Teaching Foreign Language Without Being Fluent

Monthly Q&A, Oct 2026

Jessica Migura: Welcome, everyone! We are so glad that you chose to join us today for THSC's October Monthly Q&A. My name is Jessica Migura.

Jessica Migura: And I'm actually one of the coaches here for THSC, as well as a member support volunteer specialist for our customer relations department. A little bit about myself, my husband and I,

Jessica Migura: Hep…

Jessica Migura: four grown children, that we did homeschool for about 25 years. Our oldest two have families of their own, and our younger two are actually still in college, you know, at this time. So, definitely, this is a time in my life that I'm enjoying being a lolly.

Jessica Migura: To, 5 wonderful grandchildren.

Jessica Migura: And still, after all these years, I do find it a great privilege

Jessica Migura: you know, to be able to encourage families on their homeschool journey. So today, we definitely hope that you will find this Q&A beneficial to you and your family, to encourage you, to encourage your kids, to learn some things new that maybe you didn't know before.

Jessica Migura: But before I hand it off to the other coaches to let them kind of introduce themselves, tell a little bit about themselves, we would love for you to just kind of drop in the chat maybe where you are joining us from.

Jessica Migura: So, as we get started, we'll go ahead and just start, with Vicky, and then Lindsey and Heather. But before that, I also want to say that we do have

Jessica Migura: Some interns in the background that will also be helping, kind of, and maybe answering some questions in the chat or throwing some links in there, so do be asking some questions if you have any, okay?

Jessica Migura: Alright, Vicky!

Vicky Garcia: Yes, so welcome, everyone. So, my name is Vicky Garcia. I'm a customer relations, a homeschool coach, and a Spanish and Member Support Specialist here at

Vicky Garcia: THSC.

Vicky Garcia: I'm a mom of three.

Vicky Garcia: My first language is Spanish, and we raised our kids bilingual. We did homeschooling,

Vicky Garcia: it was just a journey, having it bilingual, here, in our home. We have homeschooled for over 12 years, and we just recently

Vicky Garcia: This year, we graduated our, oldest child, and so, well, we're very grateful for you that you're here, and I'm happy to be here.

Lindsey Hoyle: So, I'm Lindsey Hoyle. I'm the outreach Manager for THSC, and also serve as a coach and special needs specialist, and so, I'm also just been homeschooling for a long time, over 15 years. I have 4 kids.

Lindsey Hoyle: Our oldest two kids are in college, and then we still have two kids in the home, an 8th grader and a junior. So, very busy with homeschooling and all the things, that go along with that. I do work with a lot of groups and group leaders, so,

Lindsey Hoyle: if you're on the call today, and you also are interested in how… maybe getting some help with your groups and how to lead that, I would love to get to know you as well.

Lindsey Hoyle: But also, I'm a pastor's wife, so I love just the ministry of homeschool, and the ministry that THSC does, and so just being unapologetically Christian in what we do, I'm so grateful for that, and, just, we're praying for you. Hope the very best. We're glad you're here today.

Heather Young: Hi, my name is Heather Young. I am our Customer Relations Member Support Manager, and I also help with special needs, amongst other things. So we definitely are glad that y'all are here today. I have two kiddos that are in the house.

Heather Young: One is a senior this year, and we will be graduating our first senior, from homeschooling, and then we have our… our youngest is our daughter, and she is a freshman. So.

Heather Young: We are in the throes of the high school years, but we have been homeschooling since our oldest was 4, so it's been a while.

Heather Young: So, but yeah, we're just really excited to get started, on this topic that we have today, teaching foreign language without being fluent. So, for, you know, because this is a…

Heather Young: this is a credit, right, that a lot of, families are looking for for their high schoolers, but it's more than just a credit in a lot of ways, too, because it can be a way of life. It can be, you know, a way to learn about different cultures and things like that, so I think it's a great topic to

Heather Young: to kind of talk about. Okay, and everybody can still see my screen. The, the, PowerPoint, correct?

Jessica Migura: Yes.

Heather Young: Perfect. Just wanted to make sure. Okay. Alright. Let's see here, are we gonna…

Heather Young: Get going, there we go. Okay, so…

Heather Young: does teaching a foreign language, or helping a child learn a foreign language, feel more like this sometimes? At least for me, it did, because I wanted to make sure that

Heather Young: You know, they were getting a good,

Heather Young: You know, a good curriculum, good instruction, you know, so that they can, you know, eventually, you know, the goal would be to become fluent.

Heather Young: But…

Heather Young: Never fear, that's what this is… this Q&A is here for. We want to support, encourage, and guide everybody, as we discuss different resources, articles, opportunities, those kinds of things to help

Heather Young: Your kiddo, but also you learn and grow alongside them.

Heather Young: So…

Heather Young: what is considered learning a foreign language for credit? So, a foreign language can be, you know, typically we think of Spanish and French, you know, those that are the most commonly spoken languages, especially around here in Texas, but Latin, German, Russian, there's so many of them, right?

Heather Young: But, something that many don't think about is ASL.

Heather Young: and computer science. Those are also considered foreign language credit. So, My… my oldest, he is…

Heather Young: taking ASL, this is second year, and for him, it was a great experience, because his teacher is actually, she is deaf, and so it was immersion. And so, from day one, you walked

in, there was no talking, it was… you had to figure it out. And so, she did… she does have an interpreter with her in the class.

Heather Young: That is her daughter, but…

Heather Young: It has been fun to see my son just thrown into that

Heather Young: You know, just immersed in this language, and then now see him using it, Outside of class,

Heather Young: even trying to sign to me during church service, and I'm like, shh, we're in church.

Heather Young: But, you know, it's great. So, just wanted to, throw that out there.

Heather Young: Okay.

