NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Home Schooling: Annual Report - 2025

Home Schooling in New Mexico

Home School Laws

The right of parents to homeschool their children was first recognized by the State of New Mexico in 1985, when the state legislature amended Chapter 22 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA), 1978. New Mexico statute defines ***home school*** as

> *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*.

While New Mexico law defines home schooling as including instruction in five basic subjects, it leaves home school operators free to tailor their instructional materials and methods to the needs of each child.

The home school requirements are set out in the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 22-1-2.1.

1. A person operating or intending to operate a home school **must notify** the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) of their intent **within thirty days of the establishment of the home school.**
2. **In subsequent years**, home school operators must notify the state **on or before the first day of August**.
3. Home school operators must maintain records of their students' immunizations or must obtain a waiver of the immunization requirement.
4. A home school **instructor** must have earned at least **a high school diploma or a high school equivalency credential.**

Home school operators, as the definition suggests, manage their own schools. Therefore, though not specifically required by statute, home school operators are encouraged to maintain thorough and accurate records of their notifications of enrollment, student attendance, and educational materials. Portfolios of student work is encouraged, as well. These records will aid students if they should later transfer to a public or private school or if they decide to pursue post-secondary education or training. The New Mexico Public Education Department does **not** maintain home education records for home schools other than notices of intent.

The Home School System for Online Notification

NMPED launched the online **Home School System** (HSS) in the 2019-2020 school year. The HSS provides families with a simple way to notify the state of their intent to homeschool and to easily access their current and past notification records. Data collected by the Home School System is presented in the graphs and charts on the following pages.

Recent Legislation or Proposals Affecting Home Schools

Section 24-5-1 NMSA 1978: *An act relating to vaccination; requiring rules for the immunization of children attending licensed childcare and licensed early childhood care programs and public, private, home or parochial schools to be based on the recommendations of the Department of Health or the American Academy of Pediatrics; …*

This bill **passed** in early October in the 2025 1st Special Session.

HB177: *An act relating to taxation; creating the home school curriculum materials income tax credit.*

This bill, which **did not pass**, would have allowed home school operators to claim credit against their tax liability for money spent on curriculum materials for up to $2,500 per school-age person being home schooled.

Challenges

It is a goal of the Options for Parents & Families to serve the needs of the public, no matter which education pathway they choose for their children. To this end, we have identified and are addressing several challenges. First, we are increasingly aware that many home school operators do not notify the state of their intent to operate a home school. Sometimes this is by choice, but it may also be that a) people are unaware of the legal requirements for home schooling, b) they do not know how to notify, or c) they attempt to notify but do not complete the process.

The NMPED has determined that one reason people do not complete the notification process is that the online Home School System (HSS) does not meet current standards of use. The NMPED plans to complete improvements to the program well in advance of the next notification period, which begins on June 1, 2026. These changes should make the HSS easier to use and should provide certainty to HSS that they have completed the notification process. (Operators who complete the notification process using the HSS receive a unique five-digit number for each student for each school year.)

The NMPED has no way to identify home school operators who choose not to notify. The homeschool administrator takes every opportunity to share with parents the benefits of compliance with the law. The most obvious is that if parents or guardians were ever accused of educational neglect, proof of notification would be one of the first things investigators would look for. The positive benefits are many. New Mexico allows home school students to participate in public school sports, classes, and extra-curricular activities. High school students may take tuition-free, dual-credit courses at New Mexico public colleges. These schools and colleges are expected to verify that students have been registered as home school students before allowing them to participate. Finally, home school students can apply for the state's lottery scholarship. Students attending college within 16 months of graduating from high school must demonstrate that they graduated from a New Mexico high school. Notification of intent to home school in New Mexico may serve as a form of proof for that requirement. There are many good reasons for following New Mexico's home-school-friendly laws.

Celebrations

The NMPED participated in a nationwide conversation hosted by the Johns Hopkins School of Education's Homeschool Hub in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting was attended by about 20 advisory panel members, including state home school administrators, policy makers, home-school-program leaders, and education researchers. The meeting focused on home school oversight and access to public resources, such as participation in public school activities and education savings accounts.

