Compulsory Attendance

New compulsory attendance provisions affecting home education programs for sixteen and seventeen year old students in New Hampshire will be in effect July 1, 2009.

For New Hampshire home educated students who turned sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen at any time during the 2008-09 year, no evaluation of the child’s progress in the home education program is required by participating agents for this year.

However, for the 2009-10 school year, parents of a home school child who is sixteen or seventeen years old will have to submit home education notification for the child in accordance with RSA 193-A, and provide evaluation information for a student who is still sixteen or seventeen by July 1, 2010.

There are exceptions. Compulsory attendance requirements do not apply to students “accepted into an accredited postsecondary education program” (RSA 193:1, I (g)) or students who have completed their home education and for whom a parent has documented completion of the child’s home education program by “submitting a certificate or letter to the department of education” in accordance with RSA 193:1, I (f) (2).

Some parents may wish to continue to supply notification and evaluation to a participating agency for students who are beyond the age of compulsory attendance but who are continuing their home education, either this year or in the future, in order to meet requirements other than those of the State of New Hampshire, for example, for students receiving Social Security benefits.