



**CT Homeschool Network Inc.**

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# HOMESCHOOLING 101: GETTING STARTED

*CT Homeschool Network (CHN)*  
*[cthomeschoolnetwork.org](http://cthomeschoolnetwork.org)*

# SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HOME EDUCATION

- An estimated 30-50 million children have been homeschooled in the U.S.A. since 1990.
- The #1 reason parents homeschool is their belief that they can give the child a better education.
- Homeschooling in the United States constitutes the education of about 3.4% of U.S. students.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that parents have a fundamental right to direct the education of their children.
- The college graduation rate for homeschooled students is 67%, nine points higher than the 58% for traditionally schooled teens.
- Home education is a successful, viable option for the families who want to do it.
- Moreover, it is a lifestyle.
- ***What do you need to know?***

# CT GENERAL STATUTE

## 10-184

First of all, know your rights. CGS 10-184 is the statute that you should become familiar with. It acknowledges your parental rights and your duty, first and foremost, to instruct your own child. This is the law.

### *CGS 10-184. Duties of Parents.*

*All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship, including a study of the town, state and federal governments.*

## THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL (LOW)

- Public school withdrawal: address the letter to the superintendent of schools.
- Private school withdrawal: address the head of school.
- You must withdraw your child within ten days of starting to homeschool. If your still enrolled child is absent from school for 10 days, they will be truant. (CGS 10-198a)

### Sample Letter of Withdrawal (LOW)

***Date: 9/1/2020***

***Dear \_\_\_\_\_,***

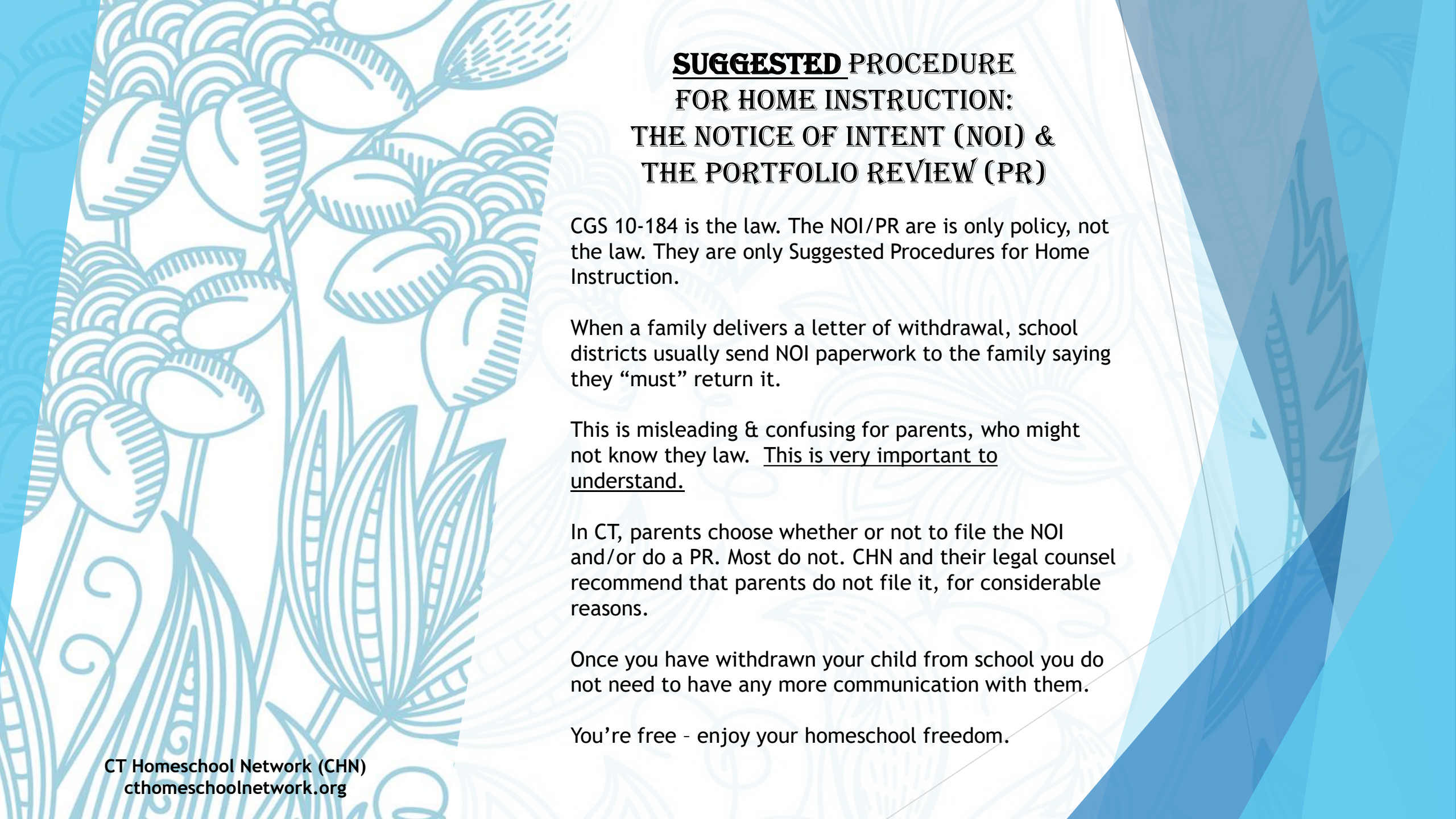
***Effective immediately, we are withdrawing John Doe, age \_\_\_\_\_, from the Your School Public School District. John will be instructed in accordance with CGS 10-184.***

