

Understanding Home Schools

Guidance for School Districts from the NMPED

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Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.

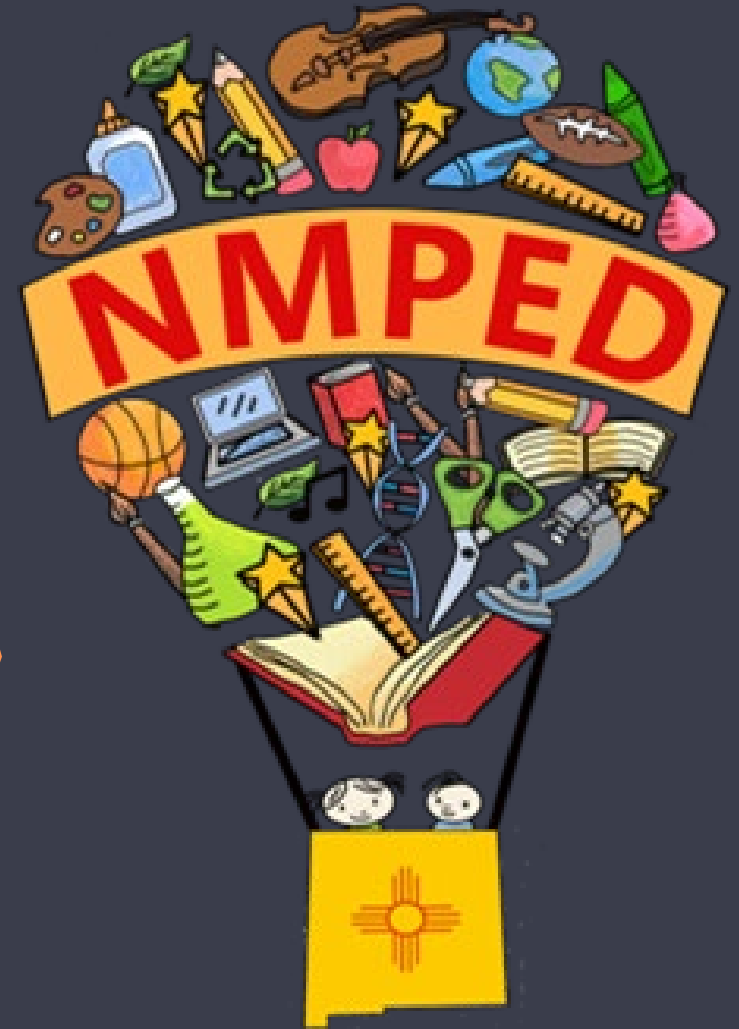


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Options for Parents and Families Division

Our Role

- To help families explore their education options
- To guide families through the home school notification process
- To answer questions families or districts have about home schooling in New Mexico
- To help schools verify that parents have notified the state of their intent to home school

Our Goal

We offer the following guidance to help districts and schools easily navigate the home school processes, including how to disenroll students, verify home school enrollments, and place students transferring from home schools back into the public system.

What the Law Says about Home Schools

New Mexico Statute Annotated (1978), Chapter 22

Definition: "home 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, including reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-2(E)]

Home School Operators must:

- Be the student's parent or legal guardian
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-1-2]
- Provide instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-1-2]
- Provide instruction by a person possessing at least a high school diploma or its equivalent
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-2.1]
- Maintain records of student disease immunization or a waiver of that requirement
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-2.1]
- Notify the NMPED within 30 days of establishing the home school
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-2.1]
- Renew the home school establishment every year on or before August 1st by submitting written or electronic notification to the state
[NMSA 1978 Section 22-1-2.1]

What the Law Says about Home School Students and Public School Activities

New Mexico Statute Annotated (1978), Chapter 22

Home School Student Eligibility to Participate in Public School Activities

(Athletics, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular)

Participation: A home school student is eligible to participate in **up to three school district activities at the public school** in the attendance zone in which the student resides, according to the New Mexico Activities Association guidelines. The school district shall verify each home school student's academic eligibility to participate in school district activities. As used in this section, "activities" means athletics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities sanctioned by the New Mexico Activities Association.

Reimbursement: The home school student activities program unit for a school district is determined by multiplying the number of home school students who are participating in school district activities governed by the New Mexico Activities Association by the cost differential factor of 0.1. The home school student activities program unit shall be paid to the school district in which it is generated.

[NMSA 1978 Section 22-8-23.8]

What the Law Says about Home School Students and Public School Classes

New Mexico Statute Annotated (1978), Chapter 22

Home School Student Eligibility to Participate in Public School Classes

Participation: Notwithstanding the provision in Section 22-8-2 NMSA 1978 defining a qualified student as one who is regularly enrolled in one-half or more of the minimum course requirements approved by the department for public school students, **home school students may take one or more classes at public schools** and, if so, shall generate program units as provided in this section. A home school student is eligible to enroll in a public school in the attendance zone in which the student resides or in another public school outside the attendance zone as provided in Section 22-1-4 NMSA 1978. **The school district shall verify each home school student's academic and other eligibility to enroll in the class.**

Reimbursement: The home school student program unit for a school district is determined by multiplying the number of home school students who are enrolled in one or more classes by the cost differential factor 0.25 per class per home school student up to the enrollment required for the home school student to meet the definition of "qualified student". The home school student program units shall be paid to the school district in which they are generated.

