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Mary Mayo  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
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Dear Ms. Mayo,

As a homeschooling parent and long-time portfolio evaluator, I would like to encourage the State Board of Education to adopt rules changes, to Ed 315, as specified by the Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC) in January 2009 and supported by Commissioner Barry.

Some specific concerns follow:

Ed 315.05 should be deleted. It is unreasonable to expect children in emergency situations to stay in a school program until written acknowledgment is received by their parents.

Ed 315.07 should be rewritten with HEAC-agreed-upon language. To require the evaluator to send evaluations directly to the participating agency is not in line with the law and would raise prices considerably. On a practical level, homeschoolers need to keep receipts and this would force evaluators, and the families they serve, to pay for certified mail postage and numerous trips to the Post Office.

Ed 315.07c adds an awkward statement about “facts that the teacher relied on to develop the concluding statement.” This is not required by law and is redundant with the rest of the evaluation.

Of most concern: Ed 315.08 should read "(a) The participating agency shall review the evaluation to establish that: The evaluation meets the requirements of Ed 315.07(a)-(h); and The results state that educational progress has or has not been demonstrated."

Requiring extra wording for 315.08 does not follow the law and, in fact, creates a significant legal requirement—that progress in *all* areas of instruction [science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music] be documented in a given school year. This is rarely educationally appropriate, and holds homeschoolers to a standard far exceeding those of their public school peers. While I certainly expect to see core subjects such as mathematics, language arts, and social studies covered on a yearly basis, it isn't appropriate for most students to be instructed in thirteen years of health or New Hampshire constitutional studies.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these rules which so directly affect so many hardworking, hard-studying families in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Bethany R. Barnosky