

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

1

Friday, November 17, 2023

**AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** ~ 2:30 PM
2. **AGENDA REVIEW** – Chair
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – [May 19, 2023](#), [September 15, 2023](#)
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – 10 Minutes
5. **IMMEDIATE BUSINESS**
  - A. Meeting Day and Time for Current Year
  - B. Best Practices Review
6. **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.

***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. Families have questions about how this may impact home educated students including recipients of Educational Tax Credit (ETC) scholarships.

Updated Friday, November 10, 2023

### C. Legislative Service Requests

- [LSR 2024-2234](#) 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.
- [LSR 2024-2772](#) relating to the rights of children and parents. Providing that parents and children have the right to control their health, education, and welfare.

## 7. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT/Updates from NH Department of Education

### 8. MEMBER REPORTS

- A. **Legislators** – Sen. Ward, Rep. Kuttab, 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

### 9. CONTINUING BUSINESS

### 10. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. **Establishment of Grievance Committee** *Action Needed*

The HEAC Chair is required to appoint a Grievance Committee as outline in Ed 315.12

#### *Ed 315.12 Grievance Committee.*

*(a) The grievance committee shall be a subcommittee of the home education advisory council appointed by the chairperson, consisting of no more than 5 members, a majority of whom shall be representatives of home education associations. One member of the grievance committee shall be appointed by the chairperson to preside at grievance conferences.*

*(b) The grievance committee shall hear all grievances referred to it by the commissioner.*

*(c) The grievance committee shall call upon consultants and conduct interviews for the purpose of gathering relevant facts if the committee lacks relevant expertise. The grievance committee shall keep a written account of its investigations and shall submit such an account, together with its findings, to the commissioner within 30 calendar days of the commissioner's referral.*

### 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** – [December 15, 2023](#) (if needed) and [January 19, 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**

December 15, 2023 – 2:30 PM (*if needed*)

January 19, 2024 – 2:30 PM

NH Department of Education

25 Hall Street, Concord, NH

**We encourage you to attend**

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**[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.*