



Written by [Peter Rykowski](#) on February 9, 2024

# Michigan State Officials Call for Registry of Homeschooled Children

Michigan officials are calling upon state lawmakers to enact a mandatory state registry of all homeschooled children in Michigan.

Since December 2023, Michigan state officials — [including](#) Attorney General Dana Nessel, the state House and Senate Education Committee chairs, the State Board of Education, and State Superintendent Michael Rice — have criticized homeschooling and called for stricter government regulation and oversight over homeschooled students and their parents.



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The [motivation](#) for these attacks was the [arrest in December](#) of two couples in Clinton County for “allegedly abusing and financially profiting from foster and adopted children.”

However, instead of focusing on the crime itself — or on the high levels of [abuse in government schools](#) — these officials are broadly attacking homeschooling and parents seeking alternatives to government schools. For example, Attorney General Nessel alleged that homeschooling had contributed to the couples’ actions.

In a tweet on December 6, she [wrote](#):

The homeschooling environment allowed abuse in [one of the homes] to go unnoticed; implementing monitoring mechanisms is crucial to ensure that all children, including those homeschooled, receive necessary protections.

The day prior, state Representative Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth), chair of the House Education Committee, decried Michigan’s homeschooling laws and [claimed](#) that “abusive parents are taking advantage of [the absence of a homeschool registry] to avoid being found out.”

In January 2024, Superintendent Rice sent a [letter](#) to state legislators asking them to enact legislation on various education-related issues. Among these was a [proposal](#) to require parents to register their homeschooled children with the government, something parents currently are not required to do.

“Having a record of all children enrolled in these four buckets [public/charter schools, private schools, parochial schools, and homeschools] would provide an understanding of the children not currently enrolled in any learning environment,” Rice wrote. “The issue of ‘missing children’ is a national problem with potential negative consequences for too many children.”

A mandatory homeschool registry would be a major step toward government intrusion into the homes and daily lives of families. It would also enable government to later impose additional restrictions on families who homeschool.



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State Senator Jim Runestad (R-White Lake) noted the dangers of this proposal, [describing](#) it as “the very definition of an unconstitutional invasion of privacy and extreme violation of parental rights.”

When the United States was founded, the [vast majority](#) of children were homeschooled, and parents freely raised their children as they saw fit. [As a result](#), the American electorate was well-educated and adhered to strong moral principles — and the United States became the most prosperous country in human history.

Now, Marxist-influenced individuals and groups are seeking to [eliminate homeschooling](#) and [force parents](#) to send their children to government schools, where they can be easily indoctrinated with Marxist ideology. Notably, modern-day public schools were themselves [originally created](#) by statist and Marxist-influenced individuals to control the next generation and how it views the world.

Government schools today are [failing](#) to truly educate children, and as a result, record numbers of parents are [pulling their children out](#) and pursuing homeschooling and private schools that uphold American values, such as [FreedomProject Academy](#). The Michigan Legislature would be wise to avoid meddling in this trend, and to instead get government out of education altogether.

*Michigan residents can contact their legislators in opposition to a homeschool registry by visiting The John Birch Society's legislative alert [here](#). And everyone can take action to save our children from government schools by visiting JBS's "Save Our Children" action tools page [here](#).*



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