



Friday Forum

March 1, 2024

- New Hampshire ranks [first in the nation](#) for the percentage of **Advanced Placement exams** taken by public school students in the Class of 2023 who scored in mid to top tiers. About 71 percent of the state's recent graduates who participated in an AP exam earned either a three, four or five on at least one exam, which equates to 2,425 students earning average or high scores.
- Calling all high school students interested in a career in the skilled trades! NHED and **College Guidance Network** have partnered to bring Steve Turner, founder of Bring Back the Trades, to a webinar and Q/A at 7:30 p.m. on March 7. Attendees will hear about scholarship opportunities for career and technical education after high school, the most in-demand skills and more. [Register here](#).
- UNH College of Professional Studies works closely with school districts statewide and NHED to support current and aspiring teachers with a range of degree and certificate programs. Its [Professional Development Units](#) support teachers currently working on **Site-Based Licensing Plans** or those seeking professional development. Scholarship opportunities are available in each content area, including special education, early childhood special education, mathematics (middle and upper levels), reading and writing specialist and teacher and emotional and behavioral disabilities.
- Derry Public Schools are hosting a [Group Data Conversation](#) for school and district administrators to explore school level reports in order to identify trends. It is also designed to engage in collaborative conversations around how schools are using **data to measure student growth** in Tier 1, 2, and 3. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on March 21 at West Running Brook Middle School in Derry.
- NHED and **321 Insight** are hosting three, in-person [learning opportunities](#) at no cost to educators. These interactive workshops will look at best practices for addressing challenging student behavior. In addition, a [series](#) of virtual learning opportunities to support SEL and skill building will take place at 3:30 p.m. on March 7, 14 and 21.
- [Doodle for Google](#) is an annual contest where students in grades K-12 are invited to express their creativity by drawing their very own **Google Doodle** in response to a prompt. The winning Doodle will be displayed on the Google homepage for 24 hours and be awarded a college scholarship. Contest submissions run until March 14.

- The NH Department of Energy has opened a [solicitation](#) for written public comment on its [School Energy Efficiency Development \(SEED\) Grant Program](#). This federally funded competitive grant program offers a one-time grant to a public school for **energy efficiency** projects. Feedback from public schools, energy companies and the public is being sought on ways to improve the program. Written comments should be submitted by March 19, though comments will be accepted after that date.
- A free professional development session for high school teachers is available. The **Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute** is offering a PD opportunity for training in Bio-Trek – a free, project-based learning program about regenerative medicine for teachers to implement with high school students. Attendance includes a stipend and certificate for 20 contact hours. Two sessions are available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 24-27 and July 8-11. [Register here](#).
- NHED is sponsoring a **research project on student wellbeing and play** in public elementary schools with child development researchers in the Boston College School of Social Work. The aim of the research project is to implement and evaluate two no-cost, school-based programs, [Let Grow](#) and [Play Club](#), during the 2023-2024 academic year. The research team is also available to measure student social, emotional and cognitive development. If you are interested in learning more you may complete this [Interest Form](#), or email Dr. Jessica Black, principal investigator, at blackjp@bc.edu, or Dr. Maggie Van Camp, associate researcher, at vancampm@bc.edu to set up a meeting to discuss the project and what it would mean for your school to participate.
- The Racial Unity Team in New Hampshire is hosting an [Art & Poetry Challenge](#) for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as a separate adult category. The deadline for **art and poetry** submissions is Aug. 31 and winners will be announced in October.

Resources for Educators

- Educators across New Hampshire are exploring how to leverage **Discovery Education Experience** resources to support literacy. [Contact Nancy Rose](#) to find out more.
- **Tutor.com** offers 24/7 [online tutoring](#), essay drop-off and test prep services for all New Hampshire students in grades 4-12, as well as adult education learners at no cost.
- **Graduation Alliance** provides 1-1 mentoring for students in need of an extra layer of support to boost school engagement and academic success. Call 603-758-3259 to get set up.

To have information included in future editions of the Friday Forum, email Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov