

# Elissa Wahl

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

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- Homeschool mom of 25+ years
- Demonstrated leader with specific expertise in both private and public sectors
- 10+ years' experience in business management and administration
- Extensive background in organizing, leading, and managing community organizations
- Expertise in nonprofit development, governance, and management
- Experience in community outreach, advocacy and support
- Seasoned mentor for parents/families with specific focus on educational setting

## EXPERIENCE

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### **HOMESCHOOLING MOTHER**

**1993-PRESENT**

- Developed individualized educations by presenting a variety of topics, utilizing a vast variety of resources
- Evaluated learning styles and educational philosophies, incorporated flexibility to meet each child's individual needs
- Detailed lesson plans and record keeping

### **ELISSA WAHL CONSULTING, LAS VEGAS, NV**

**2000-PRESENT**

- Specializing in educational options with a subspecialty in homeschooling
- Counseling families and recognizing their needs in order to find the best placement for the child
- Provide an overview and in depth view of various school laws and policies

### **NEVADA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK (NHN)**

**2002-PRESENT**

- Co-founder and President of this 501(c)4 organization dedicated to lobbying for educational options
- Worked with the Dept of Education to establish fair guidelines for Nevada homeschoolers
- Negotiated with NIAA for inclusion of homeschooled students in interscholastic activities
- Executed a new homeschooling law encompassing best practices nationwide
- Integrated a federal law into Nevada's statutes regarding training of Child Protective Workers
- Monitor legislation affecting charter schools, private schools, homeschooling and participate in statewide groups and committees to protect/defend these rights and recommend legislative changes, as needed.

### **STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL/SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMESCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**2002-2006**

- Influential Board Member
- Influenced Dept of Ed in policies regarding homeschooling
- Influenced Dept of Ed in policies regarding Charter Schools
- Attended board and committee meetings, as required

### **RISE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER**

**2009-PRESENT**

- Co-founder and President of this 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to being the "one stop shop" for parents to learn more about their educational options
- Work with parents to find best educational setting
- Schedule and offer supplemental classes and experiences for children learning from the home environment
- Community partner with churches and organizations to advocate for school choice options.
- Essential in promoting charter schools
- Oversees communication on website content, newsletters and marketing materials

**NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY BOARD (SPCSA)****2011-2016**

- Appointed by then Governor Brian Sandoval, elected as the Vice President, and then re-appointed by then Governor Brian Sandoval
- Approved, evaluated and oversaw charter schools in the state of NV
- Authorized high-quality charters and closed down some struggling charters
- Modeled best practices in charter school sponsorship
- Grew to be the third largest school district in Nevada, managing over 40,000 students
- Influenced legislation in two sessions
- Paved the way for charter schools to be broadly acknowledged and accepted as equal in a public-school-district dominated state

**DIRECTOR OF NEVADA'S SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL CHOICE EVENT****2014-2018**

- Organized and Managed annual events for over 2,500 students, including finances, volunteers, program and transportation
- Promoted school choice to the media, the community, and policy makers.
- Liaise with national organization National School Choice Week
- Attended conferences and meetings, as necessary

**AFFILIATIONS**

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**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (CCSD) HOMESCHOOL CONTACT**

- Recognizes broad knowledge base and refers thousands of families each year for educational consulting
- Refers school administrators & school counselors for hard to answer and specific questions pertaining to homeschooling

**HOMESCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (HSLDA)**

- Partnership in creating best legal atmosphere for Nevada homeschoolers
- Partnership for any legal issues that may be based on homeschooling in Nevada

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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**AUTHOR**

- Christian Unschooling: Growing Your Children in the Freedom of Christ – This book explores education and learning outside of the box.

**SPEAKER**

- Homeschool conferences
- Homeschool workshops
- Leadership conferences
- Parenting groups

**MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

- Prominent name in print, TV and radio shows on educational options in Nevada.

**CONSULTANT FOR COMMITTEE TO FORM THE SCHOOL FOR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF NEVADA****2012-2013**

- Consulted for a team who created a start-up charter school based on an online private school in Utah.
- Mentored through law requirements
- Encourager of their unique philosophy

**CONSULTANT FOR COMMITTEE TO FORM THE SCHOOL FOR FOUNDERS ACADEMY**

**2012-2014**

- Consulted for a team who wanted to bring a classical education model to Las Vegas.
- Assessed their partnership with Hillsdale College and the Barney Institute to help define their philosophy.
- Mentored through law requirements
- Encourager of their unique philosophy

**CONSULTANT FOR ZAPPOS**

**2009**

- Consulted with Zappos about different learning environments for its workers children
- Explained various options and pros and cons of each, specifically in consideration of their needs

**CONSULTANT FOR ANGEL VALLEY VILLAGE**

**2003**

- Advised a group who wanted to create a unique learning environment based on a Dutch democratic free school.
- Explained the state's private school options and what each option would entail
- Summarized options which would or would not work in deference to their philosophy

**EDUCATION**

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***Hopewell Valley Central High School***

***May 1992***

***Mercer County Community College***

Assorted credits in languages, special education and child development

**PERSONAL**

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Homeschooling my children, professional development, volunteer opportunities, lifelong learner, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Awana