

**THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT L.E.A.P.  
A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP**

WHY IT MIGHT BE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD

**What is Thompson School District Homeschool Enrichment Program?**

The TSD L.E.A.P. is part of the Thompson School District, open to students in grades K-12, and is designed to support parents who choose to school their children at home. Parents remain the primary instructional provider, with the school supplementing and complementing their efforts. TSDHEP is not a religious school; it is a public school. The same separation of church and state exists as required by law.

Families participating in TSD L.E.A.P. get instruction at no cost. This is possible because, as a public school, TSD L.E.A.P. receives a portion of the Per Pupil Operating Revenue (PPOR) distributed at the state level for each enrolled student. This money is used to pay salaries, to purchase textbooks and curriculum, pay site rental and other costs associated with running the program.

**What are the expectations for the students?**

Students who enroll in TSD L.E.A.P. attend only 6 hours per week and are considered part-time students. Students do not attend more than one day of classes per week. Parents choosing TSDHEP still consider home schooling as their primary means of educating their children. In order for TSDHEP to receive funding, each registered student must spend a minimum of 90 hours per semester with a licensed teacher hired by TSD L.E.A.P., for a minimum of 180 hours per school year. These are regularly scheduled hours for classes held at the TSD L.E.A.P. site.

Students who are 16 years old or juniors in high school may be eligible for up to two, pre-approved classes per semester at a community college or university. The TSD L.E.A.P. reimburses tuition but parents are responsible for fees and textbooks.

**Why would parents choose TSD L.E.A.P.?**

Parents choose to place their children in TSD L.E.A.P. because their children can be part of a classroom experience. They value the opportunity for students to share academic time with their peers. Also, science labs, art, music and other types of classes may be difficult to offer at home. Students are able to participate in group activities such as field trips. Parents may feel less comfortable in teaching some academic subjects. Parents encourage the opportunity for their students to experience the rigor of regular classroom setting and the accountability that comes from deadlines and the need to demonstrate organizational skills.

The teachers, administrators and support staff for TSD L.E.A.P. are competent, well trained and dedicated to educational excellence. All teachers for TSD L.E.A.P. are fully accredited and must hold a valid Colorado teaching license appropriate for his/her assignment. In addition, teachers are highly qualified as defined in No Child Left Behind. Pupil-teacher ratios are far below those in most public schools are teachers are able to give student the personal attention necessary for an outstanding educational experience. Teachers are encouraged to develop on-going communications with parents to ensure school and home are working as a team toward excellent education for each child.

Another very important aspect is that through enrollment with TSD L.E.A.P., parents have the availability of textbooks, curriculum and testing, paid through TSD L.E.A.P. Curriculum is available for parents for their home use for annual check out, including teacher editions, at no cost except for consumables.

Parents are able to order cost effective, reusable curriculum, which is non-religious in nature. Items are returned at the end of the school year.

What is the partnership between TSD L.E.A.P. and home schooling?

Parents connected with the TSD L.E.A.P. consider home schooling their primary means of educating their students. State law relating to home schooled students requires that each child participating in a non-public home-based educational program be evaluated when the child reaches grades three, five, seven, nine and eleven. Each child must be given a nationally standardized achievement test to evaluate the child's progress (or a qualified person will evaluate the child's academic progress). The test or evaluation results, is submitted to the local school district of residence. The purpose is to evaluate the educational progress of each child.

Since students in the TSD L.E.A.P. are home schooled more than 50% of their time, TSD L.E.A.P. provides students the opportunity to take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to fulfill this requirement. TSD L.E.A.P. students are not required to take the CSAP since they are home schooled for their primary education (SB 186).