



New Hampshire

# Department of Education

## Testimony to the Senate Education and Workforce Committee- HB 1454

Senator Kahn and Members of the Senate Education and Workforce Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the proposed amendment to HB 1454. As the text of this amendment is identical to SB 514, my testimony will be the same.

For the past two decades, New Hampshire has shifted its educational system to reward competency. Under Democratic Governors and Republican Governors, under Democratic Legislatures and Republican Legislatures, we've agreed on a fundamental principle: students who demonstrate proficiency in a subject should be rewarded.

When a student does the work and learns the material, she gets the credit.

Since 2005, the State Board of Education has been working to expand academic opportunities outside the classroom. Rule 306.04(k)(6) reads:

The Board's Vision Statement, adopted in 2011, promises "to harness community resources and technology to provide a world class, personalized, student-centered education in a flexible, innovative learning environment that promotes engagement to maximize the potential of every student."

**"HARNESS ALL AVAILABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, TALENTED INDIVIDUALS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY, TO ENGAGE EACH STUDENT"**

World-class. Personalized. Student-centered.

Flexible. Innovative. Engagement.

These are the goals we've agreed upon. Since 2011, one of the tools we've created to reach those goals is the Extended Learning Opportunity.



June 10, 2020

There is a broad consensus that ELOs are a great opportunity to expand learning beyond the classroom, and to give New Hampshire students valuable hands-on learning that can lead to great careers.

In a 2011 report on four pilot ELO programs, one key finding was that ELOs are particularly well-suited for students who are “struggling academically and/or at risk of dropping out.” Another is that ELOs substantially close the achievement gap between underserved students and the rest of the student body.

Yet for all the praise we hear from ELOs, we have been tragically slow in offering them.

Statewide, just 3 percent of our eligible students have taken advantage of ELOs and Work-Based Learning programs. And just 2 percent earned academic credit. Our communities are offering invaluable education resources to our students, and we are squandering them.

|  | <b>Student Count</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Number of ELO's</b>                           | 1,761                | 3%             |
| <b>Total Number of ELO's for Credit</b>                | 1,002                | 2%             |
| <b>Total Theoretical Number of ELO Opportunities</b>   | 268,44               | 1%             |
|  |                      |                |
| <b>Highest number of ELO's - Pinkerton</b>             | 634                  | 20%            |
| <b>Highest Number of ELO's for credit - Pinkerton</b>  | 598                  | 19%            |
|  |                      |                |
| <b>Highest Per-Student ELO's - Hinsdale</b>            | 42                   | 28%            |
| <b>Highest Per-Student ELO's for credit - Hinsdale</b> | 42                   | 21%            |
|  |                      |                |
| <b>Number of students with NO ELO Opportunity</b>      | 16,770               | 31%            |
| <b>Number of students with &lt;10% ELO Opportunity</b> | 39,938               | 74%            |

In 2018, the Legislature tasked the Department of Education with expanding ELOs to more our students, directing us to develop “alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation.” From that directive, we created Learn Everywhere.

Learn Everywhere is the next step in New Hampshire's progress to a world-class, personalized, student-centered education. It is consistent with the principle that academic credit is based on competency. If a student does the work and learns the material, they get the credit.

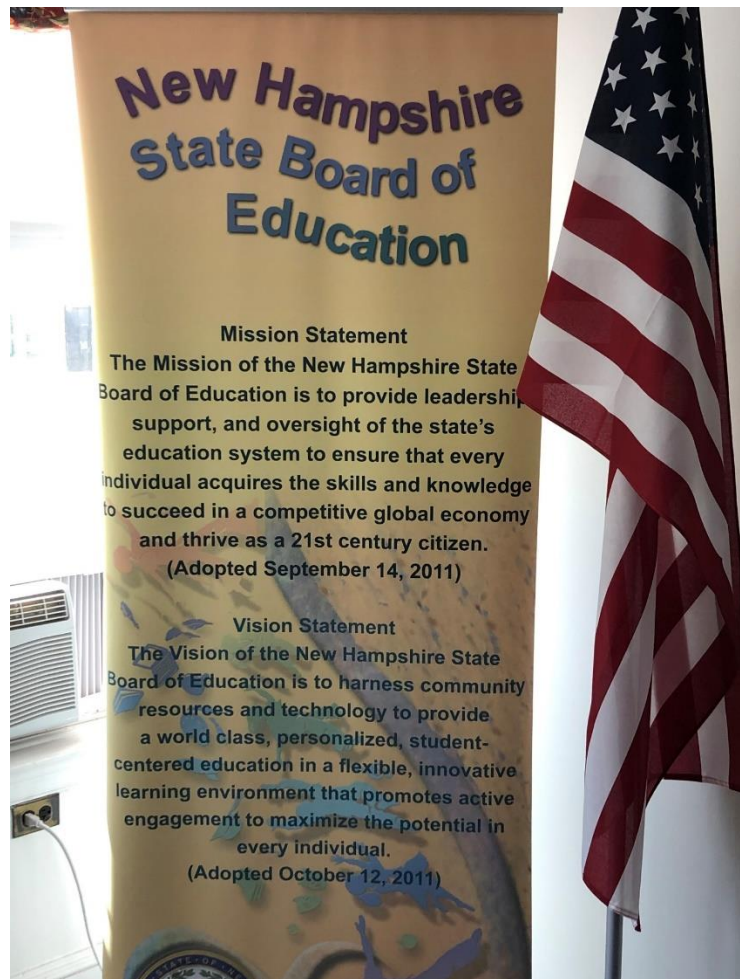
Nothing in Learn Everywhere changes the role of local school boards, who maintain the authority to set criteria for graduation. Under our longstanding rules and under Learn Everywhere, if a student can demonstrate proficiency, no matter how or where that proficiency was gained, that student has earned academic credit toward graduation.