Heather Young: resources. I know that that is a huge thing, a huge concern that some of us have, like, what are good resources? It's kind of hard to say exactly what's going to be the best resource for you.

Heather Young: Because every… every kiddo's different, and the way that we learn is all different. So, I am just going to…

Heather Young: kind of talk about a few that we've used, and then I'm going to let our other coaches kind of hop in and, talk about

Heather Young: What they've used, or just kind of in their own, day-to-day life with foreign language, but also just know that there are going to be links dropped in the chat

Heather Young: on these different resources for y'all to utilize. Okay, so flip-flop Spanish is one that I have used, in conjunction with others. I know that another coach has used that, so I'm going to let her kind of talk a little bit more on that.

Heather Young: But some other ones that we have used

Heather Young: there's Simply Charlotte Mason, and this is a different take. This is more, phrases. It's teaching you, just phrases from the very beginning, instead of learning, say, the alphabet, and then different vocabulary, and those kinds of things. So, this

Heather Young: Is it… this is one that I kind of throw in as a mix into what we use?

Heather Young: We've also used this one, Spanish for Children, and this one does dive into not just the vocabulary, but it also dives into grammar.

Heather Young: As you can see, here's some of my notes for my daughter. But… So…

Heather Young: this is another one we have used, and she used another one for French, which I can't find it, but, it was… I think it was Memoria Press for French.

Heather Young: So, anyways, those are… we've also kind of used a little bit of the easy peasy. I'm very eclectic, and I like to just bring in resources as I see will fit whatever our spine is.

Heather Young: And go from there, and just really have the kids try to use those words in their everyday, kind of, life, and especially, like, in our co-op right now, that is their goal over the week, is to use that, the different language vocabulary that we've learned over the whole week. So…

Heather Young: I'm gonna pause, and I'm gonna let others hop in.

Lindsey Hoyle: I was just gonna jump in and say we did use the flip-flop Spanish. Senora Gos is amazing. I loved it because I had a micro-school at the time, and so it was more of that homeschool group setting, and I was able to teach this with multiple age levels.

Lindsey Hoyle: All at one time, we watched their videos, we did practices with each other,

Lindsey Hoyle: I could kind of partner up my younger kids with each other, and then the older kids could partner with each other. And so, that is one that I highly recommend. If you don't speak that language, and you need that video presentation, and

Lindsey Hoyle: Great resources, great workbooks, and things to go with it, so… I enjoyed that.

Heather Young: Yep.

Heather Young: Yeah, and those were some of the cards that come from the very first set. So just wanted to…

Heather Young: I like visuals, I'm a very visual learner, so just wanted to throw that out there. Anybody else want to add in?

Jessica Migura: Well, I'll go ahead and say what we used, before. I know Vicky hops in, and…

Jessica Migura: gives us all her great information. Since she is a Spanish speaker, she has her own built-in teacher there. We actually used a Becca, so we kind of did it from that traditional textbook. They do have DVDs, so you can use those as well, if you're not,

Jessica Migura: well in depth of that particular subject with, you know, Spanish. But they, they have great resources where they have vocabulary building and, you know, workbooks, as well as, you know, the textbooks, so,

Jessica Migura: there's definitely different things out there. Like Heather said, she used Eclectic, you know, we did that kind of, like, traditional-type curriculum, so it can be different for every family.

Heather Young: Absolutely.

Vicky Garcia: Yes, yes.

Vicky Garcia: Yeah, so I guess it's my turn, and, I, I just,

Vicky Garcia: I want to mention about different resources we used…

Vicky Garcia: in my, experience, well, Spanish is my first language, and so, I was very…

Vicky Garcia: concerned about, you know, my kids not having a strong foundation in the English language, and that was a weakness for me, like, the topic we're, speaking. So I tried to gather as much

Vicky Garcia: Of resources, and even forced myself to… to just…

Vicky Garcia: repeat with them. Of course, I started this when they were young.

Vicky Garcia: And I found the Fable Cottage. That, site has,

Vicky Garcia: traditional tales, and because I knew the… many of Some of them, I, I would…

Vicky Garcia: I would know the story already in my native language, so what I needed to do is know it in, you know, the targeted language.

Vicky Garcia: So, for my kids, they were little, and they did not know, so they would just suck everything in, but it was me, the problem. So, I think that's a good resource, in that, many times we already know the story.

Vicky Garcia: And we just need to, you know, change the language.

Vicky Garcia: So that's a good resource. Another thing that, we implemented was, just learning, Bible verses. I'm not sure if some of you, are, are, believers, and, and you have,

Vicky Garcia: would like to learn about the Bible and things like that, so… but that was a strong thing for us. And, many times.

Vicky Garcia: I would, have our kids memorize a Bible verse, something that I already knew.

Vicky Garcia: And it made sense in my own heart, you know, in my own native language. And sometimes it was just a short Bible verse. And, Word Project, you can find so many other versions, Spanish, English,

Vicky Garcia: it's… the list is long, so… and you can compare, you know, and even if… you don't have to memorize the whole verse, but just portions of it, and I think that was… that was special, you know, to learn the Bible.

Vicky Garcia: Some resources that I used to go back and forth was word reference.

Vicky Garcia: When, you know, in translating something. And word reference, I like that, when you type a word.

Vicky Garcia: It gives you the different scenarios on how it can be used, and… and, a sentence on how it… because sometimes you might use some… a word that will have different meanings, and maybe for your older student in high school.

Vicky Garcia: They might be interested in knowing when to apply that one word in different scenarios. So, word reference, to me, that was a great tool. Of course, we have Kathy Doofy, and you can find her reviews on different curriculum.

Vicky Garcia: For Yamitas, Spanish, I think they have 3 levels.

