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The Recognition Plan An "Umbrella School" Program for Homeschooling Families

The Recognition Plan, for both distance and local Homeschoolers, Unschoolers, and independent learners, offers validation, transcript services, and an official high school diploma when all the graduation requirements of the State of Washington have been met. The amount of assistance that we provide under this plan has been streamlined considerably, making it possible for us to offer it at an affordable price, while bestowing recognition for learning achievements by issuing official Washington State high school diplomas and transcripts.

In this program, **The Alger Learning Center/Independence High School** acts as an **"umbrella school"** for home- and unschooling families who are truly capable, confident, independent learners. It is for families who neither need nor want assistance developing curricula, nor with monitoring and evaluating the learning process. Students, with parents, implement their own educational plan. They determine their own learning objectives, design and execute their own learning plan, and perform their own evaluations of the course work.

After enrollment, we can provide some guidelines and models for course design, resources, and methods of evaluation, for those who may require such assistance, along with information about Washington State requirements. A contact person from our staff may occasionally "check in," but only if necessary; the students (and their family) will essentially take the responsibility for their own education.

Students and parents furnish us with documentation for the courses, resources, and method(s) of evaluation, so we can validate the learning that is taking place and justify the credits earned for the purpose of satisfying Washington State requirements. They keep their own time records, progress reports, etc., and submit to us the grades and credits earned, enabling us to maintain current transcripts and issue official diplomas.

We recommend that parents conform to the laws of their own state, including the signing of an **Intent to Homeschool** form, usually obtainable from their local school district. Today, this has become a very routine procedure in most areas. Also, if your state allows out-of-state assessments, we can provide your annual assessments for a nominal additional charge.

Our contact with student and parent occurs primarily at the times of course selection and course completion. We will be available for *brief* consultations and advice if occasional questions or problems arise in the interim, but students in this plan will be able to experience learning with unsurpassed freedom, unbridled creativity, and absolute self-direction.

The Recognition Plan enhances freedom by empowering families to develop their own learning philosophy and style. It encourages and validates a huge variety of learning methods, from spontaneous and experiential learning, to holistic and interdisciplinary studies. In addition, each learning contract can be modified and adjusted at any time during the course, maximizing flexibility, and the potential for success.

In over three decades of experience, we have seen many families who have had gratifying success with a totally independent approach to homeschooling. Through the **Recognition Plan**, we can acknowledge autodidacts and authenticate their educational accomplishments. This plan might be the ultimate in unschooling high school diploma programs, as it is especially well suited both to the experienced unschooler, and to those who have prepared themselves to begin unschooling for the first time.

Registrars of today's colleges and universities are increasingly receptive to admitting homeschoolers, and frequently these students score significantly higher as a group in SATs and college entrance exams at specific schools than students coming out of the system. **Independence High School graduates have successfully applied at the colleges and universities of their choice, locally, nationally, and globally, and have graduated from those institutions.**

The Recognition Plan offers all of the basic necessities for home- and unschooling families: assurance that their independent study program meets accepted criteria, the maintenance of official transcripts, and the opportunity to attain an official Washington State high school diploma from Independence High School, a Washington State approved and nationally accredited private school.

The discounted annual payment for the Recognition Plan is \$850 -- a considerable reduction from the tuition for the full service homeschool assistance offered in our regular Distance and Local Learning programs. Several payment plan options are available. There is also a nonrefundable enrollment fee of \$50, and a graduation fee of \$50 when students receive their diploma. (<u>Note</u>: Families enrolled in the Recognition Plan who subsequently find they need more assistance from our staff may transfer to the appropriate regular program, and receive credit for tuition already paid.)

In the Recognition Plan:

- Students & parents determine their own learning objectives, develop their own curricula and learning contracts, and monitor and evaluate the course work themselves.
- Students & parents furnish the Alger Learning Center with documentation for the courses, resources, and evaluation methods, and samples of representative work. They keep their own time records, progress reports, *etc.*
- The Alger Learning Center/Independence High School helps and supports students and parents as they get started in the program, encouraging and assisting them to become independent learners.
- The Alger Learning Center validates the students' independent study program, maintains official transcripts and student records, and issues official Washington State high school diplomas to students meeting the requirements of the State of Washington.

We are pleased that we can help independent learners reach their goals and acquire the tools for a lifetime of learning, while providing recognition and validation for their achievements through this program.

To enroll today in the Recognition Plan, or for additional information, please call *1-800-595-2630*, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Pacific Time Zone).