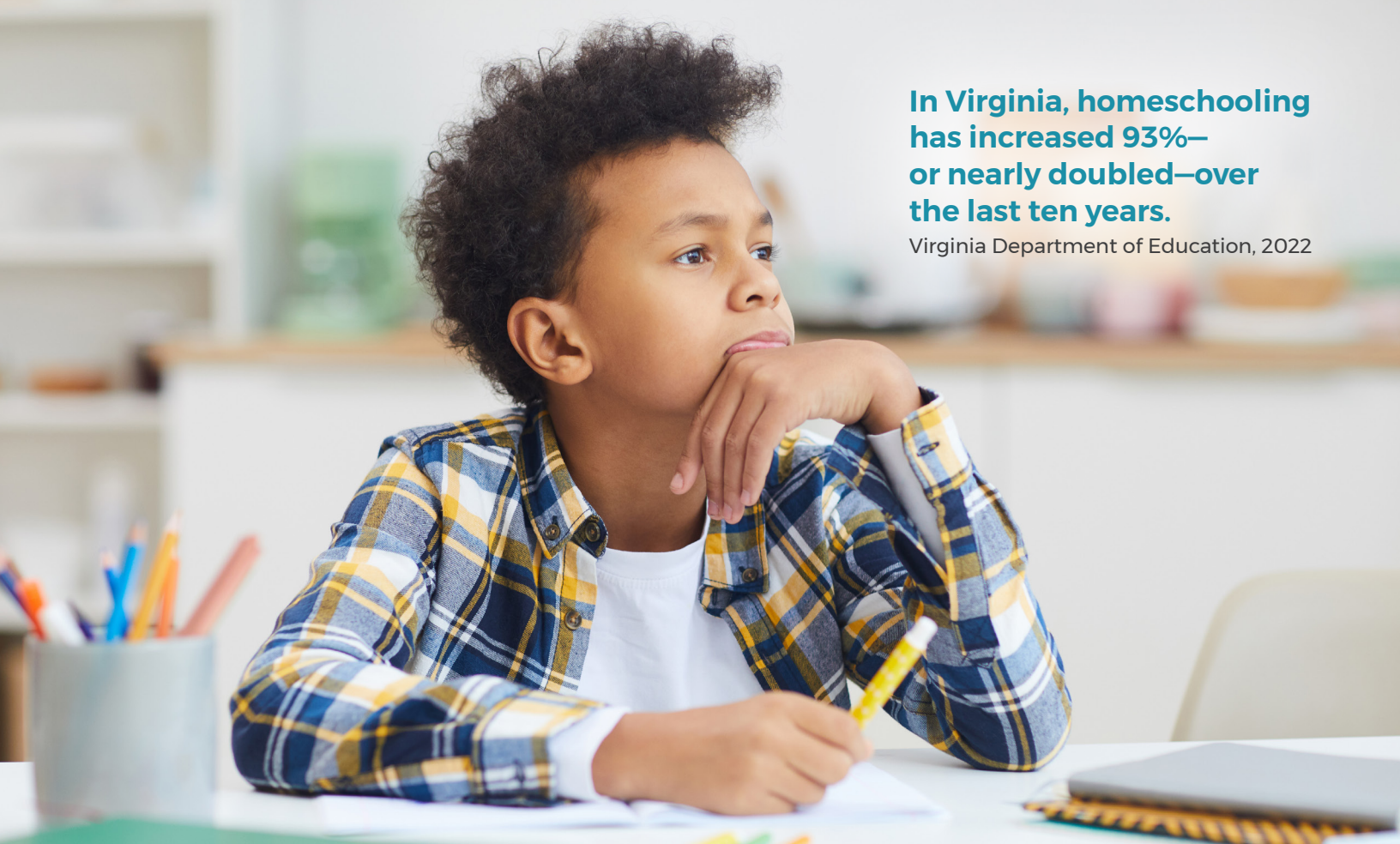
HOMESCHOOLING

in Virginia and Nationwide

Research Facts and Other
Important Concepts

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In Virginia, homeschooling has increased 93%—or nearly doubled—over the last ten years.

Virginia Department of Education, 2022

Parent-directed home education has been the principal model used to educate children for most of recorded history. Although cultural landscapes have changed over the course of time, the last several decades have seen a strong and steady resurgence of this solid approach. Today, home education is the fastest-growing form of education in the United States, with approximately 3.7 million home-educated students across the country (Ray, 2021b).