The Homeschool Hub's most recent research findings[1] were presented at the Baltimore meeting. The data is encouraging but probably not surprising to home educators in our very diverse state. First, it is increasingly unusual for a student to be homeschooled for the entirety of their thirteen years of school. Most students move in, out, and between traditional public, public charter, private and home schools. Families are aware of their many options and take advantage of them to meet their families' needs. Secondly, home school families are more diverse than stereotypes suggest. Roughly 40% are students of color. Though still not as diverse as public schools, some families choose home schooling as a way of "preserving or reclaiming their cultural heritage" or "empowering" their families. These goals align with the NMPED's vision of ensuring that "students in New Mexico are engaged in a culturally and linguistically responsive educational system that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of ALL students."

New Mexico's home school students benefit from laws that allow them to participate in public school classes, sports and activities. In addition, dual-credit classes are tuition-free for eligible home school students.

Across the nation, some states require significant oversight of home school operations, which can seem burdensome to home school families; other states require little to no notification or oversight. New Mexico is among the states with very few requirements of home school operations, with annual notification being the primary expectation. Given the ease of following state statute, the NMPED encourages all home-schooling families to complete the notification process each year and to encourage their peers to do the same.

Contact the NMPED

For more information about home schooling in New Mexico, please contact the homeschool administrator at **Info.HomeSchool@ped.nm.gov**.

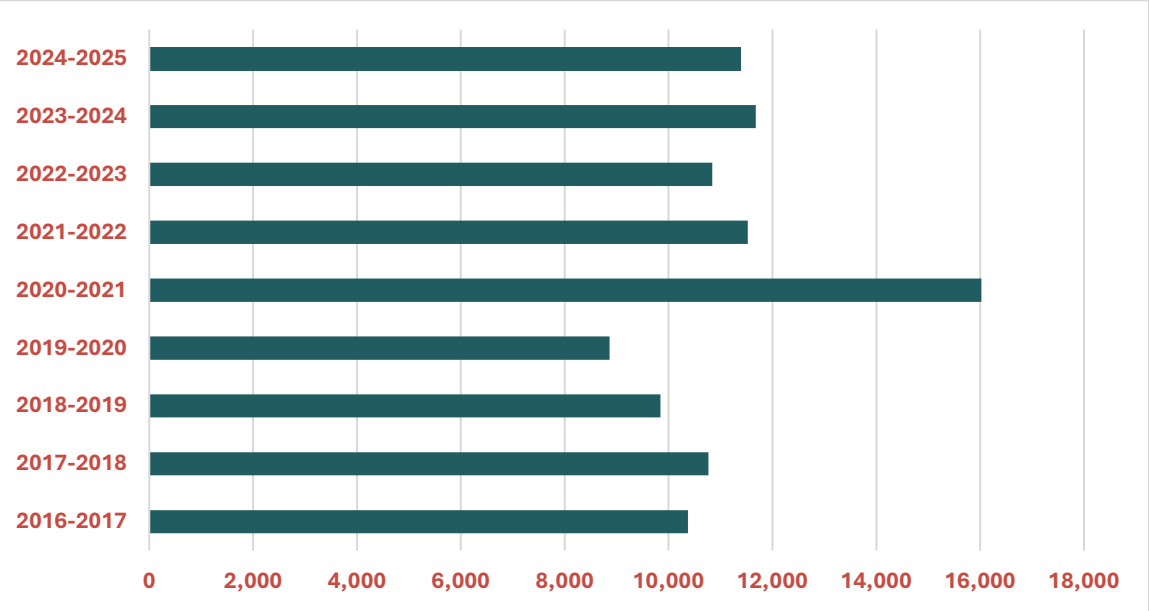
You may read about home schooling on the NMPED websites:

- **Home Schooling | New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED)**
- **Home Schooling FAQs | New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED)**