[NMSA 1978 Section 22-8-23.9]

What the Law Says about Home School Students and Dual Credit Courses

[New Mexico Statutes Annotated 21-1-1.2](#) and [New Mexico Administrative Code 6.30.7](#)

Home School Student Eligibility to Participate in Dual Credit Courses

(Post-Secondary)

Participation: A home school or private school student who meets the eligibility criteria may receive both high school and college credit, provided that the student pays the full cost of the college courses.

Data Reporting: Home school or private school students taking college courses for both high school and college credit shall be considered as being concurrently enrolled by the postsecondary institution for the purposes of data reporting.

[NMAC 6.30.7.13]

What the Law Says about the Obligations of Home School Students

New Mexico Statute Annotated (1978), Chapter 22 and NMAC 6

Home School Students

- Home school students are required to attend school until at least 18 years of age unless that school-age person has graduated or received a high school equivalency credential [NMSA 1978 22-12A-4]
- Home school students who want to participate in public school classes:
 - must be academically and otherwise eligible to enroll in those classes [NMSA 1978 Sections 22-8-23.8 and 22-8-23.9]
 - must be immunized or meet the rules for exemption from immunization [NMAC 6.12.2.8]
 - are responsible for purchasing textbooks and materials [NMAC 6.30.7.13]

What the HED Says about Home School Students and the Lottery Scholarship

New Mexico Statute Annotated (1978), Chapter 21-21N

Home School Student Eligibility to Receive the NM Legislative Lottery Scholarship

Participation: A home school student who meets the eligibility criteria may apply for the NM Legislative Lottery Scholarship. In addition to the usual eligibility criteria, New Mexico home school students must have completed the requirements as a home school student registered with the New Mexico Public Education Department.

Qualifications: To qualify for the Lottery Scholarship, a home school student

- must be a full-time student who completed the requirements of a home-based educational program in the state and who either (1) within sixteen months of completion of the requirements of a home-based education program, was accepted for entrance to and attended a public post-secondary educational institution, or (2) within four months of graduation from a public school in this state or completion of the requirements of a home-based educational program, began service in the United States armed forces and within sixteen months of completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the service, attended a public post-secondary educational institution;

and

- must have successfully completed the first semester at a public post-secondary educational institution with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during the first semester of full-time enrollment.

Placing Home School Students Who Transfer into Public Schools

The Options for Parents and Families Division encourages home school parents/guardians to keep thorough records in case they someday decide to enroll their students in a traditional school. Good records help schools more easily and accurately place home school students in the appropriate grade level.

Local school boards have the duty to adopt and promulgate rules concerning the placement of students transferring from home schools to public schools. [NMSA 1978 22-1-4(D)] If your district does not have placement procedures, consider using some or all of the following tools:

- Standardized Test Scores
- Placement Tests
- Portfolio of Student Work
- Home School Records
- Student Interviews

Two Ways to Notify

Two ways parents or guardians may notify the NMPED of their intent to operate a home school:

- **Register online using the Home School System**
 - A 5-digit registration number is generated for each child for each school year.
 - A Parent Notification Report is available for each child for each school year.
- **Print a paper notification form and send to the NMPED by postal service.**
 - Data from the notification form is entered into the online Home School System by NMPED personnel.
 - The Home School System generates a 5-digit registration number for each child. (Note: Because this data is entered by hand, the creation of the registration number is not immediately available.)

Sample Verification Email and Parent Notification Report

From: Home Schooling System <webmaster@newmexico.gov>

Date: December 8, 2023 at 2:20:58 PM MST

To:

Subject: Home School Registration

Congratulations on successfully submitting Notification of your home school to the Public Education Department. In order to receive your home school confirmation number along with other pertinent information regarding your student(s), please log into the [Home School](#) account you recently created.

Please keep in mind that through the Public Education Department's home school platform you will be able to update and monitor your child(ren)'s home school information 24 / 7, submit your required annual notification, see prior year home school enrollments and much more.

Please review the PED's Home School page to find answers to parents most frequently asked questions prior to contacting the PED Home School Bureau.

(<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/options-parents-families/home-schools/>)

Website URL: <http://homeschool.ped.state.nm.us/>

Registered Successfully!!

Student Name: Best Student

Registration ID: 65899

Please [email](mailto:info.homeschool@state.nm.us) at info.homeschool@state.nm.us for any further questions.