Vicky Garcia: What I saw, I did not use it, but I reviewed it. I saw that Jamita's Spanish, the first and second level is very good for,

Vicky Garcia: younger kids, elementary kids, even kindergarten, the first level, because she introduces, the phonetics.

Vicky Garcia: phonics as… as if, for… for a kindergartner. I mean, you, and especially, of course, in Spanish, we… we don't have, different sounds for letter A. We don't have special sounds. It's always

Vicky Garcia: every time you see it. So, that's just an extra tip for you. But Spanish is very good in introducing that, those phonetics sounds right at the beginning. Then I think the third level, I would say.

Vicky Garcia: That, that would be good for, like, a middle school, student. They have lots of stories, she introduces culture and, and things like that.

Vicky Garcia: And the last,

Vicky Garcia: I believe Christian Immersion Spanish Academy, that's… I think that's one that, they offer, at…

Vicky Garcia: a stay in Costa Rica, I think. They invite you to go, and if you want to have an immersion in the language, maybe I would say for your older kids, senior high school kids, and they offer a plan for you. They have an agenda.

Vicky Garcia: for youth, I think, 2 weeks or 3 weeks, I can't remember, but you can check that out. They invite you to go to Costa Rica, and they have, just a heavy immersion in the Spanish and the culture.

Vicky Garcia: Of course, that's a little pricey, but if you want to, you know, save some money, and that's like a high school trip.

Vicky Garcia: And the same for the Langfontees. I would say that would be for an advanced high school, student, because I think his strategy is to…

Vicky Garcia: hear and hear and hear the language, and have the translation on the side. So, I think that would be a,

Vicky Garcia: a good resource for an advanced, high school student. And then I also place the I Can Read Spanish bilingual. If you want to build up a library in your home so that they can have ex… They get exposed with

Vicky Garcia: You know, books in the house.

Vicky Garcia: I found that I Can Read, series has both, you know, bilingual resources. So, yeah, that's all.

Vicky Garcia: For me.

Heather Young: Awesome. No, I think that's great, because one of the things, you know, going through college, I did minor in Spanish, but I didn't have people around me to speak Spanish, so I didn't…

Heather Young: you know, develop the fluency of it, and so just being able to develop that is so beneficial and important. And then you were talking about, utilizing Scripture, and that's one of the things that I… it reminded me that in the Simply Charlotte Mason, that is an aspect of it, and so they will have

Heather Young: The kids learn,

Heather Young: you know, a short part of a scripture in the targeted language. So, that's just another

Heather Young: Just something that I remembered, so…

Heather Young: Okay, so I'm gonna move on to the… Heather? Yeah, sure.

Jessica Migura: I just, I just wanted to mention, because those were a lot, I mean, a large list of great resources, so I wanted to encourage those that are attending today that they'll still have access to these, notes, so if they were trying to write it down, don't feel like…

Jessica Migura: if it's gone, it's… I mean, you'll be able to go to your member portal and see all these, because that's a great list of some resources for them.

Heather Young: Absolutely, and you can even… I mean, you can reach out to us, you know, through your member portal, with Ask an Expert, or through our contact page, or even if you, you know, for our premium and lifetime, if you would like to

Heather Young: schedule a coaching call. Then we can discuss, you know, this even further.

Heather Young: You know, in a coaching call. So…

Heather Young: Great, great thoughts. Okay, here's just, these will also be dropped into… this is just the article names, but the article resources will be dropped in the chat, and so sometimes it helps to have some different,

Heather Young: like, to hear other ways that people have addressed this in their homeschooling and stuff like this, just to kind of see a variety of different ways. And so, these articles can be helpful,

Heather Young: for that. Some of them have, like, videos with it, also. I'm a very visual learner, so it just kind of helps me to see it in different formats.

Heather Young: So, that's being dropped in the chat.

Heather Young: And…

Heather Young: Just some different opportunities, you know, finding a language class that's offered in person, you know, like the ASL class that my son is at, joining a co-op or a group where a foreign language is taught, a tutor that can reinforce immersion opportunities.

Heather Young: Traveling, like Ms. Vicky had mentioned,

Heather Young: you know, even starting a group at your church, maybe to practice the language that you're wanting to study, if there's, you know, a good portion of

Heather Young: people that you know at your church that might want to do that, or starting a foreign language club, you know, to provide some more of these opportunities for immersion. So these are just, you know, some different… you know, and if you're a group leader, or if you're a mom that might be looking at

Heather Young: starting a group, you don't have to start, say, a whole co-op, but it could just be a social group, so to speak, or a foreign language club, like we said. And,

Heather Young: you know, that could be an opportunity, and if that is something that you're interested in, Lindsey is our outreach manager who works with our group leaders, and you are welcome to email us and get some more information on that as well. So…

Heather Young: Okay, so here is our question and answers time, so I'm actually going to…

Vicky Garcia: Heather?

Heather Young: Yes, ma'am.

Vicky Garcia: Heather, just before we go into the questions, I just wanted to mention something about the articles that we placed there. I know we can just see the article, and sometimes they're long, but I really encourage you to look at them, because they have very practical ideas.

Vicky Garcia: into how you can, incorporate language learning. I'm thinking about the second one.

Vicky Garcia: It's, it's a… she's a pathologist, her name is Adrienne, and I… I really like she… in the… in the exercises that she gives, it's, you might think it, well, they, they're targeted to, to younger kids, to toddlers, you would say?

Vicky Garcia: But sometimes… and I found that, her methods and Charlotte Mason, Sonya Schaefer, they use similar, you know, methods in that she can be using just a regular tape and put it on

Vicky Garcia: her hand, and just as if you would be teaching, you know, or playing with your toddler. Mira, look! It's, you know, tape! Tape!

Vicky Garcia: And then, you say, oh, elbow!

