

## Why do some people choose PSP v. PSA?

There are a number of reasons a homeschool family might decide it's worth a few hundred dollars per year to join a Private Satellite Program (PSP) as opposed to creating their own private school. I liken it to hiring a tax preparer, as opposed to preparing your own tax return. Working with a knowledgeable, experienced person provides the peace of mind that the process has been handled correctly. It also gives you an advocate in the unlikely situation that an outside agency questions your schooling (or tax return). Basic benefits of a PSP include help with transcripts, ongoing consulting, encouragement and support. In addition,

1. Some PSPs offer class days, field trips, parent education events. Peach Blossom offers field trips.
2. Peach Blossom School has worked with moms who were fleeing abusive relationships. If you file a PSA, your name and street address are on a legal document potentially visible to the public.
3. Some families feel a diploma issued by an outside school carries the perception of being more official.
4. Private schools with 6 or more students automatically show up on lists of CA Private schools, so large homeschool families might prefer not to have their address, name, and phone number on a visible public list.
5. PSA filers with fewer than six students occasionally run into situations where the legitimacy of their private school is questioned because most outsiders don't realize that the CDE's list of private schools in CA is only schools with 6 or more. Belonging to a PSP lets you avoid the hassle of educating the ignorant. That's what our PSP Director is for!
6. Peach Blossom School's Director holds several valid CA teaching credentials. This fact can be offered to calm the fears of friends and family who may be skeptical about homeschooling. Also some curriculum companies won't sell answer keys to parents, only to credentialed teachers, so I can order those for Peach Blossom families.
7. Some families who are new to private homeschooling, especially if they are also new to the US, might prefer enrolling in someone else's school (PSP) because they are unfamiliar with the US school system here and creating a CA private school sounds daunting.
8. If the family is leaving a traditional school under hostile circumstances, sometimes it's easier for a PSP Director to get students released, terminate truancy hearings, and obtain the student's records.
9. Parents can't sign Work Permits for their own children, even if the parent is the child's school's director. There are a couple of other work-arounds for work permits for PSA filers: go to the public district, but they may refuse to issue your kid one. Or get a friend who is willing to educate themselves on child labor laws, become an administrator to sign work permits at your school, complete and submit the three forms to the local school district listed in the PSA. Peach Blossom School issues Work Permits for enrolled students and can also help PSA homeschools with permits. Email Stephanie for more information.
10. Sometimes you need to provide a copy of your affidavit for community college or registering an under-16 for CHSPE. If you didn't file, or can't file because the PSA isn't up during summer, you might need to join a PSP to accomplish your goal.