

**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/83290448369>

Join by phone: 1-646-558-8656 *United States Toll* or 1-646-518-9805 *United States Toll*  
Meeting ID: 832 9044 8369

**Friday, September 20, 2024**

**AGENDA**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** ~ **2:30 PM**
- II. **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**
  - A. 8/31/2024 Term Expirations: Rebekah Woodman
  - B. Appointments: Heather Barker, Althea Barton, Lindsey Pattison, April Villani, Marcus Zuech
  - C. Recruitment for vacancies *Membership per* [RSA 193-A:10](#)
    - (2) *Home Educator Association organized within NH*
    - (1) *NH School Boards Association*
    - (1) *NH Association of School Principals*
- III. **IMMEDIATE BUSINESS**
  - A. Presentation: [Holiday Cards 4 Our Military - NH Challenge](#) (10 min.) – Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber
  - B. **Selection of Chair, Secretary** **Action Needed**  
[RSA 193-A:10, III](#). *The chair of the council shall be elected by the council members from the home educator membership on the council appointed under subparagraph I(c).*
  - C. **Best Practices Review**
- IV. **AGENDA REVIEW** – Chair
- V. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – [May 17, 2024](#)
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – 10 Minutes
- VII. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT/Updates from NH Department of Education**
- VIII. **MEMBER REPORTS**
  - A. **Legislators** – Sen. Ward, Rep. Kuttab, Rep. Peternel
  - B. **Home Educator Associations Representatives** – Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Nolin, Mrs. Villani, Mr. Zuech

*Updated Thursday, September 19, 2024*

C. **Home Education Community** – Mr. Koski, Mrs. Pattison

D. **NH School Administrators Association** – Mrs. Barker

E. **Nonpublic School Advisory Council** – Mrs. Grant

## IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Meeting Day and Time for Current Year**

B. **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.*

C. **Establishment of Rules Committee** **Action Needed**

## X. **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

XI. **RULEMAKING/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** – Legislators/ED Liaison

A. **Rulemaking Updates**

1. **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 276-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 193:1,1(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. Legislative Service Requests**

1. [LSR 2025-0009](#) establishing an annual review and qualification to determine eligibility to participate in the education freedom accounts program.
2. [LSR 2025-0032](#) establishing a program for enrichment scholarships for gifted and making an appropriation therefor.
3. [LSR 2025-0035](#) establishing as its own state agency a department for children, youth, and families.
4. [LSR 2025-0042](#) establishing the parental bill of rights.
5. [LSR 2025-0061](#) relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program.
6. [LSR 2025-0074](#) relative to child care scholarship eligibility and reporting requirements.
7. [LSR 2025-0082](#) defining the term citizen for the purposes of the right to know law and including preliminary drafts circulated to a quorum of a majority of a public body as disclosable documents.
8. [LSR 2025-0091](#) establishing a local education freedom account program.
9. [LSR 2025-0094](#) requiring high schools to include instruction on the nature and history of communism.
10. [LSR 2025-0103](#) allowing a public body member's presence at a meeting by electronic or other means of communication only if physical presence is unavoidable and providing that physical presence is necessary for voting.

## **XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. 2023-2024 Annual Report** Presented to State Board per [Ed 315.09\(b\)\(4\)](#) on [June 13, 2024](#)

### **B. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)**

A previous law requiring that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) be completed as a requirement for high school graduation has been repealed. [HB 1066](#) effective 7/1/2024 now requires that school boards and governing bodies ensure that every student eligible for graduation have the opportunity to receive information on how to properly complete and submit the FAFSA.

### **C. Opportunities**

1. **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program** Nominations currently open through November 13th. All high school seniors graduating between January and August of 2025 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents including those who are home-schooled are eligible. Applications are available [here](#).

2. **NHED search for Student Mural Artist** NHED is seeking talented high school artists to paint a mural of the NHED mascot, Max the Moose. Entry deadline: October 1. [Flyer](#) is available to share.
3. **Holiday Cards for our Military Challenge** Deadline: November 15th. Visit <https://militaryholidaycardchallenge.com> for details.
4. **Tutor.com** offers 24/7 [online tutoring](#), essay drop-off and test prep services for all New Hampshire students in grades 4-12, as well as adult education learners at no cost.
5. **SAT<sup>®</sup> tutoring bootcamp** – 100% free virtual 4-week small-group tutoring course for the digital SAT<sup>®</sup>. Registration opened September 19th for the November 2, 2024 SAT<sup>®</sup>. More information at <https://schoolhouse.world/sat-bootcamp>
6. **NH Pathways to High School Completion Webinar** hosted by NHED's Bureau of Adult Education – Thursday, September 26, 2024, 3 PM via Zoom. More information and free registration link available via the [event flyer](#).
7. **LEVEL UP! Doorways to Your Future!** Learn about post-high school opportunities, meet prospective employers and hear from current students.
  - Friday, October 18, 2024: Great Bay Community College Portsmouth Campus. RSVP by October 4th via the [event flyer](#).
  - Friday, November 1, 2024: River Valley Community College Claremont Campus. RSVP by October 18th via the [event flyer](#).
8. **NH Bringing Back the Trades and Tradeapalooza Career Fair 2024** Inspire a passion for skilled trade and [purchase tickets](#) for the Friday, November 15, 2024 event at NHTI Concord's Community Campus. Students are invited to attend this unique event featuring Mike Rowe, host of the television show "Dirty Jobs."

#### D. Scholarships

1. [Student scholarships](#) totaling \$50,000 will be awarded to individuals in attendance at the **NH Bringing Back the Trades** event November 15, 2024 at NHTI. Application deadline: October 15.

XIII. **ANNOUNCEMENT** – Next Scheduled Meetings: [October 18, 2024](#) (if needed)  
[November 20, 2024](#)

XIV. **OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS**

XV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – 10 minutes

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

XVII. **ADJOURNMENT ~ 4:30 PM**

**Upcoming Home Education Advisory Council Meetings**

October 18, 2024 – 2:30 PM *(if needed)*  
November 20, 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. The home education advisory council shall comply with RSA 91-A. Minutes of home education advisory council meetings shall be maintained by the department.*
- C. 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.*