Learn Everywhere would allow the State Board of Education to certify community-based and work-based learning programs. This would provide an alternative path for programs that wish to draw students from across school district boundaries. Currently, these lines make it much harder for groups interested in offering ELOs to get up and running. This has been the major bottleneck preventing the expansion of ELOs to more students.

Currently, we have large school districts without **ANY** Extended Learning Opportunities. These students are being denied the opportunity to learn outside the classroom, and to demonstrate academic proficiency.

SB 514 would repeal this alternative path. Rather than provide a new opportunity for courses outside the classroom, it would install the State Board of Education as an addition step in the approval process. This would reverse the bipartisan consensus we've had on expanding community-based educational opportunities.

Let me reiterate that nothing in ELOs, Work-Based Learning, or Learn Everywhere reduces the authority of local school boards to set their school's standards for graduation. Learn Everywhere expands opportunities for students to meet those standards. It provides a path to proficiency.



SB 514 would close down that path, narrowing options for New Hampshire students.

The recent shift to remote instruction in our schools has reinforced two important lessons for me.

- 1) Children are always learning. We have to decide how to support them, and guide what they are learning.
- 2) Each child learns differently, so we must embrace many instructional models in order to reach every student.

Learn Everywhere is an attempt to provide that world-class, personalized, student-centered education we've all agreed to provide. It is flexible. It is innovative. It increases engagement between students, schools, and the community. I urge this committee to oppose SB 514 and support the opportunity for students to learn everywhere.

Submitted,



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education

| School                                      | * WBL - External Partner | No Credit  | Credit       | Total        | Enrolment     | Percent   |
|---|--------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Total</b>                                |                          | <b>759</b> | <b>1,002</b> | <b>1,761</b> | <b>53,689</b> | <b>3%</b> |
| Alvirne High School                         |                          | -          | -            | -            | 1143          | 0%        |
| Bedford High School                         | WBL - External Partner   | -          | 8            | 8            | 1525          | 1%        |
| Belmont High School                         | WBL - External Partner   | 94         | 4            | 98           | 391           | 25%       |
| Berlin Senior High School                   | WBL - External Partner   | 21         | -            | 21           | 383           | 5%        |
| Bow High School                             | WBL - External Partner   | 5          | 5            | 10           | 654           | 2%        |
| Campbell High School                        |                          | -          | -            | -            | 433           | 0%        |
| Coe-Brown Northwood Academy                 |                          | -          | -            | -            | 693           | 0%        |
| Colebrook Academy and Elementary School (H) |                          | -          | -            | -            | 106           | 0%        |
| Conant High School                          | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 379           | 0%        |
| Concord High School                         | WBL - External Partner   | 41         | 25           | 66           | 1594          | 4%        |
| Conval Regional High School                 | WBL - External Partner   | 17         | 17           | 34           | 711           | 5%        |
| Dover Senior High School                    | WBL - External Partner   | 37         | -            | 37           | 1400          | 3%        |
| Epping High School                          | WBL - External Partner   | 3          | 2            | 5            | 274           | 2%        |
| Exeter High School                          | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 1658          | 0%        |
| Fall Mountain Regional High School          | WBL - External Partner   | -          | 4            | 4            | 486           | 1%        |
| Farmington Senior High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 267           | 0%        |
| Franklin High School                        | WBL - External Partner   | 2          | -            | 2            | 294           | 1%        |
| Gilford High School                         |                          | -          | -            | -            | 475           | 0%        |
| Goffstown High School                       |                          | -          | -            | -            | 1124          | 0%        |
| Gorham High School                          | WBL - External Partner   | 7          | 5            | 12           | 135           | 9%        |
| Groveton                                    | *                        | -          | -            | -            | 125           | 0%        |
| Hanover High School                         |                          | -          | -            | -            | 749           | 0%        |
| Hillsboro-Deering High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 13         | 2            | 15           | 348           | 4%        |
| Hinsdale High School                        | WBL - External Partner   | 10         | 32           | 42           | 152           | 28%       |
| Hollis-Brookline High School                | WBL - External Partner   | 3          | -            | 3            | 857           | 0%        |
| Hopkinton High School                       | WBL - External Partner   | 28         | 23           | 51           | 308           | 17%       |
| Inter-Lakes High School                     | WBL - External Partner   | -          | 1            | 1            | 325           | 0%        |
| John Stark Regional High School             | WBL - External Partner   | 12         | 1            | 13           | 643           | 2%        |
| Kearsarge Regional High School              | WBL - External Partner   | 10         | 2            | 12           | 512           | 2%        |
| Keene                                       | *                        | -          | -            | -            | 1388          | 0%        |
| Kennett High School                         | WBL - External Partner   | 9          | 14           | 23           | 744           | 3%        |
| Kingswood Regional High School              | WBL - External Partner   | 3          | -            | 3            | 749           | 0%        |
| Laconia High School                         | WBL - External Partner   | 6          | 20           | 26           | 549           | 5%        |
| Lebanon High School                         |                          | -          | -            | -            | 583           | 0%        |
| Lin-Wood Public School (High)               |                          | -          | -            | -            | 75            | 0%        |
| Lisbon Regional School (High)               | WBL - External Partner   | 6          | 3            | 9            | 117           | 8%        |
| Littleton High School                       | WBL - External Partner   | 40         | -            | 40           | 213           | 19%       |
| Londonderry Senior High School              |                          | -          | -            | -            | 1444          | 0%        |
| Manchester                                  | *                        | -          | -            | -            | 3585          | 0%        |
| Mascenic Regional High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 3          | -            | 3            | 329           | 1%        |
| Mascoma Valley Regional High School         | WBL - External Partner   | 10         | -            | 10           | 321           | 3%        |
| Merrimack High School                       | *                        | -          | -            | -            | 1206          | 0%        |
| Merrimack Valley High School                | WBL - External Partner   | 16         | 17           | 33           | 819           | 4%        |
| Milford                                     | *                        | -          | -            | -            | 809           | 0%        |
| Monadnock Regional High School              | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 483           | 0%        |
| Moultonborough Academy                      | WBL - External Partner   | -          | 13           | 13           | 158           | 8%        |
| Nashua High School North                    | WBL - External Partner   | 3          | 1            | 4            | 1700          | 0%        |
| Nashua High School South                    |                          | -          | -            | -            | 1847          | 0%        |
| Newfound Regional High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 2          | -            | 2            | 385           | 1%        |
| Newmarket Jr.-Sr. High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 18         | 6            | 24           | 291           | 8%        |
| Nute High School                            | WBL - External Partner   | 7          | -            | 7            | 153           | 5%        |
| Oyster River High School                    | WBL - External Partner   | 6          | 10           | 16           | 809           | 2%        |
| Pelham                                      | *                        | -          | -            | -            | 617           | 0%        |
| Pembroke Academy                            | WBL - External Partner   | 46         | 9            | 55           | 760           | 7%        |
| Pinkerton Academy                           | WBL - External Partner   | 36         | 598          | 634          | 3227          | 20%       |
| Pittsburg School (High)                     | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 29            | 3%        |

