



November 9, 2017

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## PED Overreach

Back in September, CAPE was contacted by a member family to let us know about a change to the homeschool registration form with the Public Education Department of New Mexico (PED). This new registration form is currently only for the written, mail-in form, which you can [view here](#). The new form requires each family to initial 11 assurances and 2 sub-assurances regarding NM education law. It contains a minimum of 990 hours of instruction for kindergartners through 6th grade and 1080 hours of instruction for 7th - 12th grade. They also want us to initial that if we are not actively educating our children, PED has the option of considering the child truant and requiring the child to be enrolled in a public or private school. While this change is currently only in the written notification form, PED, in the past, has told us that online changes require several months. CAPE-NM does not know if this will be changed in the online form in the next couple of months.



CAPE immediately contacted our attorney with HSLDA. PED also sent HSLDA a letter indicating that the HSLDA notification form and other unauthorized written notifications will no longer be accepted. Our attorney has [sent PED a response](#) letting them know of our concern about their overreaching policy, and we are waiting for a response from PED.

What action do you need to take now? Currently, we aren't asking you to do anything. We want to keep you informed. If we do not get a positive response from PED next week, then HSLDA and CAPE-NM will determine the next steps. At that point, we will need the help of every homeschool family in the state. You can become a supporting member of CAPE and HSLDA to help cover the costs of this event. If you are not a CAPE member, please join at: [www.cape-nm.org/membership](http://www.cape-nm.org/membership). If you are not a member of HSLDA, please goto [www.HSLDA.org](http://www.HSLDA.org) to join. HSLDA and CAPE work together to keep homeschooling free in NM.

If you want more information, our attorney has sent a letter for everyone to read.  
[Click here to read the letter.](#)

## GED or No GED?

As with most things in life, the answer to this question is not a simple "yes" or "no." There are many things to consider: NM law, the rules of the Lottery Scholarship, private institutions for education, and employers who all have their own rules. But before we discuss all of that, let's address that we all grew up thinking that the GED was for high school dropouts. Most people see the GED as an alternative path for kids who couldn't finish high school, but later got their act together. That stigma has caused tears for more than one homeschool mother. But what is the GED, really? It is simply a standardized test to prove that educational proficiency has been achieved. All through life we have to prove we understand in order to move on. You have to take a test to drive, or to be a practicing plumber, doctor, or beautician. Is it really that bad to take a test to prove 12 years of education?



[<.....click to read the full article.....>](#)

## Shining Stars



Do you have an amazing child you would like to tell us about? Send a picture and a brief description of what your homeschooler has accomplished to [CAPENM@CAPE-NM.org](mailto:CAPENM@CAPE-NM.org). Sharing your story about your amazing child may be an encouragement to other homeschooling families.

## CAPE-NM Calendar

January 2018 Graduation & Convention  
Registration open

January 29, 2018 - Feb 2, 2018 [TeenPact](#)

February 1, 2018 [CAPE at the Capitol](#)

April 19-21, 2018 [Annual Convention](#)

October 19-21, 2018 Fall Family Retreat  
(details available at a later date)



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