***Sincerely,  
Parent(s) name(s)  
Address***

# DELIVERING THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL

- Make 2 copies & keep one in your file
- Mail one to the school, certified mail, return-receipt requested
- It costs about \$5.80 at the post office; keep the slip
- You will fill out a green card & receive it back after delivery - file it away
- You can follow-up with a “cc’d” email in a few days if you want to
- It’s best not to speak via phone as there is no record
- As soon as you have sent the LOW, you have no more need for communication with the school

***Congratulations!***  
***You’re now a homeschooling family!***



**SUGGESTED PROCEDURE  
FOR HOME INSTRUCTION:  
THE NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) &  
THE PORTFOLIO REVIEW (PR)**

CGS 10-184 is the law. The NOI/PR are is only policy, not the law. They are only Suggested Procedures for Home Instruction.

When a family delivers a letter of withdrawal, school districts usually send NOI paperwork to the family saying they “must” return it.

This is misleading & confusing for parents, who might not know they law. This is very important to understand.

In CT, parents choose whether or not to file the NOI and/or do a PR. Most do not. CHN and their legal counsel recommend that parents do not file it, for considerable reasons.

Once you have withdrawn your child from school you do not need to have any more communication with them.

You’re free - enjoy your homeschool freedom.

# DESCHOOLING: A GENTLE TRANSITION

Whether you need a few weeks or a few months, take the time you need, to ease into the lifestyle that homeschooling is.

Use that time to learn about your options

- *Enjoy time with one another & have fun*
- *Go hiking, take day trips, get in touch with nature, cook together, play games, watch movies*
- *Visit libraries & learn about their homeschool resources*
- *Don't rush into homeschool academics; go easy*
- *Explore your homeschool options & make decisions*
- *Find homeschoolers in your area*
  
- *When you're ready...*

# METHODOLOGIES

What instructional methodology do you want to use? When you start narrowing down your focus, next steps become easier. There are probably a few of them that will work for your family - and the results of the quiz helps show that to you.

- Charlotte Mason Method (CMM)
- Classical Education: The Well-Trained Mind
- Distance-Online Learning
- Eclectic
- Unit Studies
- Self-Directed Learning a.k.a. Unschooling
- Montessori
- Waldorf
- Traditional



# CURRICULUM OPTIONS

- Secular? Religious?
- Online learning?
- Textbooks?
- Boxed curriculum?
- Create your own curriculum?
- How do you decide?

## The Quiz

*Match Your Preferences, Instructional Style & Curricula*

*Take this free, short quiz to gain insights into the top 3 homeschooling paths likely to best fit your family.*

<http://eclectic-homeschool.com/homeschool-philosophies-quiz/>

# Homeschool Curriculum Guide

## Traditional:

Abeka  
Alpha Omega's Switched on Schoolhouse  
Alpha Omega's Life Pacs  
Bob Jones University  
Bookshark (secular)  
Calvert School (secular)  
Christian Light  
Christian Liberty Press  
Critical Thinking Co. (secular)  
MasterBooks  
Rod & Staff

## Charlotte Mason Style:

A Gentle Feast  
Ambleside Online  
Beautiful Feet Books  
Blossom & Root (secular)  
Five in a Row  
Heart of Dakota  
Magic Forest Academy  
Queen Homeschool  
Sonlight  
The Good and the Beautiful  
Trail Guide to Learning  
Winter Promise

## Unit Studies:

Five in a Row  
Gather 'Round Homeschool  
Konos  
Magic Forest Academy (secular)  
Moving Beyond the Page (secular)  
My Father's World  
Our Star-Spangled Banner Story  
Tapestry of Grace  
Trail Guide to Learning  
Unit Studies by Amanda Bennett  
Winter Promise

## Classical Education:

Classical Conversations  
Classical Academic Press  
Learning Adventures  
Memoria Press  
My Father's World  
Tapestry of Grace  
Veritas Press

## Distance / Online Learning:

Abeka Distance Learning  
Acellus Power School (secular)  
Alpha Omega's Switched on Schoolhouse  
Bob Jones University Distance Learning  
Bravewriter (secular)  
Calvert Homeschool (secular)  
Essentials in Writing / Literature (secular)  
K-12 (secular)  
Liberty Online Academy  
Memoria Press  
Next Level Homeschool (secular)  
Oak Meadow (secular)  
Storyline Online (secular)  
Study.com (secular)  
Supercharged Science (secular)  
Time4Learning (secular)  
Veritas Press

## Free:

AmblesideOnline  
An Old Fashioned Education  
Easy Peasy  
Discovery K12 (secular)  
Freedom Homeschooling  
GuestHollow.com Science  
Khan Academy (secular)  
Little House Kindergarten  
ReadWorks.org (secular)  
Storyline Online

## Other:

A Journey Through Learning (Educational Lapbooks)  
All About Reading (secular)  
Answers in Genesis  
Apologia Science  
Clear Water Press Writing Curricula (secular)  
Easy Grammar Systems (secular)  
Geography Matters  
GuestHollow.com  
Human Body Detectives (secular)  
Institute for Excellence in Writing  
Jump-In Writing with Sharon Watson

## Other:

Little Passports (secular)  
MEL Science (secular)  
Mystery of History  
Notgrass History  
Pandia Press (secular: science & history)  
Real Science 4 Kids (secular)  
Singapore Science (secular)  
Story of the World  
Timberdoodle  
Zeezok Publishing

## HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY DOES IT TAKE TO DO ACADEMICS?

These are averages, to help parents understand that homeschooling doesn't mean a family is sitting at the kitchen table all day long – not at all. Academic learning is only part of the homeschool experience, and part of your day.

- **Pre-kindergarten:** 15-30 minutes
- **Kindergarten:** 30-60 minutes
- **Grades 1 & 2:** 45 minutes to 1-1/2 hours
- **Grades 3 & 4:** 1-1/2 to 3 hours
- **Grades 5 & 6:** 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours
- **Grades 7 & 8:** 3 to 4-1/2 hours
- **High School:** 4-6 hours

## CREATIVE TIME MANAGEMENT YOU'RE NOT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ANYMORE

- As a homeschooler, it is important to reframe your idea of school taking place Monday-Friday, 9AM-3PM. Homeschooling happens 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Children are always learning.
- If you are a single parent or working parents, you can do this, too.
- You choose the days whenever you want to.
- A 180-day school year works out like this:

September-mid-June = 17 or 18 days/month

January-December = 14 or 15 days/month



## WHAT DO HOMESCHOOLERS DO WITH THE REST OF THEIR DAY?

There are co-ops, field trips, nature hikes, travel, martial arts, play an instrument, art classes, museum trips and classes, day trips, library visits, park days, drum corps, game days, movies, visiting friends, early college classes, babysitting, life skills, mentorships, dances, 4-H clubs, Scouting, gymnastics, ice skating, sports, roller skating, Civil Air Patrol, and much more. It is a very active, vibrant community with the world as our canvas.



## SHOULD I? OR, SHOULDN'T I? MAKING THAT BIG DECISION

The best advice you can get is to know that you are in charge, and you can ‘try’ homeschooling for a while and decide later if you want to continue.

Remember what was mentioned at the start of this presentation; take time to de-school. Take the time to consider your options and what may best fit your family. Start slowly, ease into homeschooling, and plan it to fit your family’s unique lifestyle. Millions of people have done this, and you can, too.

# CONNECTING HOMESCHOOLERS

There are many ways to connect  
with homeschool families.

They meet at libraries.

They may join co-ops.

They meet at parks & meet-ups.

Their kids join civic & community  
groups.

Share your ideas and reach out to others  
in your area via social media.

# CONTACT CHN

## FB for “(CHN) Parents Seeking Homeschool Info”

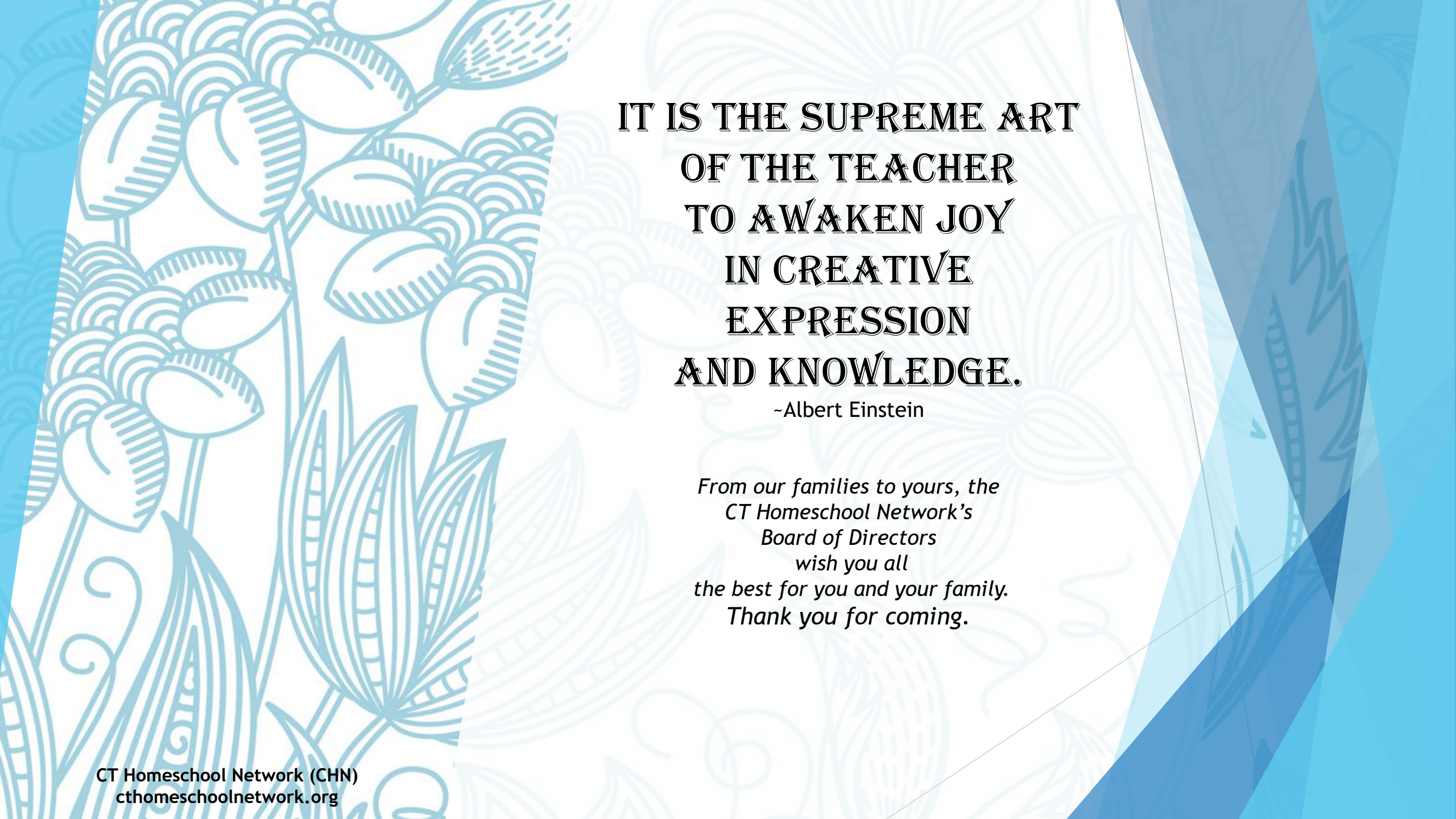
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1263388143678454/>

- *CHN is Connecticut’s statewide largest & oldest information & support network. We are an independent, inclusive, online-based homeschooling organization, which serves to inform, empower, and foster community among home educators in the state of Connecticut.*
- *CHN welcomes people of all religions, races, creeds, lifestyles, abilities and disabilities, and learning methodologies.*
- *As of 2020, CHN has close to 13,000 CT family members, including current and alumni home educators from all walks of life.*

## FB for “Connecticut Homeschool Network” for current homeschoolers

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTHomeschoolNetwork/>





IT IS THE SUPREME ART  
OF THE TEACHER  
TO AWAKEN JOY  
IN CREATIVE  
EXPRESSION  
AND KNOWLEDGE.

~Albert Einstein

*From our families to yours, the  
CT Homeschool Network's  
Board of Directors  
wish you all  
the best for you and your family.  
Thank you for coming.*