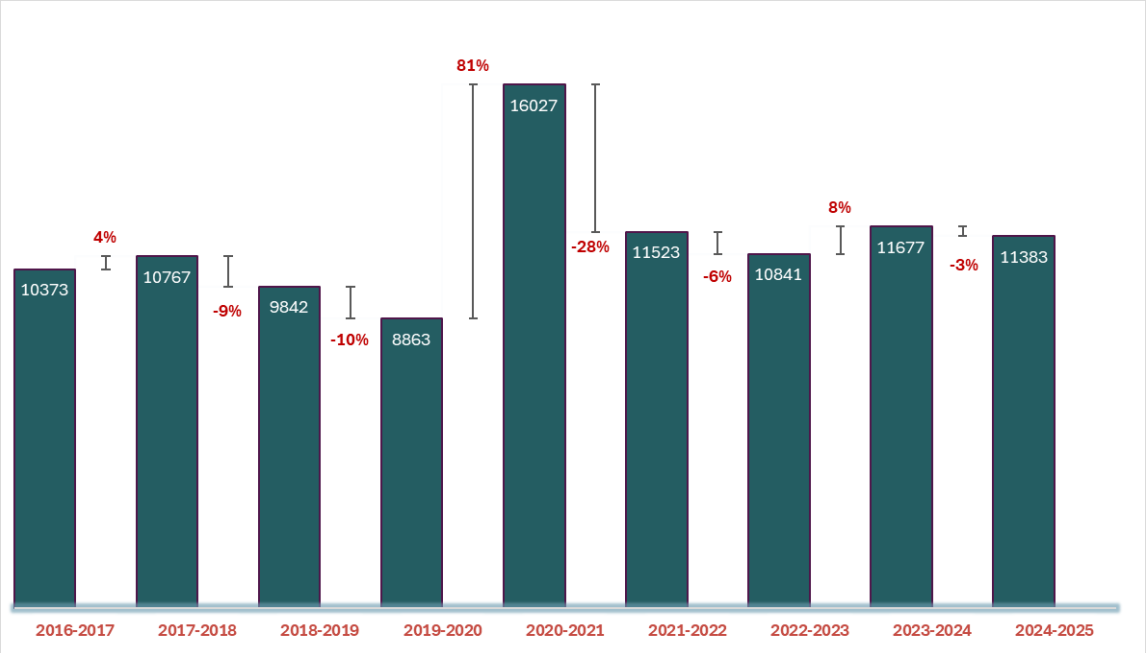
[1] Homeschool Hub - JHU Institute for Education Policy

