

The Explosion in Alternatives

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“Across the country, we’re in the midst of an unprecedented explosion in homeschooling and alternative education,” Sharyl Attkisson reported last Sunday on her weekly news program, *Full Measure*, citing a “mass exodus from America’s public schools.”

And it’s not just about pandemic measures like mask mandates. In February, San Francisco voters overwhelmingly recalled three school board members over their fixation on wokeness to the exclusion of in-person education. And the school board’s antics in



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liberal Loudoun County, Virginia, turned last year’s race for governor into a referendum on whether parents have any say-so at all.

They do, apparently.

Though I have covered the enormous growth of alternative education during the pandemic — here and here, for instance — I have been looking for more specifics.

“Relative to pre-pandemic levels,” Corey DeAngelis with

the American Federation for Children told Attkisson, “homeschooling has at least doubled,” and now accounts for “closer to 4 million students.”

Too good to be true? I double-checked. The U.S. Census Bureau used the same language as Attkisson and DeAngelis: “the global COVID-19 pandemic has sparked new interest in homeschooling and the appeal of alternative school arrangements has suddenly *exploded*.”

At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, “about 5.4% of U.S. households with school-aged children reported homeschooling,” according to their Household Pulse Survey. “By fall, 11.1% of households with school-age children reported homeschooling.”

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“Still more students have left for religious schools,” reminds DeAngelis, “or other private schools.”

Attkisson also pointed to a jump in support for school choice.

Parents of the world unite.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.