



## North Carolina Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Gwynn T. Swinson, Secretary

Division of Non-Public Education  
Rod Helder, Director

June 14, 2001

Dear Distance Learning Program Administrator:

This division is the branch of state government which monitors home school compliance to state laws. All North Carolina parents with children, who are at least age 7 but not yet age 16 (age 18 **IF** the student wishes to obtain or retain a NC learners permit/drivers license), which are living at home but not enrolled in a local conventional school are required to register a North Carolina home school with this office. The "Home School Legal Requirements" listed under that title at our web site must be met by the parent. You will note that the parent must hold at least a high school diploma or its equivalent. Parents are free to participate in distance learning programs such as yours as long as their North Carolina home school meets our North Carolina in-state home school legal requirements. As you can see from our web site, those requirements are rather minimal and quite reasonable. Each home school meeting these requirements is legally considered a non-public school.

In July 1998, the State of North Carolina instituted a new law mandating that every person under age 18 wishing to obtain a North Carolina learners permit/drivers license had to obtain from the North Carolina school in which he/she is currently enrolled an official North Carolina Driving Eligibility Certificate. This law was then later revised effective July, 2000. Its current details are given at our web site under the title "Student Driving Eligibility Certificate Requirements." A North Carolina home school parent may obtain one only from this division as long as the North Carolina home school is registered with the division and is currently meeting the state legal requirements for the operation of such a school.

There is a mandatory six month waiting period commencing with the date the North Carolina home school is initially registered with this division. Once that waiting period has been satisfied, the parent may then obtain a DEC form for the student. This waiting period often results in quite a bit of parent and student frustration in attempting to obtain the DEC form if the school is not registered with this division.

Since you were probably unaware of this state requirement, we are sharing this information so that you can alert all of your present and all future North Carolina clients with children **under age 18** of the need to register with this division immediately. We suggest that you simply forward a copy of this letter to any future clients from North Carolina.

If you have any questions about these state laws, please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod Helder".

Rod Helder  
Director

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