



NM Homeschool Getting Started Information

- Notify the public school that your child has been attending that you will not continue attending in the fall. This usually needs to be a written notification simply stating that you will be disenrolling your student to begin homeschooling for the fall. If your child is starting Kindergarten you only need to do this if you pre-enrolled your student. Do NOT skip this step or your student could be counted as truant.
- If your child has an IEP they can still homeschool. IEPs mean extra money for the school system. Sometimes aggressive school administrators tell parents they are not allowed to homeschool their child.

Notify the New Mexico Public Education Department

<https://homeschool.ped.state.nm.us/Default.aspx/Login.aspx>

Create an account and continue the notification process. Here is a video to help you through the process. <https://youtu.be/C-3zYi85kv4>

- **NM Law requirements:**
 - Students ages 5 through 18 be enrolled in school. If they are 5 before September 1, they must continue until they are 18, receive a diploma, or pass the GED.
 - Students must be in school for the same length of time as the district in which you live. For most of NM, that is 180 days. You can choose which 180 days to do school. You do not need to keep the same school calendar as your school district. You can school through the summer or take random days off to meet your family needs. Also, keep in mind that the school system allows time for parent teacher conferences and special events and field trips. Learning happens in all environments, including doing dishes, making their bed, and even taking Grandma to the doctor.
 - Instruction must occur in reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies.
 - Instruction must be done by someone with a GED or a high school diploma.
 - You must keep a record of your student's immunizations or applicable waivers.
- **Record Keeping**
 - This is a catch 22. NM law does **not** require records to be kept for homeschoolers. However, if truancy is suspected, the PED does have the right to review your homeschool records when requested. The only time CAPE-NM/HSLDA has seen a homeschool questioned in recent years it has been in conjunction with a child custody battle where one parent disagrees with homeschooling.
 - Special Note about Highschool students –
 - If you plan on transferring homeschool high school credits back to a public school at any point, then the school administration for your district has the right to determine which credits will be granted based on the work accomplished. If you are planning on transferring back to a public school, then keep all work done by the student and keep a record of which books were used. If the school

doesn't agree with credits you think your student has earned, there is no appeals process.

- If your student plans to attend college, we encourage you to reach out to potential colleges to see what their requirements are for admission. Each college is different, so knowing what they expect can be very helpful in planning your high school years. You will also need to consider taking SAT subject tests throughout the high school years to demonstrate competency.

- **Begin Your Homeschool Journey!**
 - Start teaching. Choose your curriculum and start slowly. Children unaccustomed to a parent being their teacher can sometimes be resistant at first. Be patient. Don't expect homeschool to look like public school. Many families have great success by starting one subject for a week or two before adding the second. That allows everyone to adjust to the new expectations.
 - You will have bad days. No day will go exactly as planned. There will be many times that you will need to walk away from your plan because of your frustration or your child's frustration. That is normal. Take advantage of those days to do something fun. It builds your relationship which is more important in the long run.

- **Getting Support**
 - For special needs – you can get services from the school system, but it can be challenging to do. You can also choose to find your own therapy providers privately, but this is often more expensive.
 - Consider visiting and joining www.hslida.org. They offer various avenues of help and encouragement from special needs, to high school transcription help. They also offer legal counsel should there be any situation that occurs with the state involving your homeschool decision.
 - Visit the Education Resource Center <https://www.facebook.com/EducationResourceCenter>. Members (a mere \$15/year and CAPE members receive another \$5 discount), are allowed to check out curriculum for a year! They also offer resources for testing, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, and much more.
 - Finally, please consider becoming a supporting CAPE-NM member. CAPE offers support and resources (such as How To Videos) to homeschool families throughout New Mexico, fights for your right to choose the education of your children, and does all of it through thousands of hours of volunteer time. Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/capenm/> or drop by our website for resources and information at www.cape-nm.org.

Become a CAPE-NM member: <https://www.cape-nm.org/membership/>

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