



# NHHERI

National Home Education Research Institute

*Celebrating*  
**30 Years**  
*of Research on*  
*Homeschooling*



# A Sampler of NHERI's Achievements



## Endorsements

"Brian's careful analysis and scholarly approach has been a real asset to cases I've litigated over the years. There were many cases I wouldn't have won without Dr. Ray's and NHERI's help." — *Mike Farris, Home School Legal Defense Association, HSLDA, Co-Founder (currently, CEO and General Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF))*

"NHERI is the go-to resource I recommend as the first and best source of dependable, accurate information on homeschooling." — *Gregory J. Cizek, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Educational Measurement and Evaluation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

"When God called our family to home education, well-meaning family members on both sides expressed grave concerns. We knew that our children would flourish and thrive at home, but we needed something tangible to address their concerns. Thankfully, soon thereafter, the research of Dr. Brian Ray was published in the HSLDA magazine. Armed with the clear and undeniable data that demonstrated the positive outcomes in all the concerning areas, we were able to alleviate their many fears." — *Kris and Julie K., Indiana*

"NHERI is the oldest and most trustworthy research center on home education in the world. In its publications, one can find answers to every fundamental issue in the field." — *Marek Budajczak, Ph.D., Professor, University of Adam Mickiewicz, Poznań, Poland*

"...We use Dr. Ray's numbers constantly when lobbying for legislation that protects family rights and legislation that creates more freedom for homeschoolers!" — *Stephen Howsley, Public Policy Analyst, Texas Home School Coalition*

"The research generated by NHERI over the years has been fundamental to our understanding of trends and foundations of homeschooling over the decades." — *Cheryl Fields-Smith, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Co-Founder of Black Family Home Educators and Scholars*

"HSLDA has lost track of how many times Brian Ray has been called on to help establish the validity and success of homeschooling in court rooms and legislatures around the country. But we are so grateful for his expert testimony in court on behalf of homeschooling families." — *J. Michael Smith, HSLDA, President*

"I just wanted to thank [Dr. Ray] for taking part in last night's edition of 'The Evening Talk Show' on KERA 90.1, Dallas, Texas. Thanks to your articulate presence, the show gave listeners a lot to think about. I can certainly tell you we had a much higher-than-average volume of callers on the line." — *Krys Villaseñor, Host, 'The Evening Talk Show'*

"It is hard to over emphasize the importance of Dr. Brian Ray's early research about the academic achievement of homeschooled kids. It paved the way for many parents to choose homeschooling with confidence that it works. And it gave legislatures the confidence to roll back unreasonable restrictions. As founder and president of the NHERI, he has spent 37 years researching homeschooling. He has produced an impressive body of published, peer-reviewed research that continues to help parents, policy makers, and the press understand the value of homeschooling." — *Jim Mason, HSLDA, Vice President*

## A Note from Dr. Ray

**Back in 1983**, very few studies had been done on what we now call homeschooling. But I was fascinated by the topic. Families willing to do things differently? Parents willing to risk their reputation and jail time to educate their children outside of institutional schools? Pedagogical practices that are more relaxing, natural, and consistent with what so many professional educators know are really good for helping children learn? A schooling practice that goes against the grain of 100 years venerating experts in education and government/public schooling hegemony? And parents who want to spend more time with their children? This had to be captivating!

I remember first mentioning homeschooling to my doctoral major professor. He asked, "But is that legal?" I was disturbed. For a scholar and educator who came into his own during the 1970s, he should not have been worried about the norm and what is legal. He should have asked, "Is it good for children? Does it work better than institutional government public schooling? Why? Why not?"

The homeschooling movement then started to take off and rise like a healthy batch of homemade bread. As the population and enthusiasm grew, the number of studies on homeschooling began to pick up. It was such an intriguing topic that I founded the journal *Home School Researcher* in 1985. The studies began to multiply. Now NHERI can barely keep up with the myriad of studies being done in nations around the world.

