

HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
New Hampshire Department of Education
25 Hall Street | Concord, NH 03301

For the public wishing to join the meeting, please use the remote link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82744882591>

Or join by phone: 1-646-558-8656 *United States Toll* or 1-646-518-9805 *United States Toll*
Meeting ID: 827 4488 2591

Friday, March 15, 2024

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** ~ **2:30 PM**
- II. **IMMEDIATE BUSINESS** – Volunteer needed to take notes and compose meeting minutes
- III. **AGENDA REVIEW** – Chair
- IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – [January 19, 2024](#)
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – 10 Minutes
- VI. **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**
 - A. **8/31/2024 Term Expirations** – Heather Barker, Althea Barton, April Villani, Rebekah Woodman
 - B. **Recruitment for Vacancies** – Membership per [RSA 193-A:10](#)

(3) Home Educator Association organized within NH	<u>Will not be filled for 2023-2024 session:</u> (1) NH School Boards Association (1) NH Association of School Principal
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- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Annual Report to State Board of Education** per [Ed 315.09](#) – Prepared using meeting minutes. **Needs approval by May 17th meeting.**
 - B. **[Prenda Learning Pod](#)** – NHED [FAQ](#)
 - C. **Student Internships**
- VIII. **CONTINUING BUSINESS**
 - A. **Best Practices Review**
- IX. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT/Updates from NH Department of Education**

X. **MEMBER REPORTS**

- A. **Legislators** – Sen. Ward, Rep. Kuttub, Rep. Peternel
- B. **Home Educator Associations Representatives** – Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Nolin, Mrs. Villani
- C. **Home Education Community** – Mrs. Woodman, Mr. Koski
- D. **NH School Administrators Association** – Mrs. Barker
- E. **Nonpublic School Advisory Council** – Mrs. Grant

XI. **RULEMAKING/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** – Legislators/ED Liaison

A. **Rulemaking Updates**

1. **Ed 704.02 High School Equivalency Program - Admission to Testing for Home Educated Students.**

On [April 12, 2022](#), HEAC recommended HEAC and NHED research waiving the requirement for the participating agency to sign off to allow 16 and 17 year old home educated students to take the HiSET (High School Equivalency Test).

Ed 704.02 was last updated in 2013. Families believe ED 704.02 is incongruent relative to home educated students requiring an attestation from the Participating Agency to be admitted to testing. In NH, parents self-certify completion of a home education program ([Ed 315.16](#)) and issue certificates for youth employment ([RSA 275-A:5, I](#)), not public school officials.

Ed 704.02 Admission to Testing.

(f) Home schooled students age 16 or 17 may register to take the high school equivalency test if a participating agent as defined in Ed 315.02 of the student's home school program attests that the student has completed the home schooling program pursuant to RSA 193:1,I(f)(2), and that the student has passed the certified practice test and meets any additional qualifications for testing set by the test publisher.

B. **Legislative Updates by Status**

1. **Executive Session**

- **HB 1610** relative to standardized assessment data for participants in education freedom accounts. This bill requires all students to participate in standardized statewide assessments.

2. **Ought to Pass with Amendment**

- **HB 1012** exempting from criminal penalty certain parenting decisions intended to encourage a child's independence and freedom.

3. **Notice of Reconsideration**

- **CACR 17** relating to the rights of parents. Providing that parents shall have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their minor children.

4. Refer for Interim Study

- [HB 1402](#) establishing a procedure for a high school proficiency exam waiver of mandatory school attendance.
- [SB 444](#) relative to the public posting of board of education agenda items and meeting materials.

5. Indefinitely Postponed

- [HB 1128](#) relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit.

6. Inexpedient to Legislate

- [HB 1652](#) relative to establishing a local education freedom account program.
- [CACR 25](#) relating to the rights of children and parents. Providing that parents and children have the right to control their health, education, and welfare.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Resources for the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024

- NHED [2024 Solar Eclipse](#) website
- UNH Extension [Eclipse](#) website
- NASA [Eclipses](#) website

B. Early College Exploration Event for Home School Families hosted by Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) – Friday, April 19, 2024, 9 AM - 10:30 AM at NHTI's Grappone Auditorium. Free tickets available at [Eventbrite](#).

C. 2024 Congressional Art Competition

- Open to high school students
- Students should enter the competition in the district they reside
 - [District 1](#) – Deadline April 26, 2024
 - [District 2](#) – Deadline April 12, 2024
- Visit the [Congressional Art Competition](#) website and the District websites for entry instructions including rules and regulations

D. Currier Museum of Art Home Education Opportunity – [Homeschool Art Studio](#), in-person art classes, begins Thursday, April 9, 2024 at the Currier Museum on Art in Manchester

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENT – Next Scheduled Meetings: [April 19, 2024](#) (if needed), [May 17, 2024](#)

XIV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – 10 minutes

XVI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – [NH RSA 91-A:3, II](#), - *If needed*

XVII. ADJOURNMENT ~ 4:30 PM

Upcoming Home Education Advisory Council Meetings

April 19, 2024 – 2:30 PM *(if needed)*

May 17, 2024 – 2:30 PM

NH Department of Education

25 Hall Street, Concord, NH

We encourage you to attend

[Ed 315.09 The Home Education Advisory Council.](#)

A. The home education advisory council shall carry out those duties assigned to it by the commissioner. The council shall work with home educators and representatives of private and public education to encourage an understanding of home education.

B. Assigned areas of responsibility for the council shall include the following:

(1) Developing and maintaining effective communications between home educators and those public, and nonpublic schools and state and local agencies involved in home education;

(2) Recommending to the commissioner and state board of education desired changes in rules pertaining to home education;

(3) Establishing a grievance committee to hear grievances referred to it by the commissioner; and

(4) Providing an annual report to the state board on its activities.
