

Let me be Frank with you

In the past couple months, we as a department saw some remarkable developments in education in the Granite State.

The nation's first cyber robotics coding competition in Derry, hosted with the partnership of the ISCEF Foundation, sponsors Intelitek, Oracle Academy and NBT Bank, saw 2,600 students getting a chance to thrive and have fun as they brought their twenty-first century skills of coding and working as a team out of the classroom and into practice. In this competition, we virtualized the robotics and the students, competing in teams of two, navigated them through fifty increasingly difficult challenges. The students that completed the most challenges were invited to participate in the championship at Pinkerton Academy. They made new friends, met other students across the state with similar passions, and took part in friendly competition in a supportive atmosphere, all while solving problems and developing technical skill that will carry them forward into their educational journey – an opportunity I commit to expanding to see one million students participate in within the next five years.

As important as that competition was for students and their families, equally important is that New Hampshire's plan to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act received the official stamp of approval by the federal government. This was a major organizational undertaking and combined effort with many people on the field who participated on the Accountability Taskforce. Everyone put considerable time into achieving the success of this plan, which shifts the educational focus of our state to student growth and increasing options for students both in the personalization of learning and in career readiness. Thanks to all who worked so diligently to make it a reality.

I look forward to continuing to seek these and other new opportunities with you as we reimagine public education in a way that is centered on the success of our students and families.

Frank Edelblut

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Commissioner

Inside the Department

Health Profile Questionnaires

The New Hampshire Department of Education is working with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) to conduct the 2018 CDC- DASH School Health Profile (SHP) questionnaires for schools with grades 6-12. The School Health Profiles (Profiles) assist state and local education and health agencies in monitoring and assessing characteristics of school health

Meet the Superintendents

The New Hampshire School Administrators Association, in coordination with the American Association of School Administrators, has announced that **Dr. James Morse is the New Hampshire Superintendent**

education and school health policies related to HIV infection/AIDS, tobacco-use prevention, and nutrition; asthma management activities; and family and community involvement in school health programs. Data from Profiles can be used to improve school health programs. Two questionnaires will need to be completed by each school with grades 6-12 **no later than Friday, March 2nd:**

1. 2017-2018 School Health Profile Lead Health Education Teacher - to be completed by the Lead Health Educator and
2. 2017-2018 School Health Profile Principal – to be completed by the Principal

The questionnaires will be available in MyNHDOE – Education Statistics System **starting on Monday, February 12th** at <https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>.

If you have issues logging in please contact your i4see contact at the following link; <http://my.doe.nh.gov/Profiles/PublicReports/PublicReports.aspx?ReportName=i4seeContacts>.

Contact: Joe Pipinias, 603) 271-4862, Joe.Pipinias@doe.nh.gov

Public School Infrastructure Fund

\$18.7 million came available January 1st. The Governor approved all of the applications recommended by the Commission (over \$10 million to more than 50 different SAUs) and the fiscal committee approved his request on January 19th. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 12th and there is just a little over \$5 million left. For consideration, you must have your applications submitted by **noon on March 5, 2018**. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/program/school_approval/infrastructure-fund.htm.

Contact: Amy C. Clark, (603) 271–2037, Amy.C.Clark@doe.nh.gov

Highlights

NH Teacher of the Year Nominations

Superintendents, principals, teachers, school staff members, teacher organizations, parents, and others interested in New Hampshire schools are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher by submitting their request to the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) by February 16, 2018. A Teacher of the Year candidate should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled person from any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who demonstrates leadership and intends to continue in the teaching profession. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is capable of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession. The NH Teacher of the Year serves as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning. Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools. Teacher of the Year nomination applications can be downloaded from the DOE Web site at

of the Year for 2018. Dr. Morse, Superintendent of Schools for the Oyster River Cooperative School District (SAU #05), will receive a special award during the AASA National Conference on Education in Nashville, TN, in February 2018. James was selected for this honor by a panel of his peers and from a distinguished group of nominees.

James' educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Education degree, both from University of Maine, and a Doctorate in Education from Sarasota University. James started his administrative career in RSU 3 in Unity, Maine, as an elementary principal. He was hired by Limestone Public Schools as the middle/high school principal and was later appointed as superintendent of Limestone schools. James served as superintendent for RSU 18 in Oakland, Maine, for 12 years before becoming superintendent in Portland, Maine. He then joined the Oyster River Cooperative School District, where he has been superintendent since 2012.

James currently is an Executive Board member of New Hampshire School Administrators Association, serves on the Executive Board of Strafford Learning Center, is the Seacoast Superintendent's Association treasurer, and has previously served on the executive board of Maine Superintendent's Association as well as the NESDEC Executive Board. James is also currently part of the

www.education.nh.gov/recognition/toy.htm. Nominees must submit their applications to the NH DOE by March 16, 2018. All nominees who submit the required information will be honored at a ceremony in April.

Contact: Lori Kincaid, (603) 271-6646, Lori.Kincaid@doe.nh.gov

Concurrent or Dual Enrollment

We are happy to announce that new legislation was introduced this past summer that will allow New Hampshire 11th and 12th grade high school students to take up to two concurrent or dual enrollment STEM or STEM related designated courses each academic year free of charge. This legislation requires that the school board of each school district, no later than July 1, 2018, develop and adopt a policy permitting students residing in the district who are in grade 11 or 12 to participate in the dual and concurrent enrollment program. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Doiron, *Director of College Access and DOE Programs and Initiatives* at CCSNH who will be managing the roll out of this scholarship by emailing bdoiron@ccsnh.edu or by calling (603) 230-3530.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

All RFPs can be found at www.education.nh.gov/rfp

DOE Website Redesign Phase I

The State of New Hampshire, acting through the NH Department of Education (NH DOE), is releasing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to improve the overall look and feel of the NH DOE website that focuses on user-experience and reflects the NH DOE's aspirations for student education in NH. The purpose of this RFP is to obtain a vendor that will design a website that focuses on user-experience to meet the needs of NH families, students, educators, schools, businesses and other community members based on the student experience, system structure and stakeholder ecosystems in NH resulting in a clean, minimalist design that is visually appealing, intuitive and interactive. Deadline for proposals is February 22, 2018.

Contact: Lori Kincaid, (603) 271-6646, Lori.Kincaid@doe.nh.gov

Oyster River Cooperative School District Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and has previously held positions on various public committees.

James grew up in poverty and was a high school dropout. He believes public education and the public university system placed him on the road to the success he has achieved in his life. His three children, James, Jr., Kimberly, and Ian, brought meaning and love to his life. He is forever grateful for the support he has received over his career from dedicated and caring public school teachers with whom he's worked.

Dr. Carl Ladd, executive director of the New Hampshire School Administrators Association noted, "Jim is an outstanding role model of the many school superintendents in our state who work every day in support of public education. He is a tireless advocate for students and their families and is a true Champion for Children."

Special Recognition

Special recognition to Tim Carney who is the new Administrator of the Bureau of Educational Statistics and Sandie MacDonald who is the new Administrator of the Bureau of Federal Compliance.

**Welcome aboard, Tim!
Congratulations, Sandie!**

We hope you found this edition of the NH DOE Messages informative and useful. If you have feedback or questions, please send an e-mail to bianca.garcia@doe.nh.gov. If you received this e-mail from a colleague and want to subscribe to receive this newsletter directly, please go to <http://maillist.nh.gov/list/doe/?p=subscribe&id=7>