NEW MEXICO

Compulsory Attendance Ages: "at least five years of age prior to 12:01 a.m. on September 1 of the school year" to age eighteen unless the child has graduated from high school or received a GED. New Mexico Statutes Annotated §§ 22-8-2(M), 22-12-2(A).

Required Days of Instruction: "the length of time of the school year that is established in the school district in which the person is a resident," N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-12-2(B), which is a minimum of 180 days.

Required Subjects: "a basic academic educational program, including reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science." N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2(E).

Home School Statute: N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2(E); N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2.1.

"'[H]ome school' means the operation by the parent of a school-age person of a home study program of instruction that provides a basic academic educational program…." N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2(E). Parents are required to do the following according to N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2.1:

1. Notify the state superintendent of their intent to operate a home school within thirty days of the establishment of the home school and on or before August 1 of each subsequent year. The notice must identify the school district. New Mexico homeschoolers are under no legal obligation to notify their local school district that they are home schooling. Families who are receiving public assistance may need to notify their district in order to continue to receive public aid. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2.1(A).

2. Maintain disease immunization records (or a waiver of that requirement, which may be obtained due to religious objections or a medical exemption). N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2.1(B).

The definition of "private school" specifically excludes home schools and home school satellite programs. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2(K).

Teacher Qualifications: The parent must possess "at least a high school diploma or its equivalent." N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2.1(C)

Standardized Tests: None. On March 15, 2001, New Mexico enacted S.B. 374, which specifically repealed testing requirements for homeschoolers.

Religious Freedom Act: N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 28-22-1 to -5.

College Admissions for Homeschoolers: The boards of regents for institutions of higher education shall not require a student who has completed the requirements of a home-based or non-public school educational program, and who has submitted test scores that otherwise qualify him for admission to that institution, to obtain or submit proof of having obtained a general education development certificate. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 21-1-1(B) (state institutions); see also N.M. § 21-1-1 (public post-secondary educational institutions).

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P.O. Box 3000 • Purcellville, VA 20134 • Phone: (540) 338-5600 • Fax: (540) 338-2733 • Website: www.hslda.org