HOME SCHOOL DATA

Total Number of Home School Students Per Year



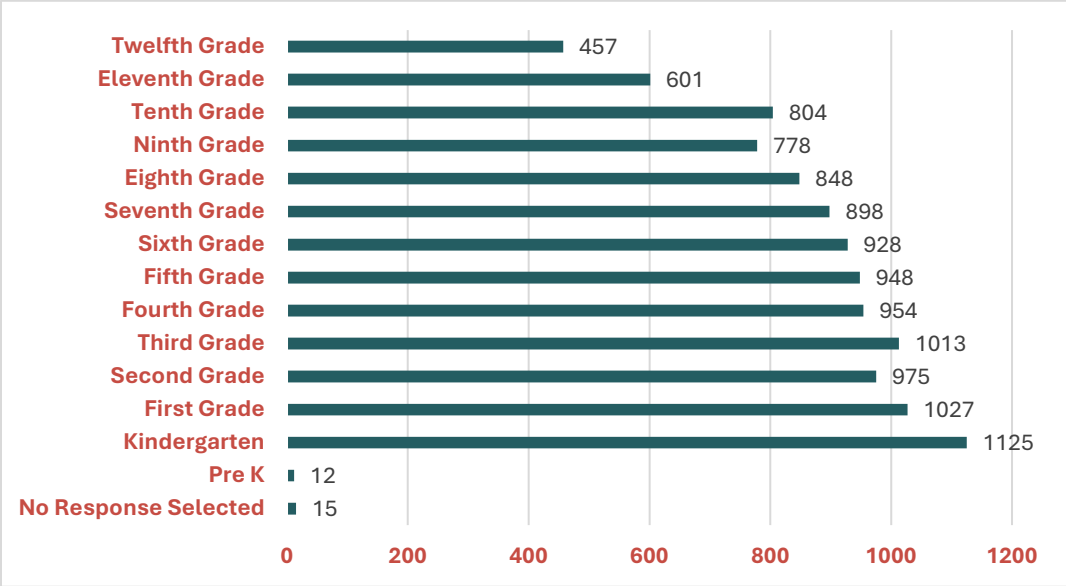
Percent Change from Year-to-Year



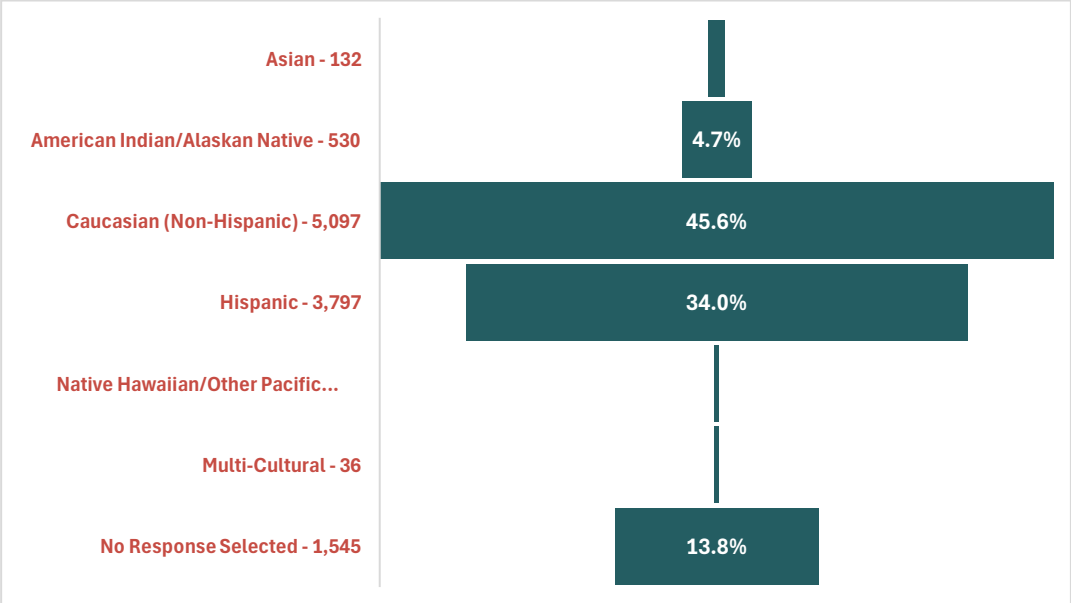
Number of Home School Households in 2024-2025

6,564 households notified the NMPED of their intent to homeschool in the 2024-2025 school year.

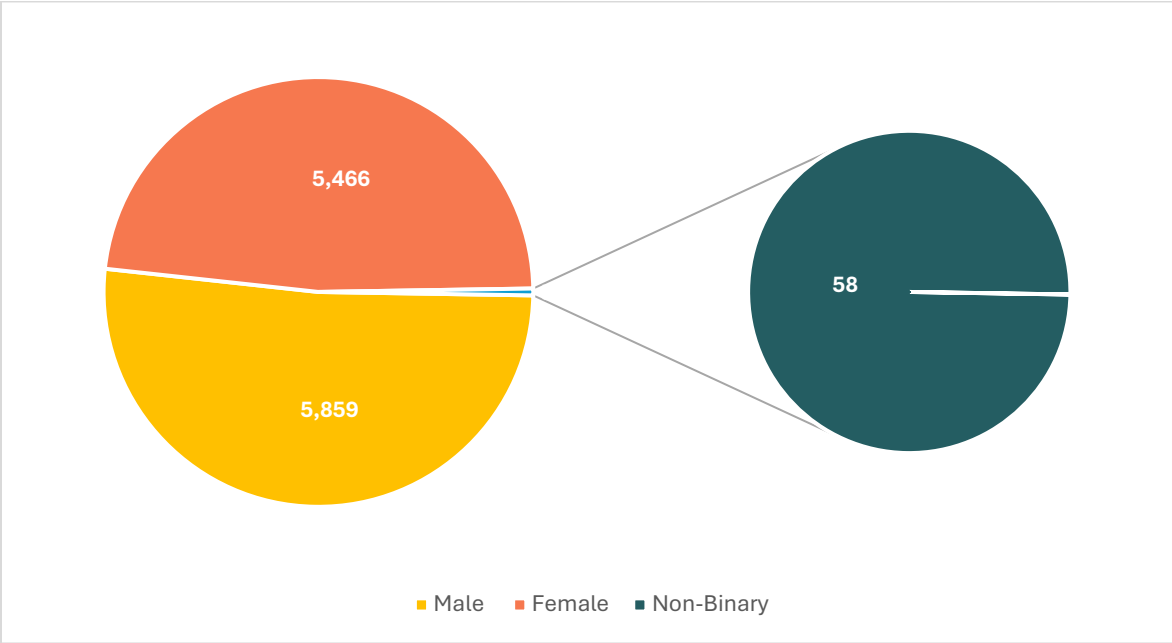
Number of Home School Students by Grade Level



