

A Trojan Horse in Home Education

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In the 1980's and 90's South Carolinians fought hard for the homeschool freedoms we enjoy today. Virtual charter schools undermine these freedoms and put the homeschooling family back under the control of the state education bureaucracy.

A new government school district was recently started here in South Carolina which has the potential to negatively affect home education as we know it. Most families in SCAIHS who homeschool could be described as providing parent-directed, home-based, private, Christian education for their children. Each of these attributes that describe this education has been shown in studies to be important to the success of homeschooling.

Parent-directed means that the individuals who know the child best and who are most interested in his or her well being—the parents—are determining the education agenda for the child. The parents decide on the type of curriculum to be used, the pace of learning that the child can handle, and whether an aspect of the educational program has been mastered. While SCAIHS provides advice, the parents make the decision.

Home-based means that the child is not institutionalized in a peer-dependent setting, but rather receives one-on-one attention from an adult. In addition, the safety and morality concerns that accompany warehousing hundreds of adolescents in one place are non-existent in a home setting.

Private means that the parent, another independent organization, or individual is funding the education. This is in contrast with so-called “public” education, which is funded by tax dollars. Government education must follow the dictates of the federal education bureaucracy and the mandates of the state legal system, even if those don't fit the needs of the child or community.

Private education provides freedom for those directing the education to act in the best interests of the child without red



tape and regulations holding them back.

Christian means that the subjects are taught from a Christian worldview. The children will be taught that there are absolutes in the world. They will learn that the world does not revolve around them and their desires and impulses. In addition, they will be taught that each person is responsible for his/her own actions and the results of those actions. Unfortunately, secular education has adopted a humanistic approach that places man at the center of everything and absolves the individual of any responsibility.

So what is this Trojan Horse that has arrived in South Carolina? Many of you have received information in the mail during the past few months about the **South Carolina virtual charter schools** (in

contrast to privately operated virtual schools). The slick glossy brochures look great and the school sounds appealing. The brochure says that homeschoolers can receive government funding for their home schools. What families wouldn't want to get “free” money to continue something they are already doing? Ah, but here is the catch. It will not fund what they are already doing. A virtual charter school is not parent-directed, home-based, private, Christian education. It is government bureaucrat-directed, home-based, public, secular education.

In the states where virtual charter schools are prevalent, the families enrolling in the program are finding their education freedoms eliminated. They must open their homes to visits from government education officials employed by the virtual charter school. These individuals do not know the children or their individual strengths and weaknesses, not to mention the aspect of government intrusion. But these officials have the authority to direct how they must teach their children and what curriculum they must use. In addition, since this is a publicly funded program, they are not permitted to teach from a Christian worldview. In fact, in some states, families enrolled in virtual charter (Continued on page 5--Trojan Horse)

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schools have been told they cannot read or study the Bible in their own home as part of their school program.

While persons may think that they can take the money and just ignore those requirements from the virtual charter school, they must keep in mind that it is publicly funded. That means that it has the enforcement power of the state legal system behind it. The money isn't really "free" and there are many strong strings attached.

Don't be fooled like the people of Troy were fooled by the Greeks. The citizens of Troy thought they had received a gift from the Greeks and brought the so-called Trojan horse inside their walls, but the gift led to their destruction. The "free" money from the virtual charter school looks like a gift, but it will destroy some of the best parts of your homeschool. Just say no to the virtual Trojan Horse.~~