It was evident by 1990 that an institute was needed to do basic research and publishing on homeschooling, serve as a clearinghouse of all homeschool studies, and disseminate the facts and statistics to scholars, the media, policymakers, parents, and the general public. Ergo, others and I founded the National Home Education Research Institute!

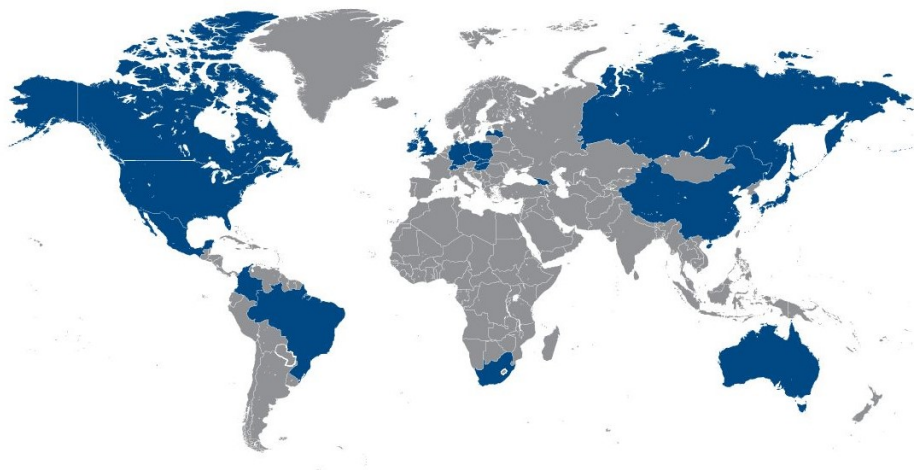
It has been a fast and wild ride at times. NHERI has published many primary studies, been interviewed by major media in sundry nations, provided expert witness numerous times in courts and legislatures, and presented research findings at uncounted professional meetings and homeschool conferences around the world.

Negative critics have attacked NHERI. Some say that NHERI has a bias. They are either ignorant or do not want to admit that all researchers, scholars, professors, and institutes have a bias. Every scholar works from a set of fundamental beliefs and presuppositions about knowledge, reality, and what is of value. Some are critical theorists, socialists, statist, metaphysical naturalists, humanists, or proponents of other -isms.

On the other hand, as NHERI conducts and evaluates research and serves the public, we are confident in the time-tested standards that spring from the worldview of Christianity and the general tenets of liberty-honoring classical liberalism. Such values drive NHERI. They have made NHERI an internationally recognized source of expertise, soundness, reasonableness, and respect for parental rights and families in the field of education.

Many financial donors, advisors, and encouragers have been a key part in pushing NHERI forward. I thank them all! They have spread the fascinating and positive news about homeschooling around the globe. Now NHERI – after 30 years of service – is strategically positioned to continue as the key voice on homeschooling facts, statistics, and freedom-loving perspectives for decades to come.

—*Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.*



## NHERI's Impact Worldwide\*

Australia	Ireland
Brazil	Japan
Canada	Slovakia
China	South Korea
Colombia	Latvia
Czech Republic	Mexico
England	Poland
Georgia	Russia
Germany	South Africa
Hungary	Switzerland

\*Country name indicates in-person visits. NHERI has also had frequent media interviews and has helped scholars and organizations in various other nations.

## Future Projects

- 1) **Research study:** Perceived Barriers to Homeschooling in a Fragile Community with a Focus on Black Families
- 2) **Research study:** Comparing the Abuse Rates of Public School, Private School, and Homeschool Children
- 3) **Enhancing** NHERI's online usability and accessibility for parents, scholars, policymakers, and the media
- 4) **Engaging** more scholars as research associates of and collaborators with NHERI

## A Few Special Acknowledgements

Many individuals and organizations have been a crucial part of NHERI's history, accomplishments, and service to others. Here are a few of them:

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