



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

January 2, 2018

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**Urgent Volunteer Needs for Graduation and Convention**



The convention committee meetings will begin January 6th at 9:00 am at Legacy Church at Central and Coors. We have desperate need for committee heads for Graduation, Exhibit Hall, and Volunteers. These are urgent needs. We need to open graduation registration within the next week or two once we have a graduation committee head. If we do not have committee heads, then graduation will be delayed. If you are willing to help, please contact [cape@cape-nm.org](mailto:cape@cape-nm.org) and let us know you are interested!

## Update on PED Overreach

On Monday, December 11th, CAPE met with Representative Rebecca Dow from T or C and two representatives from Public Education Department (PED) about the concerns regarding PED's new registration form. From this meeting, CAPE gained some valuable insight that we wish to share with you.



First, PED is making changes not because of the concerns about the majority of homeschoolers, but because of the few who claim to homeschool but are, actually leaving their children uneducated. While these instances are few and far between, schools that have students who reach their 10 absences are more frequently being forcibly withdrawn from the schools without a choice. These students and parents then are forced into "homeschooling." Some of these kids end up not being educated, and the new Secretary of Education is trying to clean up failing schools. Failing homeschools are being included in this clean-up.

PED's way of protecting kids from irresponsible parents is to change the web site and require families to initial that they understand each section of the homeschool law. As CAPE anticipated, right now only the written form has been changed. However, their intent is to change the entire web site not just to have us put in these assurances that we understand the homeschool law, but they also want to help us by adding things like a credit tracker and transcript generator for high school (no diploma included).

With the PED changes, homeschoolers are looking at some regulations that have not been applied to us before, like the 990 hours of annual instruction for grades K-6 and 1080 hours for grades 7-12. PED is also threatening to investigate the legitimacy of our homeschools and to shut down homeschools they feel do not meet their requirements. Does PED plan to require homeschoolers to submit proof of academic activity in each of our homeschools? The language in their form suggests they might.

The history of homeschooling shows the lengths some politicians will go in an effort to control homeschooling. Parents have been jailed and children removed from loving homes, while judges and social workers determine what is deemed worthy towards a school day or instructional hours. If you read the HSLDA emails, you know that a social worker in another state indicated that watching the eclipse in August wasn't deemed an educational activity. Apparently, astronomy isn't educational according to that social worker. I for one do not want to have to justify every decision I make regarding my children's education to a government official.

When our family started homeschooling with Kindergarten, our academic work took only one to two hours per day at most. The only way to get the 990 hours of instruction per year would be to have included other activities. Counting hours for learning to play well with others or learning to tie your shoes are easily accepted as educational in the minds of homeschoolers, but if a social worker shows up at your door, would they agree with your records of educational activities? And what if they don't? Would they shut down our homeschools and force our kids into public school?

For families that have children in multiple age groups, how easy would it be to track the time that each child finishes their school work on any given day? Will PED start demanding that we count how many hours toward science, math, reading, etc.? Will we have to justify each hour during our day to the PED? This could get out of control very quickly.

Please contact NM PED immediately at (505) 827-4296. Let them know you are a

homeschooling family and that you request that they stop making changes to the homeschool registration form. We ask that you call, not email. We also ask that you continue calling until you are able to talk to someone. This is a critical step to keep our freedom to homeschool in NM. There are other states where homeschoolers have to pay a fee, submit to a quarterly records check, and participate in annual testing with minimum required scores. There are companies that solely exist to monitor the progress of individual homeschool students in certain states. If a family is delayed in submitting their required paperwork, then the company collecting the fees immediately reports families to Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD). We do not want to become one of those states. If we stand together, then we are stronger. Ecclesiastes 4:12 states, "Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Let us all stand together so we are not easily broken. Please call PED now, then make sure your spouse calls, and have older children call too until PED removes the changes to the registration form.

If you would like more information about the new registration form, you can [view here](#). Our HSLDA attorney has sent a letter for everyone to read. [Click here to read the letter](#).

### Preparing for CAPE at the Capitol, written by Bev Dow

There I was. A thirty-five year-old mother of two, set to go to the NM State Capitol the next day, wailing to my mother like a little girl. "I don't know where to go!" "What do I wear?" "What if I say the wrong thing?" "What do I doooooooooo?!" (Can't you just hear the whine storm?)

Today, I look back and laugh at myself, but I was seriously scared.

Hopefully, these tips will help you be more informed and comfortable going to the Roundhouse than I was.



<[Click here to read the rest of the story](#)>

<[To register for CAPE at the Capitol click here](#)>

### CAPE-NM Calendar

January 2018 Graduation & Convention  
Registration opening soon

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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