

Members of the Home Education Advisory Council,

I am Michelle Levell, director of Granite State Home Educators, a statewide nonprofit serving 16,000 members who choose home education.

While some of our members have become EFA families who still choose to homeschool, we have stressed that this is by statute a separate educational pathway, with its own requirements. In particular, a family that switches to the EFA must terminate their home education status.

Our use of the word “terminate” was noted with concern at HEAC’s September meeting, but this term comes directly from both relevant statutes: RSA 193-A for home education and RSA 194-F for EFAs. When families accept an EFA contract, they switch pathways under NH's compulsory attendance law regardless of how the funds are used.

Ultimately, the distinction between independent home ed and the EFA serves several important functions:

- It protects families who choose not to participate in the EFA
- It preserves home education as an option should EFA requirements change
- It maintains home education as an immediate alternative for students needing to leave traditional schools

Regarding online programs: Their classification depends on two elements: state approval status and the child’s educational pathway. For example, Stanford's Online High School, though accredited, was considered home education when my son attended, as it wasn't approved as a nonpublic school in California. Today, such programs may fall under different pathways depending on the child’s status as a 193-A or 194-F student.

While "homeschooling" has become a generic term for parent-directed education, maintaining clear distinctions between pathways isn't adversarial – it's essential for helping families make informed choices and to protect independent home education.

Thank you.