



CAPE
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF
PARENT EDUCATORS - NM

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CAPE Calendar of Events

August 1, 2019, Registration Deadline with PED (CAPE recommends the written form, see below for details)

August 3, 2019, CAPE Back-to-Homeschool Picnic at Hoffmantown Church Park

October 18-20, 2019, Fall Family Retreat

www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/



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

Back-to-Homeschool Picnic



Back to school is rapidly approaching. CAPE-NM is hosting a back-to-homeschool picnic on August 3rd from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. This will be at the Hoffmantown Church Park at 8888 Harper Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. If you can join us, we ask that you email jones@cape-nm.org to RSVP with the number attending and bring a bag of chips and a finger dessert to share (utensils will not be provided). CAPE will provide sandwiches and water.

Childrens drawings needed



CAPE needs pictures of your children's drawings. Next February at CAPE at the Capitol we will be giving each representative and senator a plaque with unique

drawings from your children. This will be a great keepsake for our legislators from New Mexico homeschoolers. Please take a picture of your children's art and email it to cacapitol@cape-nm.org. There are 70 representatives and 42 senators so we need all of the drawings we can get!

July 26th PED Update



As most of you know, CAPE has been in communication over several changes to the notification form which added several items that are not required by NM Homeschool Statutes. CAPE, along with HSLDA lawyer, TJ Schmidt, met with officials from PED in June and were told that changes would be made to the form in order to comply with the law. The items that CAPE-NM and HSLDA had identified as concerns are:

STARS ID - This is a unique ID for public school students that allows PED and CYFD to track students as they move to different schools across the state. The law HB168 does not include homeschoolers. Homeschool students need a STARS ID to participate in dual enrollment classes, public school classes, and after school activities through the school system. Most homeschoolers do not need a STARS ID. PED has included an opt out in their student registration system.

Parent as the instructor - NM law requires that the instructor for the homeschool have a GED or high school diploma. We know of some families where the instructor is a relative but not the parent. The PED registration system now allows families to register if the parent is not the instructor.

Statement of privacy - PED now has a statement that the Federal Law requires student educational records to be kept confidential

Security of the website - The website where all information is collected about your family is now in a secure website.

A hard copy of the registration form is now available on the PED web site for those families who wish to use it.

We need to review the homeschool law and affirm that we have read and understand the law to begin the registration process. When we started this process almost two years ago the language was an interpretation of the law by PED and not

the law itself. Most people had issues with the hours requirement, which has been removed.

CAPE is thankful to PED for working to get these changes implemented for the August 1st deadline. Since PED has made the requested changes CAPE is recommending that all homeschoolers use the online notification system. <https://homeschool.ped.state.nm.us/> However, if you start the online registration process and determine you do not feel comfortable, then stop and fill out the written notification form. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Homeschool-Notification-Form-with-Statutes-6.25.19.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do we have to fill out the entire Notification form? To complete the online registration system you do need to fill out everything. If there is anything in the written notification form that is offensive to you, you always have the option of marking out the parts you disagree with and stating that you are signing the form under duress. When you sign any legal document and put "Signed under duress" then that puts the legality of the contract into question in a court of law. CAPE doesn't provide legal counsel, so if you want to know more about this please contact your attorney. If you are an HSLDA member, you can contact them.

I don't have a problem with what PED is asking, why does this matter? The vast majority of homeschool families already follow the law, so adding a few more items doesn't seem to be a big deal. Unfortunately, the problem is the overreach by the PED in mandating items on the form that are not required by law in New Mexico. The current form and the inclusion of giving all homeschool students a STARS ID is actually pursuant to a law applied to public school students. Once they start applying, and we agree to abide by laws that are meant for public school students, we open the door to them applying other laws meant for public school students, which could include testing, home visits, etc. Our concern is not a few small items that haven't been completed by the PED for this year, but the subtle, and not so subtle, overreach by the PED.

What is the big deal about the STARS ID? During the 2019 NM Legislative Session, HB168 was passed that established a database to connect CYFD to records of public school students. This is a law specifically mandated for public school students, not homeschool students, and would give access to CYFD all our students' information.

I need a PED STARS ID and confirmation letter for my student's dual credit, public school class or extra curricular activities. What should I do? When we choose to participate within the public school system that receives public funding in any way, we are required to follow the laws mandated for public school students. You can still send in a written notification form, but you will need to contact the PED to receive the STARS ID number. At that point, they may ask you to fill out the online notification form. If you are not comfortable doing that, then we would encourage you to reach out to HSLDA for legal counsel.

I have students that need a STARS ID and some that do not. What should I do? With the online registration system you can choose which students need a STARS ID. You can still send in a written notification form, but you will need to contact the PED to receive the STARS ID number. At that point, they may ask you to fill out the online notification form. If you are not comfortable doing that, then we would encourage you to reach out to HSLDA for legal counsel.

I do not have a High School Diploma or GED. Can I fill out the electronic form? CAPE is only making a recommendation. You and your family must decide what is best for you.

Why do I need to pay for the Returned Receipt Requested mailing for a written notification? As with any item sent via USPS, confirmation will not be given. We recommend that you have confirmation that you did notify according to NM Homeschool Law. Making a copy of your notification form and stapling the USPS receipt to the form is for your records, should the need arise.

Last time, the Post Office wouldn't allow me to send a letter to a government building with Returned Receipt Requested. What should I do? The USPS can, and do, send letters to government buildings with Return Receipt Requested. If you are told otherwise, please ask to speak to a supervisor to help you or go to another post office.

If I fill out the online registration this year, how does that affect registration next year? Our big concern in using the online form is creating the impression with the PED that we are fine with them mandating items for the notification form that are not required by law. This year, the extra items are mild. Our concern is what might be required or misapplied in the future. We also know that when we work together, we can make our voices heard because numbers do matter. If you have already filled out the online form this year, enjoy your year of homeschooling and stay connected with CAPE, as we continue to pursue this issue with the PED.

Fall Family Retreat



Good news! The CAPE Fall Family Retreat is happening this fall! The retreat will be October 18-20 in the Sacramento Mountains in southern NM. This retreat is a favorite for our family. Fun family games and activities. If you sign up for the meals (which is not required), then there is no cooking nor clean-up for anyone in the family. Sorry, you do still have to clear your plates, so you don't get off completely! Registration is underway for this favorite event for many families. If you are looking for cheaper options, then bring your RV or tent, and/or fix some/all of your own meals. There are common rooms with refrigerators and microwaves, so breakfast and lunch could be easy on your own. If you don't mind a grill, the camp has grills for you to make your own dinners. You can make this event fit the budget for your family. Registration details can be found at: www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/

CAPE-NM | 505-898-8548 | info@cape-nm.org | <http://www.cape-nm.org>
P O Box 1506
Moriarty, NM 87035

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