State of New Mexico Public Education Department Home School - Parent Notification Report	
Print	
Registration ID/Enrollment ID	65899
First Name	Best
Middle Name	Ever
Last Name	Student
Student DOB	02/02/2002
State Student ID/STAR S ID	
Address	300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, NM, 87501
School Year	2023-2024
Enrollment Date	12/08/2023
Grade	Twelfth Grade
Disenrollment Date	
Initials	KR

NEW MEXICO
Public Education Department
Home School Division
Options for Parents
NM Public Education Department 300 Don Gaspar Ave.,
Room 301-B Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 2786 Phone# (505) 827-6909

The 5-Digit Registration Number

What the Number is For

Students enrolled in the NMPED's online Home School System are assigned a unique 5-digit number for each year they are registered.

This number is proof for parents to keep in their own files.

The number is a datapoint that helps the NMPED staff to quickly locate a child's records in the Home School System.

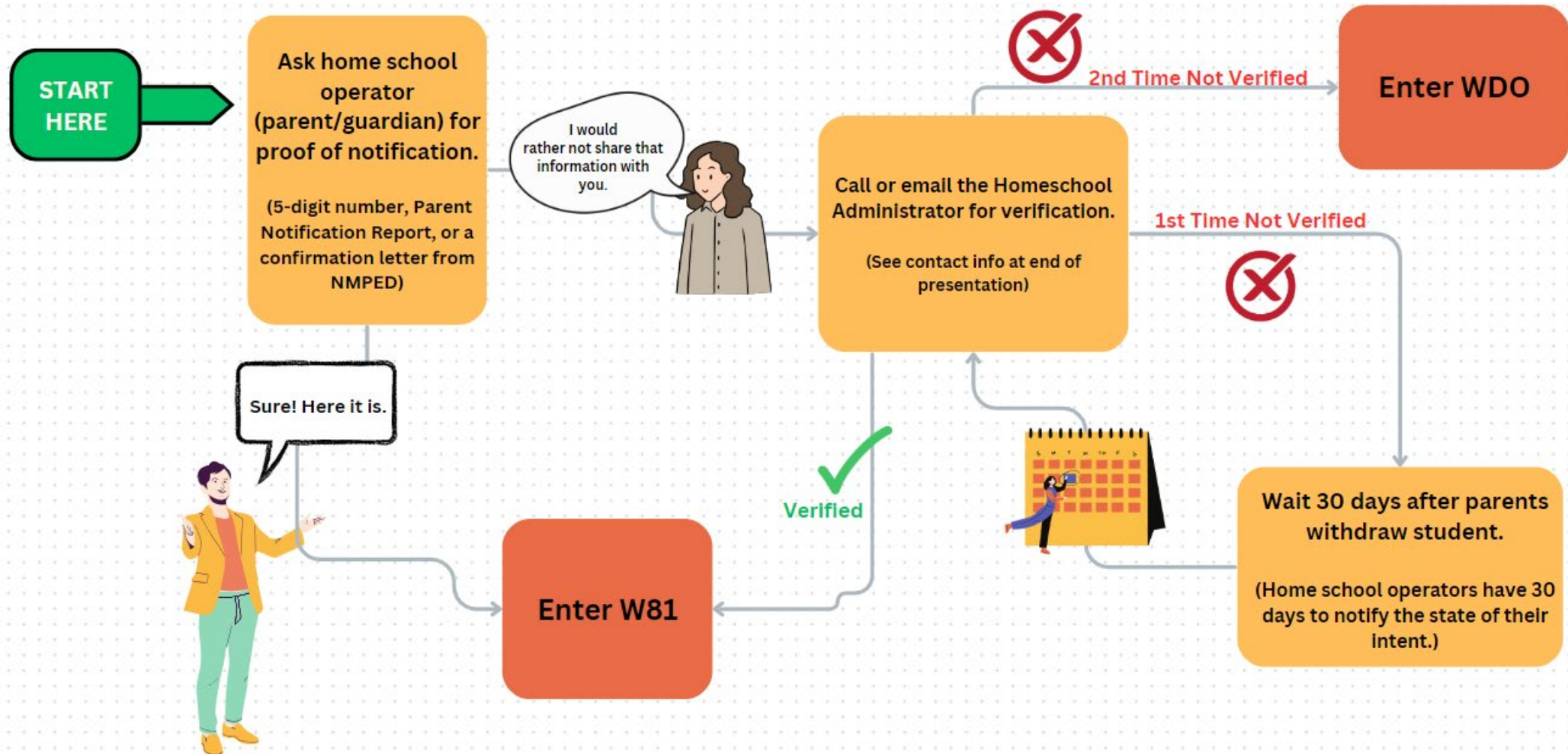
What the Number is Not For

Because the 5-digit number is associated with a student's personal identifying information, parents may, **but are not required to**, share the number with schools.

Schools and other organizations **should not** require the number for proof of home schooling or require it on a form.

Neither schools, districts, nor the NMPED should share this 5-digit number with other people, organizations, or agencies.

Verifying a Home School to Determine Correct Nova Withdrawal Code



PED Contact for Home School Administration



We appreciate **ALL** you do for the children of New Mexico.

Please contact the Options for Parents and Families Division for assistance.

Kelli Renken, Homeschool Administrator
505-469-2817

Info.HomeSchool@ped.nm.gov