

**HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
New Hampshire Department of Education
25 Hall Street | Concord, NH 03301**

For the public wishing to join the meeting, please use the remote link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82744882591>

Or join by phone: 1-646-558-8656 *United States Toll* or 1-646-518-9805 *United States Toll*
Meeting ID: 827 4488 2591

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Friday, January 19, 2024

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** ~ **2:30 PM**
2. **AGENDA REVIEW** – Chair
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – [November 17, 2023](#)
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – 10 Minutes
5. **IMMEDIATE BUSINESS**
6. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT/Updates from NH Department of Education**
7. **MEMBER REPORTS**
 - A. **Legislators** – Sen. Ward, Rep. Kuttub, Rep. Peternel
 - B. **Home Educator Associations Representatives** – Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Nolin, Mrs. Villani
 - C. **Home Education Community** – Mrs. Woodman, Mr. Koski
 - D. **NH School Administrators Association** – Mrs. Barker
 - E. **Nonpublic School Advisory Council** – Mrs. Grant
8. **RULEMAKING/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** – Legislators/ED Liaison
 - A. **Ed 704.02 High School Equivalency Program - Admission to Testing for Home Educated Students.**

On [April 12, 2022](#), HEAC recommended HEAC and NHED research waiving the requirement for the participating agency to sign off to allow 16 and 17 year old home educated students to take the HiSET (High School Equivalency Test).
Ed 704.02 was last updated in 2013. Families believe ED 704.02 is incongruent relative to home educated students requiring an attestation from the Participating Agency to be admitted to testing. In NH, parents self-certify completion of a home education program ([Ed 315.16](#)) and issue certificates for youth employment ([RSA 275-A:5.1](#)), not public school officials.

Updated Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Ed 704.02 Admission to Testing.

(f) Home schooled students age 16 or 17 may register to take the high school equivalency test if a participating agent as defined in Ed 315.02 of the student's home school program attests that the student has completed the home schooling program pursuant to RSA 193:1,I(f)(2), and that the student has passed the certified practice test and meets any additional qualifications for testing set by the test publisher.

- B. [HB 628 \(2023\)](#) requiring certain non-public schools or education service providers that accept public funds to perform background checks on all employees and volunteers.
- C. [HB 1012](#) exempting from criminal penalty certain parenting decisions intended to encourage a child's independence and freedom.
- D. [HB 1610](#) relative to standardized assessment data for participants in education freedom accounts. This bill requires all students to participate in standardized statewide assessments.

*A statewide assessment shall be administered in all school districts, **public, nonpublic, and all learning environments** in the state once in an elementary school grade, once in a middle school grade, and one grade in high school, in **English/language arts, reading, and mathematics at minimum.***

*Home educated students ~~[may]~~ **shall** contact their local school districts ~~[if they wish]~~ to participate in the statewide assessment.*

- E. [HB 1128](#) relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit.
- F. [HB 1652](#) relative to establishing a local education freedom account program.
- G. [CACR 17](#) relating to the rights of parents. Providing that parents shall have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their minor children.
- H. [CACR 25](#) relating to the rights of children and parents. Providing that parents and children have the right to control their health, education, and welfare.

9. CONTINUING BUSINESS

- A. Meeting Day and Time for Current Year
- B. Best Practices Review

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

- A. Recruitment for Vacancies – Membership per [RSA 193-A:10](#)
 - (3) Home Educator Association organized within NH
 - Will not be filled for 2023-2024 session:
 - (1) NH School Boards Association
 - (1) NH Association of School Principal

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. **Next Scheduled Meetings** – [February 16, 2024](#) (if needed) and [March 15, 2024](#)

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS – 10 minutes

15. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – [NH RSA 91-A:3, II.](#) - *If needed*

16. ADJOURNMENT ~ 4:30 PM

Upcoming Home Education Advisory Council Meetings

February 16, 2024 – 2:30 PM (*if needed*)

March 15, 2024 – 2:30 PM

NH Department of Education

25 Hall Street. Concord, NH

We encourage you to attend

[Ed 315.09](#) The Home Education Advisory Council.

A. *The home education advisory council shall carry out those duties assigned to it by the commissioner. The council shall work with home educators and representatives of private and public education to encourage an understanding of home education.*

B. *Assigned areas of responsibility for the council shall include the following:*

(1) Developing and maintaining effective communications between home educators and those public, and nonpublic schools and state and local agencies involved in home education;

(2) Recommending to the commissioner and state board of education desired changes in rules pertaining to home education;

(3) Establishing a grievance committee to hear grievances referred to it by the commissioner; and

(4) Providing an annual report to the state board on its activities.