Virginia Homeschool Academic Achievement

A 2021 standardized achievement test data analysis reveals that Virginia homeschool students score at the 81st to 87th percentile in reading, language, math, science, and social studies. This is 31 to 37 percentile points above the national average.

Academic Achievement Percentile Scores of Virginia Homeschool Students Compared to Others

Subject Area	Virginia Homeschool	Nationwide Average
Reading	87	50
Language	81	50
Math	81	50
Science	85	50
Social Studies	85	50

The data from this chart are from spring of 2021 testing of 680 homeschool students using the *Iowa*

Assessments™, Form E. The test scores are the average percentile of all homeschool students who were tested for each subject area. The author converted percentile scores to z-scores before analyzing them.

Numbers of Virginia Homeschoolers and Tax Savings

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Virginia Department of Education reported a total of 61,873 homeschooled and religiously exempt students in the Commonwealth (Virginia Department of Education, 2022).

In the 2020-2021 school year, there were 65,571 homeschool students (Virginia Department of Education, 2021). The average public school per-pupil expenditure in Virginia was \$14,386 (National Education Association, 2021). Therefore, it is estimated that homeschool families saved Virginia taxpayers approximately \$943 million that year. In addition, taxpayers do not have to pay capital expenditures for home-educated students.

Virginia Homeschool Law and Core Values

- To comply with §22.1-254.1 of the Virginia Code, parents must:
 1. File a yearly notice of intent and description of curriculum with their local superintendent by August 15 each year.
 2. Provide evidence of progress to their local superintendent by August 1 following the school year.
- Legislative Issues of Concern to Virginia's Home Educators

Parental Rights

"A parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child" as recognized in §1-240.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Educational Rights

Parents have the right to educate their children in conformity with their moral and religious convictions and academic and philosophical goals.

Reasons for Home Educating

Most parents decide to homeschool for more than one reason (Ray, 2021a; United States Department of Education, 2021). The most common reasons given for choosing parent-directed home education are to

- customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child;
- accomplish more academically in less time than in traditional schools;
- use teaching approaches other than those typical in traditional classroom settings;
- enhance family relationships to offer the greatest potential for directing the child's future;
- provide a natural and guided social and community life with peers and adults;
- provide a safe environment void of physical violence, drugs and alcohol, psychological abuse, and improper and unhealthy sexuality;
- teach and impart values, beliefs, and a world-view to their children and young adults; and
- address special needs and individual learning challenges.

Nationwide Academic Achievement

- Studies show that home-educated students average 15 to 30 percentile points above the national average on standardized academic achievement tests (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2013, 2015).
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the college admission SATs and ACTs (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2017).
- Colleges actively recruit homeschool graduates. College and university personnel have a positive impression of homeschool graduates (Gloeckner & Jones, 2013).
- The parents' level of education or the family's household income are not notably related to the academic achievement of the home-educated (Ray, 2013).
- The degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement (Ray, 2010). Achievement test scores of homeschool students in states with higher regulation are the same as states with lesser regulation.
- Whether homeschool parents have ever or never been government-certified teachers is not notably related to their children's academic achievement (Ray, 2013).

Social, Emotional, and Psychological Development

- Research measuring peer interaction, self-concept, leadership skills, family cohesion, participation in community service, and self-esteem shows homeschoolers are doing very well. They are typically above average in social, emotional, and psychological development (Medlin, 2013; Ray, 2017).
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in common social and educational activities including field trips, scouting, 4-H, political drives, church ministry, sports teams, debate teams, drama, music classes, art classes, apprenticeships, and community volunteer work (Hamlin, 2019).

Success in Adulthood

The research base of adults who were educated at home is growing; thus far, studies indicate they:

- participate in local community service more frequently than the general population;
- vote and attend public meetings more frequently than the general population;
- go to and succeed in college at an equal or higher rate than the general population;
- by adulthood, internalize the values and beliefs of their parents at a high rate; and
- are more politically tolerant than other adults (Cheng, 2014).



NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING?

VIRGINIA

Home Educators Association of Virginia (HEAV)

2100 W. Laburnum Avenue, Suite 108A
Richmond, VA 23227
804-278-9200
www.heav.org ■ office@heav.org

NATIONAL

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

P.O. Box 3000
Purcellville, VA 20134
540-338-5600
www.hslda.org

RESEARCH

National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)

P.O. Box 13939
Salem, OR 97309
503-364-1490
www.nheri.org ■ mail@nheri.org

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