



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Testimony to the House Education Committee- SB 514

Chairman Myler and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address Senate Bill 514.

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 9, 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.

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

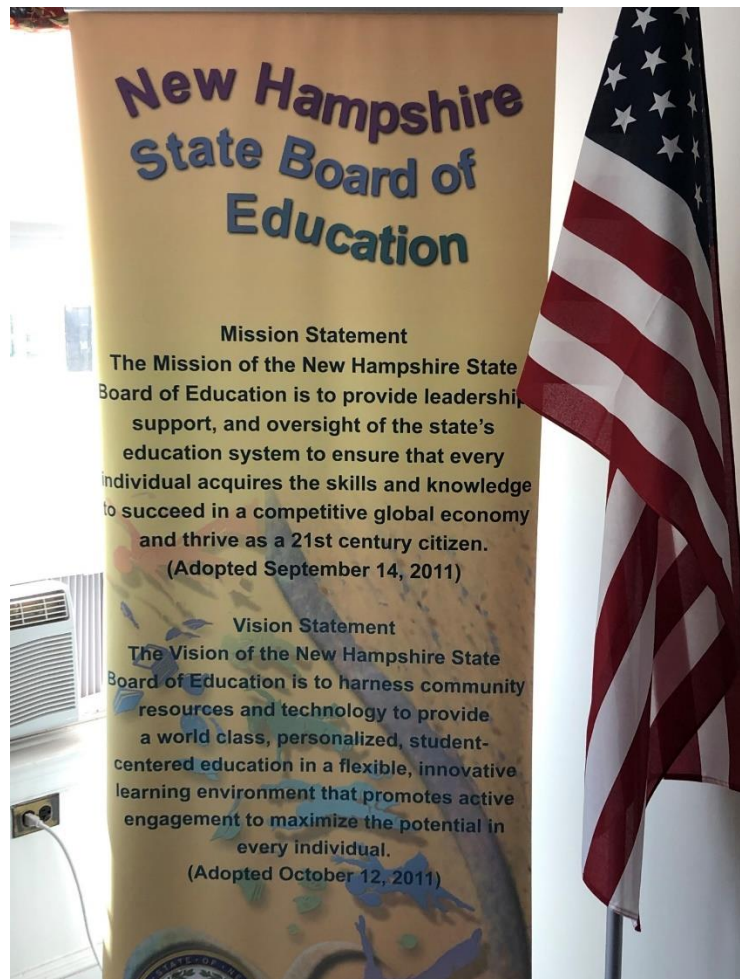
Nothing in Learn Everywhere changes the role of local school boards, who maintain the authority to set criteria for graduation. Under our longstanding rules and under Learn Everywhere, if a student can demonstrate proficiency, no matter how or where that proficiency was gained, that student has earned 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
Total		759	1,002	1,761	53,689	3%
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
Total		759	1,002	1,761	53,689	3%
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