Vicky Garcia: And you can be using those strategies as you would talk to your toddler, but just switch it into the targeted language. So, to me, it's,

Vicky Garcia: you know, they're very, visual with, with different, gestures that you can be using, so I really, really encourage you to look at those, articles, and also,

Vicky Garcia: the Language Learning at Home research, that's, she has an article on how she introduced,

Vicky Garcia: you know, having, like, a nanny, if you're having… if you're teaching, Spanish, having… hiring a nanny that only speaks Spanish, and… and she… she… she gives very good resources about how you can,

Vicky Garcia: Have the targeted language, or include that targeted language into your home.

Vicky Garcia: So, yeah, just wanted to add that.

Heather Young: No, that's a great idea, and that made me also think of… so, my oldest, who is taking the ASL class, in our co-op, he has been helping those that don't

Heather Young: that haven't had sign language yet kind of learn some basic words, and so him teaching that is solidifying that even more. And so, when you have an older kiddo that's learning.

Heather Young: you know, at the same time, or has learned, they can teach the younger kids, and then that way, you just keep that, progression growing in that language. So, yeah. Okay, awesome.

Lindsey Hoyle: I was gonna mention to you real quick, Heather.

Lindsey Hoyle: My kids are currently doing ASL as well, but we're doing it through the Bob Jones. They have an ASL curriculum that's video-based on there. Typically, just with my experience, I've been in the rural communities and very far from big towns or even bigger co-ops to be able to join in on, like, you know, language classes with other people, so…

Lindsey Hoyle: Those have been really good tools for me as just a parent with… without speaking that language fluently, to be able to have that access through a video curriculum is so helpful. So, yeah, I just wanted to mention that one through Bob Jones. It's been really good so far.

Heather Young: Awesome. Yes, and just…

Heather Young: encourage you to learn alongside your kids, because then you're learning something new, they're seeing you, you know.

Heather Young: make similar, you know, mistakes, or say something not quite right, or something, you know, and you can giggle and kind of have fun with it, and then move on, you know, and grow and learn in that as an experience.

Heather Young: What great memories, you know, to think back on.

Heather Young: And then y'all just, you know, everybody gets to

Heather Young: you know, work on whatever the language is. I mean, I'm doing that with my son right now with sign language, and he'll just come up and start signing, and I'm like.

Heather Young: Wait.

Heather Young: Slow down.

Heather Young: Hold on. And then, so I'm starting to catch on some things.

Heather Young: So, so yeah, it's fun.

Heather Young: Okay.

Heather Young: I cannot find my mouse. There it is. Okay.

Heather Young: I'm gonna stop sharing for now.

Heather Young: Okay, we are going to go into our, questions?

Heather Young: Here.

Heather Young: A little bit of technical difficulty, give me one second.

Jessica Migura: It's okay, we can really enjoy your Christmas tree in the background.

Heather Young: Thanks. I love Christmas.

Jessica Migura: Those are your favorite colors.

Heather Young: They are my favorite colors.

THSC Team: Fair enough.

Heather Young: Okay, here we go. I have found them. Okay, so…

Heather Young: we've kind of touched on some of these, but just to reiterate, we have a question from a group leader that is looking for a Spanish program for their homeschool group, and then just some other language options for, their own kiddo. And so, you know, we've…

Heather Young: thrown out several of those resources. I know that it's… we've kind of talked about a lot, of resources, but, you know, the flip-flop Spanish BJU, maybe even has a Spanish one as well.

Heather Young: But then…

Heather Young: Kathy Duffy has all those reviews that you can look at for Spanish curriculum to see if that will, you know, work with your, with your co-op.

Heather Young: And, Vicky, there was another one that you had mentioned.

Vicky Garcia: Yes, it's, breaking, it's called Breaking the Barrier.

Vicky Garcia: To me, I was looking… looking up that resource, and I find that they have a book.

Vicky Garcia: And also, resources online.

Heather Young: Awesome.

Vicky Garcia: for example, Jamitas, Spanish, they have, flashcards, actual flashcards, but I found that breaking the barrier, they have online flashcards, so it just depends on which type you want to use.

Heather Young: Yeah, no, that's good. That's good.

Vicky Garcia: But, I, I see, ranking the barrier would be more for a high school level, student.

Heather Young: Okay.

Vicky Garcia: And Jamitas is like a, you know, younger, Kid.

Heather Young: Got it.

Vicky Garcia: Yes.

Heather Young: Awesome.

Heather Young: There's also another one in here called Spanish For You, and it's, specifically Spanish For You for homeschool co-ops. So, that might, also provide some other,

Heather Young: options as well. So, just really looking at what is going to work for your, your age range, and then also, you know, just the kiddos that are in the classroom and what they need. So…

Lindsey Hoyle: I think, too, it's important to know, like, what… if the curriculum is, if you're allowed to present it to a group, you know, some… some of them, you know, it's… it's intended just for a single use or in a single home, and so I think we would all agree just to be upright in that, if you're using a curriculum for a co-op, or a group setting, just make sure you have the

Lindsey Hoyle: Permissions to do that.

Heather Young: Yes, and there are… and a lot of the different, curriculum providers have that as an option, too. So, yeah, you can look for that.

Heather Young: Okay.

Vicky Garcia: Can I just add something, Heather? I… just one more thing I just remembered. Breaking the barrier, I believe they have a way of,

Vicky Garcia: in the online section, a way, I think, to grade several students. So that might be something if you have several students.

Vicky Garcia: So you might want to take a look, and… and they have some, sample, pages for you to review, even in the online section. So that's… so just wanted to throw that out.

Heather Young: Awesome.

Heather Young: Thank you.

Heather Young: Okay, so we do have a few questions that have been asked that focus around the same topic. So, getting started, curriculum, especially for high school,

Heather Young: creating transcripts, testing, assessments, all those things that go into getting started when you're homeschooling. And then the other aspect of the question is, will my child be able to return to public school after homeschooling? So, there's multiple layers.

