



**CAPE**  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
PARENT EDUCATORS - NM

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## CAPE Calendar of Events

February 3-7, 2020, TeenPact  
Leadership School

February 6, 2020, CAPE at the Capitol

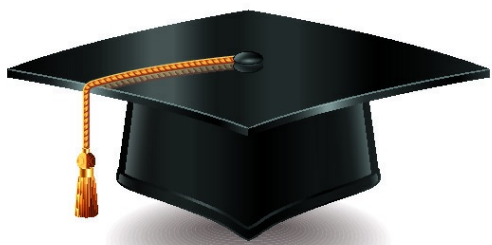
May 16, 2020, CAPE-NM Graduation at  
Legacy Church

June 19-20, 2020, CAPE-NM  
Homeschool Convention

October 16-18, 2020 Fall Family Retreat



## Graduation Registration is Open



Do you have a high school senior who has been homeschooled the last two years? If you do and you want to participate in the CAPE Graduation Recognition Ceremony, then you can go to <https://www.cape-nm.org/events-convention/graduation/> and register to join us.

Anyone or ensemble (up to 5 people) who would be interested in singing the National Anthem at the ceremony should submit a video recording of themselves singing the National Anthem. All submissions need to be emailed to [Graduation@Cape-NM.org](mailto:Graduation@Cape-NM.org) by March 20, 2020. The decision will be made by April 1.

## CAPE at the Capitol is Thursday



CAPE at the Capitol is this Thursday. Please join us to meet your representatives and bring the homeschool presence to the capitol. This is a time to work on relationships with our representatives so that if legislation comes out that limits our homeschool freedoms, we have improved chances of making a positive change.

Please pre-register at <https://www.cape-nm.org/events-convention/cape-at-the-capitol/>. But even if you don't pre-register, we'd love to see you at the Capitol on February 6th. And please invite others to come and join us for this celebration.

## Homeschooling Opinion by Rebecca Dow



New Mexico ranks last or near last in almost every public education indicator. With this reality, many parents in New Mexico are looking for options outside of the state's public education system to ensure their children receive a quality education. Some have chosen to take full control of their children's instruction through homeschooling.

Homeschooling is an increasingly popular option for families across the country. According to a report recently released by the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of homeschooled students has nearly doubled the last two decades, up from 900,000 students in 1999 to 1.7 million students in 2016. More minority families are choosing homeschooling, too, especially Hispanics.

The reasons parents are choosing to homeschool their kids are numerous. First, homeschooling gives parents the freedom to develop a curriculum that fits their children's needs and their family's values. The instructional pace can be adjusted according to their child's progress. Homeschooled children don't have to worry about keeping up with the class if they are struggling with a concept, and they also don't have to sit idle if they have demonstrated mastery ahead of their peers. Homeschooling lets children learn at a speed best suited for them. The self-paced nature of home-based education is especially valuable for parents with children who have special health and developmental needs.

Homeschooling also provides flexibility for rural families. Instead of wasting hours sitting on a bus traveling to a school building miles away, kids can use that time learning at home. Parents can incorporate aspects of their surrounding environment into lessons that can be more meaningful to their children. Without a strict institutionalized schedule, parents can accommodate rural work and life schedules. Life on a farm or ranch can be unpredictable and it doesn't always adhere neatly to a school district calendar. Homeschooling gives parents the freedom to set their family schedules according to what is going on in their homes and lives.

Research shows that homeschooled students frequently outperform public school students on standardized tests, including the SAT and ACT. According to the National Home Education Research Institute, students who have participated in home-based educational programs have college attendance and graduation rates equal to or greater than the general population. Adults who were homeschooled tend to be more engaged with their communities. They are more likely to volunteer,

attend civic meetings, and vote than the general population. They tend to be more politically tolerant than students schooled in a public education environment, too.

And it should not be overlooked that homeschooling saves taxpayer dollars. It's estimated that it would have cost American taxpayers \$27 billion to pay for commensurate public education services provided by homeschooling parents. Public school per pupil spending is climbing in New Mexico, and homeschooling frees up a lot of money within the state's public education budget that can be applied to critical areas.

With all these positive benefits, one would think that more policymakers in New Mexico would support homeschooling. However, in my three years as a state representative, I have seen regulators in Santa Fe try to place more and more restrictions on home-based education in New Mexico. They have tried to set strict requirements for daily instructional hours and total instructional days. These restrictions undermine many of the positive aspects of a home-based education program such as flexibility and parent discretion in developing an individualized learning program for their children.

Parents, not government bureaucrats, should decide what's best for their children. Legislators need to hear from you. They need to hear your family's story and the rewards you and your children have gained through homeschooling. If you value the option to educate your child as you decide, please consider sharing your family's homeschooling journey with New Mexico decision makers.

Rebecca Dow is a NM State Representative from the Truth or Consequences region. She has been a friend to CAPE and helpful with political issues impacting homeschoolers in New Mexico.

## New Benefit of CAPE Membership



CAPE has just signed an agreement with Grand Canyon University. CAPE member families can now receive special scholarships available only to us. Anyone interested in participating can contact Sheila Jones at (602)639-7135 or [sheila.jones@gcu.edu](mailto:sheila.jones@gcu.edu)

## Stay Connected



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