



## NM Homeschool Checklist

- Notify the NM 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:
  - Enroll student's ages five through 18 in school. If they are five 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 High school 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 does not agree with credits you think your student has earned, there is no appeals process.
  - If your student wants to attend college with a sports scholarship or attend a very competitive school, we encourage you to provide ISBN numbers for each book used during high school and a course description including how grading was done.
  - If your child is planning to attend a competitive college like Harvard, then you will need to provide a detailed course description including how grading was determined. You will also need to consider taking SAT subject tests throughout the high school years to demonstrate competency.
  
- Start teaching. Choose your curriculum and start slowly. Children unaccustomed to a parent being their teacher can sometimes be resistant at first. Be patient. Do not 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.
  
- Troubleshooting –
  - 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 end.
  
- For special needs – you can get services from the school system, but it can be challenging to do.
  - We also recommend visiting [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org), as they offer suggestions and help for those with special needs students.

*The vision of CAPE is, "Impacting current and future generations for Christ by empowering parents to understand and fulfill their God-given responsibility of imparting Biblical truth."*

Visit our website: <https://www.cape-nm.org/>  
[Become a member](#) | [Newsletter Signup](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Donate](#) | [Join our Facebook Group](#)