State of New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Telephone (603) 271-2121
www.nh.gov/governor
governorlynch@nh.gov

JOHN H. LYNCH
Governor

April 10, 2009

Dear Friends,

Since becoming Governor of New Hampshire, I have made it a top priority to help every young person graduate from high school, including working to pass legislation to increase the compulsory attendance age and expanding alternative education programs for at-risk students. With the assistance of a grant from America's Promise, we are able to continue our work to bring together people from across New Hampshire to identify the next steps in our efforts to help every young person graduate from high school.

This summit is one of a hundred such events sponsored by America's Promise nationwide in which local leaders are developing workable solutions to prepare our youth for college, work and life, starting with a high school diploma.

New Hampshire data shows that the State has reduced its four-year dropout rate from 15.1 percent to 11.5 percent from 2002 through last school year, 2007-2008. We believe that the implementation on July 1, 2009 of landmark state legislation moving the compulsory age of public education from 16 to 18 will further reduce the number of dropouts. Consistent with the intent of this legislation, the state Board of Education has set a goal of zero dropouts for the state by 2012. To accomplish this, we need your help. We need your thoughts and ideas as part of a bipartisan and diverse group of New Hampshire citizens dedicated to solving this problem. Your efforts underscore the shared responsibility of everyone to assist the youth of New Hampshire in reaching their full potential.

It is my goal that today's Second Governor's Summit on Graduation increases stakeholder awareness, encourages collaboration and facilitates action as we work together to increase the graduation rates of New Hampshire's children.

Sincerely,

John H. Lynch
Governor