Heather Young: To these questions, and so we'll just kind of touch on them each, but again, just…

Heather Young: to reiterate, you know, if you're a premium or lifetime member, you are welcome to go into your member portal and schedule a coaching call. This is what we are here to, you know, talk to you about and help you with, and so those would be great topics for a coaching call.

Heather Young: So, just to kind of get started, we just want to start with the,

Heather Young: The homeschooling laws, because that's really a good foundation to begin with.

Heather Young: So, there's only 3 laws that you really have to focus on. Well, there's 3 laws, period. And so, the first one is that your instruction is bona fide. You are meeting the kiddo where they're at, and you are instructing them. You are giving them instruction in their education.

Heather Young: The second is that it's in… that your curriculum is in some kind of visual form. So, kind of… it's kind of very… it's hard to not be in visual form, when you have manipulatives, workbooks, videos, all these different things, right? So, and then the last is that you…

Heather Young: are touching on 5 basic subjects. So that would be your math.

Heather Young: Reading, spelling, grammar, and good citizenship.

Heather Young: Now, you notice that science and history are not specifically stated in there. However, those are your foundational core subjects that allow you to springboard into all the other things, like

Heather Young: you know, history and science and fine arts and all these things, because you… you have that foundation. I will say that as you're going into high school, and even junior high, but especially in high school, it is good to add these other things, because you're… you're wanting to look at

Heather Young: Where the child's goals are after high school.

Heather Young: in order to make sure that you have all the, you know, required credits for entrance into whatever that may be, whether it's college, a trade, you know, whatever their path is. So it's good to look into those things.

Heather Young: I'm gonna throw this out there so that

Heather Young: Our coaches, we can all kind of throw around different ideas and thoughts about getting started in curriculum and all the things.

Heather Young: So, Jessica, Vicky, Lindsey, do y'all have any thoughts y'all want to throw out there?

Jessica Migura: Well, the thing that's rolling around in my mind is just to let, those know that if you are gonna teach, like, Spanish or any type of foreign language, you can actually do that

Jessica Migura: prior to high school and still use it for a high school credit. So, if it's a high school level type of

Jessica Migura: curriculum that you're giving to your student, and you do it in, like, 7th, 8th grade, you can put that on their high school transcript. Because that… this is when

Jessica Migura: you know, those credits are gonna really start, you know, needing to be put down on paper for their official transcript, right? 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th. But you can take any high school level course prior to that. So, if you feel like you're doing that with your kiddo in junior high.

Jessica Migura: You can go ahead and document that, keep those records,

Jessica Migura: So I just wanted to kind of throw that out there, that, you know, because the question talked about, you know, transcripts and, you know, high school, so just kind of want to throw that in.

Heather Young: Absolutely.

Heather Young: Mmm.

Lindsey Hoyle: And, oh, I was… I was just gonna say, I would add to that, too, is from the special needs standpoint, you know, just to keep in mind, if your kids are not on grade level, it's okay if they're, if they have a, you know, a special need or a learning disability, you know, you go ahead and put that

Lindsey Hoyle: curriculum, not the curriculum, you go ahead and put that credit on their transcript, and you don't have to say what grade level they were on when they got that credit. It's just, yes, we finished freshman English, or English 1. Right. It may have been on a 6th grade level, but we got it, we got it done.

Heather Young: And, yeah, and that's the beauty of our transcripts, is because you… we have two options, by grade and by subject. And so, you know, we did not do by grade, because we didn't necessarily do everything in the order that, say, a public school might have done, like, say, science and stuff.

Heather Young: So, we… You know, we just did it by subject, so that

Heather Young: I could still put it on their transcript, but I didn't have to worry about what grade it was complete… yeah, completed in. So, just so you know that we have those two options, you know, as members.

Vicky Garcia: And…

Vicky Garcia: I would like to add something about if, if you get really, really advanced in the language that you're working on.

Vicky Garcia: if you… I mean, like, for my kids, they have no excuse. They speak English and Spanish, and

Vicky Garcia: my oldest, at some point, she wanted to do, a career in, an interpreter.

Vicky Garcia: And so I checked in the different,

Vicky Garcia: Lessons, different, courses that they had in, in…

Vicky Garcia: this particular, college, and they had Spanish, you know, Spanish was one of the courses, and I thought, she knows Spanish already.

Vicky Garcia: So I, I, contacted the, the office, and… because there was,

Vicky Garcia: a quote there that they could give credit if they used the CLEP with the CLEP, test.

Vicky Garcia: So, if, like, again, if your student is very confident about that second language, maybe he doesn't even have to take the course in high school, or, you know, he can get, just credit by exam with this clip.

Vicky Garcia: Okay.

Jessica Migura: That's awesome.

Vicky Garcia: So…

Jessica Migura: Loved it.

Vicky Garcia: And then they can just,

Vicky Garcia: Use the time for another course, so… Absolutely.

Jessica Migura: Yep, yep, that's good.

Heather Young: Let's talk about testing and assessments when it comes to homeschooling. With homeschooling.

Heather Young: being considered a form of private school, we don't have to, you know, our kiddos don't have to take the STAR test. So…

Heather Young: you know, you can… some families opt in to do that. Some use what I say the retired STAR tests that are available to public online, because they're not used in the schools anymore.

Heather Young: Some families will utilize that. Some will use placement tests that come with the curriculum provider.

Heather Young: But there's also some various nationally normed assessments that can be used as well, but you're not required to, test your students as they're homeschooling.

Heather Young: Now, when your kiddos are going to,

Heather Young: when they're getting ready for, say, college or whatnot, you know, those… you will need to look into the SAT, or the ACT, TSI, whatever is appropriate, or the CLT, for your kiddo to take for that.

