



Dear Pastor(s)/Church Board,

Many years ago, the Lord impressed upon us the importance of discipling our children and raising them up to serve Him. We knew we could not do that effectively if our children were spending the vast majority of their time under the influence of teachers and friends who did not share our faith. In the last few years, our nation has seen a spiraling decline in public morality. Many Christian parents are becoming aware that public schools are not neutral in their children's lives but actively working *against* what the church and family are trying to teach. With thirty-five or more hours a week spent in public education, compared to a handful of hours in church or family devotions, who do you think is having the greatest impact?

Research shows that an estimated 70% of Christian youth stop attending church when they graduate from high school. This is clear evidence that we are losing the next generation, but your church has a wonderful opportunity to help reverse this trend and partner with families to provide the support needed to truly "train up a child" in the way he or she should go.

For nearly a quarter century, The Old Schoolhouse® has worked diligently to support homeschooling. Twelve years ago we saw the need to develop a robust, Bible-based education program that parents could use to teach their children. SchoolhouseTeachers.com was born. Today we have over 400 unique courses for Pre-K–12th grade, designed by college professors, well-educated writers, and experienced homeschool teachers. These courses are clearly laid out so parents can choose the courses they want, print off the needed assignments for their children, and know exactly what to do at each step.

But just like the Christian walk was never intended to be a solo venture, homeschooling works better in community. Accountability, encouragement, and support are essential for families who aim to disciple, educate, and train their children for God's service.

That is where you come in. We would like to invite your church to become a Schoolhouse Community co-op site, hosting homeschool families using the SchoolhouseTeachers.com (ST) curriculum. Each family will need a membership to SchoolhouseTeachers.com. There are no additional costs for anyone. The families will meet at your church each week for Christian education, fellowship, discipleship, and family growth. Just like you may have a women's/men's ministry, children's/youth ministry, or mission/prison outreach, the Schoolhouse homeschool co-op would be a **ministry of your church**, organized by a parent/Director, under the supervision of your Board of Elders/Pastor.

The items included in this folder were developed for our pilot Schoolhouse in east Tennessee and will explain, step-by-step, how your church can set up your co-op using the templates provided (which you are welcome to adjust to fit the needs of your church). The majority of the paperwork has already been done for you! Explore the following documents in detail at a Google Drive created specifically for pastors and leaders over Church Schoolhouses at <http://www.churchschoolhousedocs.com>.



Come Home. School Together.

**Schoolhouse FAQ:** A list of many of the 400+ courses and other resources available such as streaming educational videos, free planners, a scope and sequence for each course, special needs support, and a growing interactive online component. You are welcome to contact us for a free trial so you can view all of the available resources in detail.

**Course Samples:** A quick look at just five of the 400+ courses available and **one full lesson—ST Course: A Century of Art.**

**Step-by-Step** and **Sample Day:** Step-by-Step Getting Started guide to setting up your Schoolhouse and a Sample Co-op Day.

**Statement of Faith:** Two sample statements of faith around which the co-op is united and which students, parents, and teachers adhere to. Feel free to modify to fit your needs.

**Code of Conduct:** Clearly lays out expectations for parents and students with regard to behavior and procedures for the Schoolhouse, including volunteering, attire, and illnesses.

**Family Registration:** Necessary forms for registering students for classes, including contact info, behavior agreement, medical issues, etc.