| School                               | * WBL - External Partner | No Credit  | Credit       | Total        | Enrolment     | Percent   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Total</b>                         |                          | <b>759</b> | <b>1,002</b> | <b>1,761</b> | <b>53,689</b> | <b>3%</b> |
| Pittsfield High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 7          | -            | 7            | 155           | 5%        |
| Plymouth Regional High School        | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 664           | 0%        |
| Portsmouth High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 13         | -            | 13           | 1128          | 1%        |
| Profile Senior High School           | WBL - External Partner   | 6          | 14           | 20           | 134           | 15%       |
| Prospect Mountain High School        | WBL - External Partner   | 2          | 2            | 4            | 463           | 1%        |
| Raymond High School                  |                          | -          | -            | -            | 368           | 0%        |
| Salem High School                    | WBL - External Partner   | 57         | 61           | 118          | 1161          | 10%       |
| Sanborn Regional High School         | WBL - External Partner   | 42         | 42           | 84           | 670           | 13%       |
| Somersworth High School              | WBL - External Partner   | 1          | -            | 1            | 413           | 0%        |
| Souhegan Coop High School            | WBL - External Partner   | 9          | -            | 9            | 740           | 1%        |
| Spaulding High School                | WBL - External Partner   | 26         | 16           | 42           | 1366          | 3%        |
| Stevens High School                  | WBL - External Partner   | 6          | 14           | 20           | 541           | 4%        |
| Sunapee Sr. High School              | WBL - External Partner   | 3          | -            | 3            | 143           | 2%        |
| Timberlane Regional High School      | WBL - External Partner   | 9          | -            | 9            | 1100          | 1%        |
| White Mountains Regional High School | WBL - External Partner   | 26         | -            | 26           | 358           | 7%        |
| Wilton-Lyndeboro Senior High School  | WBL - External Partner   | 4          | 2            | 6            | 152           | 4%        |
| Windham High School                  | WBL - External Partner   | -          | 15           | 15           | 940           | 2%        |
| Winnacunnet High School              | WBL - External Partner   | 18         | 7            | 25           | 1022          | 2%        |
| Winnisquam Regional High School      | WBL - External Partner   | 8          | 4            | 12           | 440           | 3%        |
| Woodsville High School               | WBL - External Partner   | 2          | 3            | 5            | 197           | 3%        |

\* Designates no data was submitted by the school