Heather Young: So… I just wanted to throw that out there, because…

Heather Young: the question states testing and assessments, which could be kind of a wide range of information, so I just wanted to throw out

Heather Young: you know, various little snippets of that. Does anybody else want to add anything else, to that?

Lindsey Hoyle: I was gonna add to that, just that,

Lindsey Hoyle: there, like, the CAT test is very helpful. That's one that we've used over the years, the California Achievement Test.

Lindsey Hoyle: I believe that's what it stands for. So that one was really good. It was just down to the nitty-gritty. Do they know their, you know, their core curriculum understanding? I liked that part of it.

Lindsey Hoyle: One thing that…

Lindsey Hoyle: that we found, we did have one of our kiddos that went back into the public school, to be able to play sports. They didn't have UIL availability in that school district, and so,

Lindsey Hoyle: couple of things. If they're going to participate with UIL in the public school, they will have to provide some kind of assessment to show that they're on grade level. The CAP test is a great one for that.

Lindsey Hoyle: But also, if they are wanting to go back into the public school, one thing that we found helpful was having those CLEP tests, or having that, assessment already done ahead of time. My… they did not question some of those credits. They said, absolutely, he's, you know, going in as a junior or a senior, so…

Lindsey Hoyle: They, you know, it was just an easier transition, having some of that. So, dual credits, any kind of CLEP testing, documentation. In other words, keep all your documentation. And if you do any of those testing things, you know.

Lindsey Hoyle: take all of that with you. The school can question your curriculum. They can say, hey, we don't…

Lindsey Hoyle: you know, we don't really accept that credit that you gave them, he's gonna have to retake it, and those are some… those are just some hard conversations. So, we have a lot of documentation.

Heather Young: Yes, because our laws don't require us to keep documentation, but best practices to keep documentation. Because… and it's not just for that, it's for you, as well, to know where your kiddo is, what they might be struggling in, and, you know, what

Heather Young: you know, where they're excelling, just, you know, it helps you on several different levels. But top, you know, on that topic of returning to public school after homeschooling, each district

Heather Young: they… there's an umbrella that they have to stay under in regards to the law, as in how they enroll a student who… and it's not just from homeschooling. It's, you know, private school, and even from one public district to another.

Heather Young: And so, under that, it tells them what their options are. And so each district kind of has different, re-enrollment process or enrollment process, and so, it's good to call the district to know what their process is, so then

Heather Young: when you get to that point, if that is what your family decides is best, then you'll be prepared. So, I mean, for example, the district that we're in, you, if you come in.

Heather Young: You have to… you basically start from the beginning.

Heather Young: Or, you have to take their test for each class.

Heather Young: to… in order to get credit. Okay. So…

Lindsey Hoyle: Course exams, yeah.

Heather Young: Right, right. So, I mean, but other districts are different, so it just really depends on your district. And one thing that I will say, too, is there's a difference between understanding accreditation and what people will say sometimes in accredited curriculum.

Heather Young: Accredited… there is no accredited curriculum.

Heather Young: A program is what's accredited, but a lot of times.

Heather Young: that language accredited curriculum, will be used when you're discussing that, like, say, in… if you're trying to re-enroll.

Heather Young: But if you are looking at, at some point, enrolling, another option, other than, you know, you have all these tests and things like that, is to utilize, like a Becca, I believe, Jessica, has a… an accredited homeschooling program.

Jessica Migura: Yeah.

Heather Young: that can be utilized. So… I just want to throw that out there, because…

Heather Young: A couple questions came in about re-enrolling. And the other…

Jessica Migura: There's a lot of curriculums out there that have accredited and unaccredited, so yeah.

Heather Young: Yes. Definitely. Yeah.

Heather Young: And another one came in that was very similar to that, but it was specifically talking about a child who has special needs.

Heather Young: So, I would say the process for re-enrollment would be the same, with the exception of they may…

Heather Young: The school district may want to reassess,

Heather Young: for, you know, whether the child needs some 504 accommodations, or the IEPs that might need to be developed, those kinds of things that the… so that they can provide the support that the child is going to need within their classrooms.

Heather Young: Lindsey, do you want to add anything to that, or…

Lindsey Hoyle: I think that's good. I mean, I agree with that. Again, I think it's just really good documentation, too, with your student, if they have special needs, even therapies and different things that you've been

Lindsey Hoyle: partaking in, I would just take all of that. One of the things that we even encountered with taking our son back into the school, or enrolling him into public school, was

Lindsey Hoyle: they did question some of the curriculum, some of the algebra and geometry curriculum, and so I was able to take that scope and sequence of what all we covered and prove to them that he had earned an algebra and a geometry credit, so…

Lindsey Hoyle: And even though that was irritating, that I had to do that, it was still… it was okay, they had the right to do that, and they had

Lindsey Hoyle: And thankfully, I had my ducks in a row and was able to show them what we had accomplished. So, it, you know, it is difficult going back in that direction, but, we would highly recommend completing it through homeschool. I mean, homeschool's a great

Lindsey Hoyle: A great way to finish, and your documents are legal, going into college, and so…

Lindsey Hoyle: We're here to help with that process, to help walk through the transcripts or diploma process, so definitely encourage people to reach out with questions. Don't feel overwhelmed.

Heather Young: Absolutely, and…

Jessica Migura: Sir, I do have a question on this enrollment.

Jessica Migura: Because with,

Jessica Migura: If you're thinking about enrolling, you go to enroll, and you feel like, for whatever reason, you're being discriminated against. Like, they're asking something else from you.

Jessica Migura: As a homeschool family, that they wouldn't ask

Jessica Migura: from someone coming from an unaccredited private school, because that's how they have to kind of treat homeschool students. And you feel like, again, you're being discriminated against, and you're a THSC member, you can utilize the intervention and advocacy from our policy team.

