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## Assurance of Educational Legal Rights

Only complete this form if:

1. A sole parent/guardian with educational decision making rights is enrolling a student **or**
2. The student surname is different from either or both of the parents'/guardians' surnames.

\* This form only needs to be signed once per child unless family circumstances change. If you have signed this form previously and family circumstances have not changed, you are not required to sign it and submit it in your enrollment packet. If your family dynamics have changed within the past year, then this form **will** need to be signed and submitted.

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

On your enrollment form, the Vermont Agency of Education's (VTAOE) Home Study Program staff must be able to determine who is legally responsible for your student's education. It is sometimes difficult to determine this if there is a signature of a single parent/guardian or if the signature(s) of parents/guardians has a different surname as the child on the enrollment form. Title 16 V.S.A. § 166b (a) (7) requires that the signatures of all custodial parents or guardians who are legally authorized to make educational decisions for the student are identified on the enrollment form.

A student in the physical custody of a parent/guardian does not necessarily mean that the parent/guardian is also legally authorized to make educational decisions. For example, in situations where parents/guardians are divorced or separated, both parents/guardians remain responsible for making educational decisions unless a legal document (parental rights and responsibilities order, divorce decree, parentage order, etc.) designates one parent/guardian solely or primarily responsible for educational decisions. Another example would include a student who is in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and living with a foster family. The foster family does not have the authority to make educational decisions and thus could not enroll a student in a Home Study Program.

To ensure that the parents/guardians who are legally authorized to make educational decisions are enrolling their children in a Home Study Program, parents/guardians need to sign the next page.

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Please fill out the form and return it to the Home Study Office at the Agency of Education. Also, please remember to sign one form for each student.

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Please verify with your signature that the individual listed above include all who are authorized to make educational decisions for the student. By signing I certify that the information given on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

For questions please contact the Home Study Office.

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