

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, May 17, 2024

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** ~ **2:30 PM**
- II. **AGENDA REVIEW** – Chair
- III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – [March 15, 2024](#)
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – 10 Minutes
- V. **IMMEDIATE BUSINESS**
 - A. **2023-2024 Annual Report** *Provided to the State Board per [Ed 315.09\(b\)\(4\)](#) **Vote to accept***
 - B. **2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)**
 1. New FAFSA® form roll-out, impacts and challenges
 2. Resources:
 - [March 26, 2024 Letter](#) from U.S. Education Secretary Cardona to State Governors regarding the transition to the Better FAFSA
 - [April 9, 2024](#) from U.S. Education Secretary Cardona to schools regarding the Better FAFSA rollout
 - [2024-25 FAFSA Fast News](#) – Stakeholders should bookmark this page for regular messages from leadership related to the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.
- VI. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT/Updates from NH Department of Education**
- VII. **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

Updated Monday, May 14, 2024

VIII. 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. Ought to Pass

- [HB1066](#) relative to the graduation requirement of filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

2. Ought to Pass with Amendment

- [HB1665](#) relative to student eligibility for the education freedom accounts program.
- [SB459](#) establishing a committee to study the child protection act; establishing a right to submit evidence and testimony in family court proceedings; relative to wage garnishment with child support payments; and relative to parenting coordinators in high-conflict cases.

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 1012](#) exempting from criminal penalty certain parenting decisions intended to encourage a child's independence and freedom.
- [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 1519](#) relative to a minor's available work hours.
- [HB 1610](#) relative to standardized assessment data for participants in education freedom accounts. This bill requires all students to participate in standardized statewide assessments.
- [HB 1652](#) relative to establishing a local education freedom account program.
- [SB 339](#) relative to repealing the graduation requirement regarding Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applications.
- [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.

IX. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Establishment of Rules Committee *Action Needed*

B. Best Practices Review

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Recognition

1. **2024 U.S. Presidential Scholar** – NH home educated senior Molly Fitzgerald DellaValla of Jackson has been named as a prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholar. Honored home educated semi-finalists are Michael C. Dascomb of Londonderry and Eben Quenneville of Merrimack. Congratulations on your achievements! More information at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>
2. Thank you to HEAC Member NH State Rep. Katy Peternel for an outstanding job supporting home education with her adopted proposal, "*Support self-funded home education and resist efforts to enact greater government control and regulation of home education,*" to the NH GOP platform, which passed unanimously at the State Convention.

B. Scholarships

1. **ReKINDling Curiosity 2024 Summer Camp Scholarships** – Qualifying students will have up to \$750 of their New Hampshire-approved overnight and day youth recreation camp fees covered by the NHED. More information at <https://rekindlingcuriosityeducation.nh.gov>

2. **Veterans of Foreign Wars Youth Scholarships** – Deadline October 31, 2024.
More information at
<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

C. Opportunities

1. **NH Pathways to High School Completion Webinar** hosted by NHED's Bureau of Adult Education – Monday, May 20, 2024, 3 PM via Zoom. More information and free registration link available via the [event flyer](#).
2. **Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission Arts Competition** – [Student arts-based competition](#) to correspond with the creation, installation, and unveiling of the new Christa McAuliffe Memorial in 2024. Winners within each grade level will be chosen among all **art forms** and mediums submitted. All submissions must be delivered by June 1, 2024. More information at <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-and-media/go-launch-christa-mcauliffe-state-house-memorial-commission-arts-competition>
3. **SAT® tutoring bootcamp** – 100% free virtual 4-week small-group tutoring course for the digital SAT®. Registration opens July 11, 2024 for the August 24th SAT®. More information at <https://schoolhouse.world/sat-bootcamp>
4. **2024 Summer Leadership Program** hosted by New Hampshire Teen Institute is scheduled August 4-9, 2024 in New Durham. Scholarships are available. More information via the [event flyer](#).
5. **Project Happy** – A team of recent UNH alums have partnered with NHED to provide New Hampshire's Student Volunteering Hub – a simple place to discover and track volunteering activity through the inspiring **Project Happy** app. NH high school students are encouraged to download the [app](#), which features 55 local nonprofits, representation from 18 schools and dozens of career-aligned service opportunities. Email info@projecthappy.world for more details.

XI. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

- A. **8/31/2024 Term Expirations** – Heather Barker, Althea Barton, April Villani, Rebekah Woodman

- ### XII. ANNOUNCEMENT – Next Scheduled Meetings: [June 21, 2024](#) (if needed) [September 20, 2024](#)

XIII. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS

- ### XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – 10 minutes

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

- ### XVI. ADJOURNMENT ~ **4:30 PM**

Upcoming Home Education Advisory Council Meetings

June 21, 2024 – 2:30 PM *(if needed)*
September 20, 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.*
-