

Microschools for the 21st Century Learner

Intro

Microschools, independent learning institutions, are widely considered to be “outsourced homeschooling”. These learning institutions are free from many of the harsh realities of public schools and even some private schools. Students and teachers who participate in microschooling are unconfined from the dreaded and outdated standardized testing, sit-and-get instruction, and strict curriculum constraints.

Publication Pages

Weareteachers.com

edutopia.org

Chronicle.com

Theeducatorsroom.com

edweek.org

True Authentic Learning

While authentic learning can be attained in public schools and frequently does, few children gain from this learning due to the sheer number of students in the classroom. Crowded classrooms make it hard to reach every student in meaningful ways, therefore many students fall between the cracks. Having twenty to thirty students in a classroom makes it hard to do even the simplest projects. However, in microschools, teachers can reach every student in her class and carry out extensive meaningful, authentic, and engaging projects. Project-based learning is the key to learning and in microschools, this is exactly what makes them so successful. Students can gain real-world knowledge and even make an impact on their community through these projects. This leads to high-quality instruction that is difficult to attain in public and even some private schools.

Helping Future Generations

As a public school teacher, when I first received a child that was “homeschooled” they were below grade level when they enrolled back into public school. I found this to be surprising because I always assumed children who were homeschooled would be able to learn so much more in little time due to the one-on-one instruction. I assumed wrong. Looking

more into the topic of homeschooling and the state requirements in Texas I learned that there is none. Many parents who decide to homeschool do not have a teaching background and while it may sound like an easy job, they quickly learn that they are in over their heads. Teaching is hard and even more so when the student is your child. Children test the boundaries more when they are dealing with their parents, so while you want the best education for your child, it becomes hard to manage.

Microschooling allows for these parents to still give their child that “homeschool” type instruction but allows someone who is usually well-versed and sometimes even certified in teaching to take over the instruction. Microschooling also benefits children even more by giving them exposure to social situations that they would otherwise not get in traditional homeschooling. While they may only have 3 or 4 students in their group, they would be able to make close friendships without the extra stress of “mean girl” or “bully” type behaviors. These behaviors are the reason many parents choose to take their children out of public school in the first place. While homeschooling can be great, humans are social beings and children need exposure to other children to learn how to properly interact and be good adult citizens. Without this exposure, kids can be awkward when put into social situations in the future. They also risk becoming lonely and depressed.

Lessons Learned

I hope that parents and even educators look more into microschooling as an option for their students. We live in a time that is experiencing an outdated education system. It is time to revamp it by making some changes. We no longer live in the industrial era yet we are still teaching our students like we are preparing them for industrial-era jobs. When entering the industrial era the education system was given a makeover to cater to the changes. This makeover is what we are still working with today. Microschools can potentially be the new overhaul that we need for the current era we live in.

Digital Resources

To put my article together I plan on using academic journals and articles to verify the information about facts and prove my point about microschooling, homeschooling, public schools, and the current education system.

Add in: “Microschools can also take advantage of online course providers like [VLACS](#), [FLVS](#) or [Outschool](#) to access specialist teachers without needing to hire those teachers as full-time” staff.

“<https://www.eschoolnews.com/educational-leadership/2023/02/08/is-2023-the-year-of-the-microschool/#:~:text=Microschools%20can%20also%20take%20advantage%20of%20online%20course%20providers%20like%20VLACS%20FLVS%20or%20Outschool%20to%20access%20specialist%20teachers%20without%20needing%20to%20hire%20those%20teachers%20as%20full%2Dtime%20staff.>”