Jessica Migura: So, that would also be…

Jessica Migura: So if you just have some red flags that are going off, yeah, they could… they maybe could ask you for these things.

Jessica Migura: But, if it's something that they're not asking from someone, coming from an unaccredited private school, they really…

Jessica Migura: You don't have to present those things to them.

Jessica Migura: And so, I guess I would just encourage our members to reach out to our policy team and just.

Jessica Migura: You know, ask those questions ahead of time.

Jessica Migura: just like you had mentioned, reach out to the school district, go ahead and ask them ahead of time, what are your enrollment processes for homeschool. Go ahead and get that information. You could reach out to the policy team as well.

Jessica Migura: So you can just be prepared, and like, Lindsey was saying, have all your information ready to go, or have your kid ready to take a test, or whatever it is that's within the scope that they can

Jessica Migura: require.

Heather Young: Absolutely. Okay. Absolutely.

Heather Young: And the scope and sequence really is a good way to keep documentation, for your classes, because you don't have to keep everything. I have a portfolio, which is basically a binder, of, like, example work, because within a school district, because I taught special education prior to homeschooling our kiddos.

Heather Young: And we didn't keep every single item that the kiddos, you know, worked on or whatnot. And so we have sampled.

Heather Young: Right? Sample work, and other types of data. And so, you don't have to keep everything. But what I've always done is I've kept that scope and sequence of each of the different, you know, courses that my kids have taken, so that I can show this is what has been covered.

Heather Young: The scope and sequence, or the table of contents, I mean, each curriculum provider puts it in there a little bit differently.

Heather Young: But I've even… I even, on that scope and sequence, or that table of contents of, like, the lessons, I write the date, and I initial it, like, that it's been completed, that I have reviewed it, it's just… it's kind of like an accountability for myself, for my kids, and I… we know that we're working through it.

Heather Young: And so, you know, that is a… that is one great way of doing that. And you can keep track of…

Heather Young: Different accommodations or things that, you know, help your kiddo, in their day-to-day, schoolwork is, you know, for those that might need an accommodation.

Heather Young: And for our Premium and Lifetime members, we have what's called our IEP generator, and it's where you can develop your own IEPs, or Individualized Education Plan goals, for your kids, and that is a form of documentation.

Heather Young: Now, I will say, That IEP

Heather Young: is not necessarily the IEP that can be utilized if you're wanting to reach out and utilize TEFA funds.

Heather Young: That will… those IEPs will have to come from a school district.

Heather Young: after being, going through the assessment process, and an IEP's being developed.

Heather Young: But if you want to talk more about that, please reach out, we can get you some more information. I just wanted to make sure that we were clear on that. So, but that IEP generator can give you some, you know, it gives you a printout, like, in a PDF format of your goals, helps you break down,

Heather Young: The, you know, like, benchmarks and, you know.

Heather Young: all… even, like, accommodations or behavior interventions that you might need. So, it really is a good tool to kind of help you work through, that development, so…

Heather Young: Just wanted to throw that out there.

Vicky Garcia: Heather, Heather, can I just mention this, just real quick, before you close this section? I'm not sure if you already mentioned, but the DEA

Vicky Garcia: has the, the Commissioner's letter. I'm not sure if this was already mentioned. But, fourth paragraph explains clearly about the,

Vicky Garcia: re-enrolling back into public school, and I would just want to add this statement from that letter. It says, students transferring from home schools

Vicky Garcia: should be afforded the same treatment as students transferring from unaccredited private schools. And so, I'd really encourage parents to look at that letter so that they know what to expect and what they are going to be, requesting.

Vicky Garcia: They're gonna be requesting, and it mentions the awarding of credit for courses taken may be determined by reviewing curriculum.

Heather Young: And of course.

Vicky Garcia: and or work of the student, and by using appropriate assessments. So it's all of what we already talked about, but I just wanted to encourage parents to be very familiar to… with that letter. And the second thing is that I think, I might be wrong, but the,

Vicky Garcia: place, or the grades where you might find more hiccups, it's in high school.

Vicky Garcia: when you re-enroll. So,

Vicky Garcia: But who knows? Again, it's depending on credit, on the district. Yes. Excuse me. But what I have heard is that

Vicky Garcia: people re-enrolling into high school, that's when they get more hiccups because of the different credits for students. Right. But, yeah.

Heather Young: Yep.

Heather Young: And with that, I know that we're going to be entering another legislative year coming up in Austin, and so we have what's called our weekly briefs, and so I would say if you are not subscribed to that, that would be one way for you to keep

Heather Young: up-to-date on what's going on and what our policy team is, you know, helping or supporting or advocating for in regards to us as homeschooling families. So, if y'all, if anybody needs help,

Heather Young: you know, getting signed up for those, just let us know.

Heather Young: Okay, we only have a few more minutes, so I just wanted to touch base on a couple of other things. We have,

Heather Young: A question in here about,

Heather Young: And I lost it. Nope, now I found it. Tips and resources for co-parenting and homeschooling. So, this is a great question for,

Heather Young: more of a coaching call, just because it's very unique and specific to, the individual, you know, to the family. And…

Heather Young: you know, there is a link that we can provide. We have our FAQ,

Heather Young: on our website, and it does talk about this, to an extent, so we can drop that in the link, just to give you some Q&As about that.

Heather Young: But…

Heather Young: just also, just so you know, if you're a premium or a lifetime member, you know, this is part of what our policy team does, helping, get that policy side of, homeschooling information to you.

Heather Young: Which, this is a very policy-related question, so I would, suggest and encourage you to reach out to our policy team,

Heather Young: And you can reach out to us, too, and we can kind of get you directed in that direction if you need a little bit more help on that. But does anybody else want to add anything, in on that one?