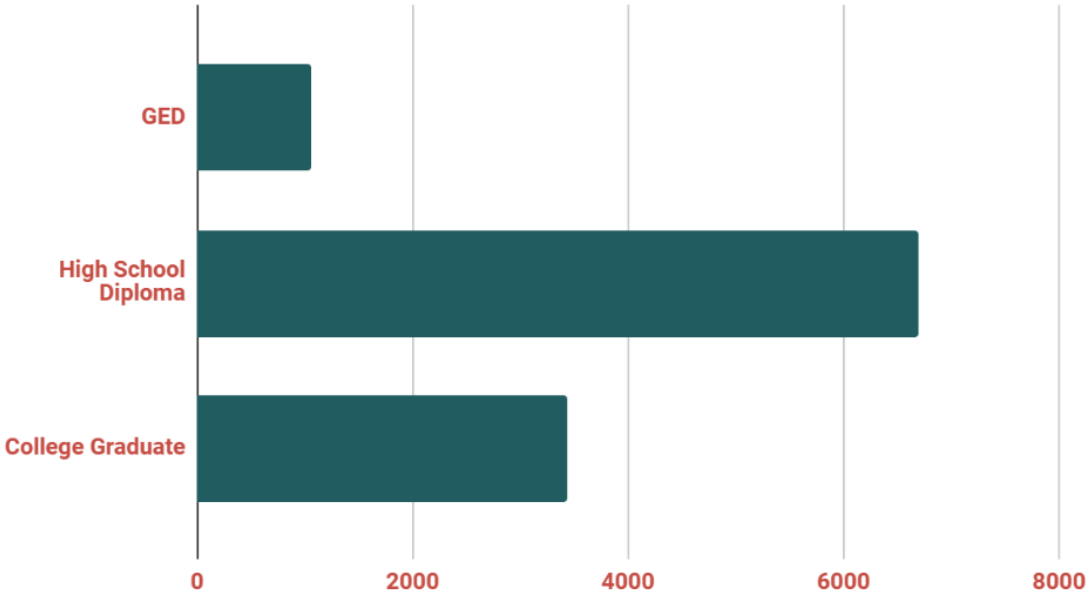
Home School Students by Race and Ethnicity



Home School Students by Gender



Education Levels of Home School Instructors



Home School Students by District 2024-2025

School District	Students	School District	Students	School District	Students
Alamogordo Public	524	Floyd Municipal	masked	Mountainair Public	18
Albuquerque Public	2691	Fort Sumner Municipal	masked	Pecos Independent	27
Animas Public	15	Gadsden Independent	143	Peñasco Independent	14
Artesia Public	148	Gallup-McKinley County	127	Pojoaque Valley Public	126
Aztec Municipal	226	Grady Municipal	masked	Portales Municipal	96
Belen Consolidated	215	Grants/Cibola County	81	Quemado Independent	57
Bernalillo Public	211	Hagerman Municipal	17	Questa Independent	25
Bloomfield	96	Hatch Valley Public	29	Raton Public	51
Capitan Municipal	45	Hobbs Municipal	246	Reserve Independent	22
Carlsbad Municipal	252	Hondo Valley Public	11	Rio Rancho Public	977
Carrizozo Municipal	11	House Municipal	masked	Roswell Independent	405
Central Consolidated	106	Jal Public	20	Roy Municipal	masked
Chama Valley Ind.	12	Jemez Mountain Public	16	Ruidoso Municipal	101
Cimarron Municipal	34	Jemez Valley Public	24	San Jon Municipal	masked
Clayton Municipal	21	Lake Arthur Municipal	masked	Santa Fe Public	314
Cloudcroft Municipal	72	Las Cruces Public	807	Santa Rosa Consolidated	23
Clovis Municipal	335	Las Vegas City Public	96	Silver Consolidated	119
Cobre Consolidated	35	Logan Municipal	masked	Socorro Consolidated	55
Corona Public	masked	Lordsburg Municipal	14	Springer Municipal	masked
Cuba Independent	13	Los Alamos Public	217	Taos Municipal	148
Deming Public	111	Los Lunas Public	452	Tatum Municipal	15
Des Moines Municipal	masked	Loving Municipal	masked	Texico Municipal	12
Dexter Consolidated	21	Lovington Municipal	68	Truth or Consequences	48
Dora Consolidated	masked	Magdalena Municipal	masked	Tucumcari Public	31
Dulce Independent	masked	Maxwell Municipal	masked	Tularosa Municipal	51
Elida Municipal	masked	Melrose Municipal	18	Vaughn Municipal	0
Espanola Public	90	Mesa Vista Consolidated	14	Wagon Mound Public	masked
Estancia Municipal	43	Mora Independent	48	West Las Vegas Public	45
Eunice Public	masked	Moriarty-Edgewood	368	Zuni Public	masked
Farmington Municipal	402	Mosquero Municipal	masked		