

## SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**SENATOR JOHN R. KUHL, JR.**  
**CHAIRMAN**



**ROOM 946-A**  
**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING**  
**ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247**  
**(518) 455-2631**  
**FAX (518) 426-6919**

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Commissioner Richard Mills  
State Education Department  
Education Building  
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner Mills:

I have had a number of discussions with homeschooling organizations recently which have led me to believe that some modifications should be made to homeschooling regulations in New York State. The Commissioner's regulations governing home instruction were established July 1, 1988, with the addition of the new section 100.10. Since that time, homeschooling regulations have not been changed, nor has the issue been revisited. I would like to discuss these regulations further with you.

Modifying the regulations on homeschooling has the potential to reduce administrative burdens for the homeschooling family, the local school district, and the State Education Department. I believe that there are a number of regulatory sections that could be reformed:

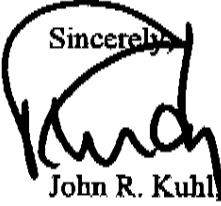
- **CR 100.10, (g)** requires homeschooling parents to file quarterly reports with the local school district. These quarterly reports could be eliminated, as they are not used to measure academic progress, and are an administrative burden for both local school districts and homeschooling families.
- **CR 100.10, (b), (c), (d), (e)** require homeschooling parents to provide both an initial notice of intent to homeschool and an Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP) to the local school district. This "double notice" requirement should be eliminated. These sections of the regulations also require detailed curriculum information to be provided to the district. Providing curriculum information is not necessary, because the regulations prescribe what courses must be taught at each grade level.
- **CR 100.10, (h), (2)** permits the homeschooling parent to utilize an alternative evaluation for annual assessment for grades one through three, and only every other school year for grades four through eight. Homeschooling parents should be permitted to utilize the alternative form of evaluation as the annual assessment at every grade level.

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- **CR 100.10, (h)** mandates the submission of annual evaluation results to the local school superintendent. This requirement should be eliminated. Homeschooling parents can take remedial action if the evaluation indicates the student's progress is not adequate.
- **CR 100.10, (h), (1), (ii), (c) & (d), and CR 100.10, (h), (2), (iii)** mandate that the local superintendent must consent to the person conducting the annual evaluation. This requirement should be eliminated. If the test administrator is deemed qualified according to the test publisher, no additional assessment of that person's qualifications is necessary. For alternative evaluation methods, the teaching parent is qualified to prepare the report of the student's progress.

I would be interested to hear your response to these recommendations. The homeschooling organizations who have contacted me would like to participate in any regulatory reform that results from these discussions.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,  
  
John R. Kuhl, Jr.  
Senator

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