Heather Young: I wasn't sure if I saw somebody try to…

Heather Young: say something while I was talking. Okay, so…

Heather Young: Alright, and I will get… we will get that link in there,

Heather Young: I want to say, when you go onto this site, it's like the… It's like the 19th…

Heather Young: plus sign down, so I just dropped that in there.

Heather Young: For y'all.

Heather Young: Okay, as we, start to wrap up, I wanted to just see if there were any last-minute,

Heather Young: Tips, tricks, resources that anybody wanted to throw out there before we, finished up?

Lindsey Hoyle: A lot of fun to watch Spanish cartoons.

Lindsey Hoyle: Just movies, you know, even like Vicky was saying, using Scripture, I think one thing that we've done is, like, watch cars in Spanish, you know, or a movie that my kids could quote in English. So, those were just those Fun Friday events that we could do.

Heather Young: That is true.

Lindsey Hoyle: Yeah.

Heather Young: Okay, I'm going to put this up here one last time, just so that, we can look at some dates, coming up.

Heather Young: Okay, can y'all see that?

Vicky Garcia: Yes.

Heather Young: Awesome. Okay.

Heather Young: Vicky, was this… were you going to talk about the dates?

Vicky Garcia: Yeah, I can.

Vicky Garcia: Yeah, so we really want to encourage you to sign up for our next, monthly Q&As. We really enjoy, you know, sharing all these resources with you.

Vicky Garcia: And while you register, there's a way to submit questions on that topic, or if you have another question that just pops in, please submit it. We'll be very happy to receive that and to

Vicky Garcia: help you with those questions. So, we have November the 18th, and then, our December one will be December the 9th.

Vicky Garcia: So, we have that, and you can register, of course, by going to our events page. You can find it there.

Vicky Garcia: And, the next thing that we… we have in… it's in November, we have the Thanksgiving Cook Along with Angela Smith.

Vicky Garcia: So, as the title says, we… there's gonna be some cooking involved, so if you're like me, and you can't think about recipes, and…

Vicky Garcia: You know, to impress your guests?

Vicky Garcia: for Thanksgiving, well, you might want to show up and write notes and see this special recipe that Angela Smith will have for us. So again, that will be November the 12th, and you can find that… you can register for that on our events page.

Vicky Garcia: then the next thing that we have, for you is the capital days, and so that will be February the 11th, March the 17th, and April the 13th. I'm grateful for these three dates that we have now. It's,

Vicky Garcia: A few years ago, we only had one weekend for Capital Days, if I can remember correctly, so I'm very happy that our events team has more opportunities for us, in that we can get involved

Vicky Garcia: in this, event. And I'm just gonna read a little bit about that, event. It says.

Vicky Garcia: Because freedom has a future, take learning to the Capitol.

Vicky Garcia: And then the next paragraph says, help your children see how their voices can be… can make a difference. Experience Texas government up close.

Vicky Garcia: connect with lawmakers, and put civics into action alongside other homeschool families. So, there you go. If you would like to be a part of that, sign up, register for that event. I'm sure it will be

Vicky Garcia: very, very, very great, great experience for your students. And then, and the next thing…

Heather Young: Sorry, Vicky, I just wanted to throw out there, one of those days is actually a virtual one. It's not an on-campus one, and so, yes, one is a virtual one.

Lindsey Hoyle: February, right? It's the virtual.

Heather Young: I believe so, yeah.

Vicky Garcia: Awesome, awesome.

Vicky Garcia: So, and then the next thing that we have is our convention, and this is like Christmas for all homeschool moms, if you're like me. So we have that June the 3rd, through the 5th, and if…

Vicky Garcia: with your membership, you can sign up from your member portal, and I believe there's a discount code for you.

Vicky Garcia: But please sign up for that, and just, if you haven't been, you're missing a lot. So I really encourage you to be there. And lastly, we have our graduations.

Vicky Garcia: We have different events. We have one in Fort Worth, New Braunfels, Brownwood, Longview, Houston.

Vicky Garcia: And I'm not sure, but I think I heard there might be some other locations, so please go into the, events page and find that out. We have more places, more locations for you.

Vicky Garcia: And, excuse me.

Heather Young: Yes, we're getting more locations than we can up… faster than we can update. So, so yes, go, to our events page to get more of those, locations and dates.

Vicky Garcia: And I really encourage you to register, fast, because they, they, out. Yes. So, yeah.

Vicky Garcia: And lastly, well, if you please can just provide a feedback, we would like to improve how we do things, and please let us know if you have… if you have any ideas, any questions, suggestions, please let us know about that, and… and we'll…

Vicky Garcia: We're open to hear our members' feedback all the time.

Heather Young: Absolutely. And I just wanted to throw out real quick, Michelle added a great, note in here. She has used flip-flop Spanish as well, but she's also talked about BJU Press's Paso Forte al espanol.

Heather Young: that kit, and just how it's a really comprehensive program, teaching scripture, music, culture, as well as words, phrases, and sentences. You know, there's lots of visual aids and workbooks and booklets and everything, and so that's…

Heather Young: oh, hey, even puppets and stuffed animals. Look, if it, is… that's awesome. So, I thank you for sharing that, because, you know, that's what we're here for, you know?

Heather Young: We… we have our experiences, but every family has their own experience, and we learn from each other. And so.

Heather Young: Thank you for sharing that. Love it, love it. We will, definitely be back next month, but in the meantime, please reach out to us if y'all have any questions. We are here for you guys. We want to support y'all, so…

Heather Young: Let us know how we can. And I hope you all have a blessed rest of your day.

Vicky Garcia: Bye.

Jessica Migura: Bye, everyone.

Heather Young: Hi, everybody.

Vicky Garcia: Dios.