



**Vermont Home Education Network**  
**NEW forms should be up soon!**  
July 17, 2023

Hello Vermont Homeschooler,

It is my understanding from Alicia Hanrahan that the new online and paper forms should be available for use this week. Yay! Now we shall all see how the AOE has chosen to apply the requirements of the new home study law to the process of actually enrolling in home study. Even though I will not be enrolling I am just as curious as you all are to see what that process will look like and beyond that what kind of advocacy may be needed to keep the process as close to the requirements of the law as possible.

I will be having another Zoom meeting for all homeschoolers to join. I want to scheduled it in the next week or so but I want to see the new process first before deciding the topic. I will keep you all posted.

I have spoken with the Governor's office and the chair of the State Board of Education about what homeschoolers might like to see in the next Secretary of Education. Right now, there is an interim Secretary of Education who may or may not be considered for the permanent appointment. I have no preferences as to who should be picked. I do however, have qualities that I would like to see in a Secretary.

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*1. I want a Secretary who is supportive of homeschooling and who sees it as a small part of their duties to oversee the home study unit and ensures that they comply with law rather than managing homeschoolers.*

*2. I want a Secretary who is the type of person who actually governs the staff of the Agency and does not let them do whatever they feel like doing.*

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I know that last statement is a bit blunt but it is how I feel about it. It is my opinion. I have been around over 25 years watching how the various Secretaries of Education run the Agency of Education. Some of them effectively act like the boss of staff and some of them see themselves as friends of staff. This can make a huge difference in how the home study unit is run.

Again, this is just my opinion but the Agency of Education is not a democracy or a committee that comes to consensus on things and it ought not to be run like one. Its function is governance and application of law and to do that is needs functioning cohesion. This all starts and ends with who the Secretary of Education is.

As always, feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns you have. And PLEASE let all homeschoolers you know to get on this email list. I do not send out a lot of emails but you will get real information about the state of homeschooling in Vermont. Join here: <https://vhen.org/email-list>

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