



Friday Forum

January 24, 2025

- Congratulations to five NH educators who are recipients of the prestigious [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#), including John Tietjen from Lebanon High School, John Blackwell from Phillips Exeter Academy, Susan Leifer from Mast Way School in Lee, Joanne Goelzer from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy and Sandra Swiechowicz from Raymond High School.
- Save the date for [New Hampshire's Day of AI Education Summit](#) with keynote speaker Jeffrey C. Riley, former MA Commissioner of Education. School leaders are invited to a day-long summit featuring AI in Education workshops from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 18 at NHTI in Concord. [Registration](#) is first-come and will be limited to 100 school leaders.
- [Nominations](#) are still open for the 2026 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Program. Anyone may **nominate an outstanding teacher** by Feb. 5. Candidates should demonstrate leadership and be exceptionally dedicated and knowledgeable. The [Teacher of the Year](#) will serve as a leader and ambassador for all of the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning.
- Given the high demand for the Granite State K-8 Literacy Summit featuring Dr. Carol Tolman and Dr. Leslie Laud, which is now fully booked, a second [summit](#) has been planned with collaboration from the National Council on **Improving Literacy**, NHED, The Reading League NH and the NH Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The second summit has been set for 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 1 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. [Register now](#).
- Xello, which is free to schools through a partnership with NHED and Granite Edvance, is offering training sessions for NH school counselors and educators looking to offer **career and college readiness opportunities** to their students. A webinar has been planned for noon on Feb. 12, [New Hampshire's Getting Started with Xello for 6-12 Educators](#), which will outline how Xello can empower students to be future ready. A separate webinar will take place at noon on Feb. 18, [Interested in Work-Based Learning at Your School](#), which will offer an overview of Xello's work-based learning tool.
- **VR New Hampshire** and Manchester Community College are hosting a [Level Up](#) event from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 20 at the MCC campus. This event is for students thinking about life after high school that would like to tour MCC, learn about resources, explore

additional career training opportunities and discover community resources that provide skills and support for their education or career journey.

- College Guidance Network, in partnership with NHED, will host a webinar at noon on Jan. 30 for school counselors titled **“A Counselor’s Guide to Loans and Student Debt.”** This [webinar](#) will provide counselors with the tools to have effective conversations with families about loan options, common borrowing strategies and repayment plan options.
- Discovery Education is excited to partner with the **Mt. Washington Observatory** education team for an amazing professional development opportunity. Learn how Discovery Education Experience supports your instruction on weather, the climate, or even using data in the real world. Learn about the offerings supported by the Mt. Washington Observatory, including school-day, virtual, afterschool, and field trip programs. Educators will enjoy a demonstration of freely available curriculum that will aid weather and climate investigations. [Register](#) for the event from 9 a.m. to noon on March 8 in North Conway.
- NHED’s **Office of Assessment** is reminding school leaders about its monthly newsletter, which provides updates and information about statewide assessment programs. If you haven’t already [subscribed](#), please do so. You may also [view](#) previous newsletters.
- NHED’s **Bureau of Special Education Support** will be offering trainings February through June to all educators. Visit the [Bureau of Special Education Support](#) to access the training calendar, which will provide you with training dates, times, descriptions, and registration links.
- The **Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement Program** sponsored by the NH Urban and Community Forestry Program-Division of Forest and Lands is available. This spring, it has funding to plant free trees at public schools. Their staff will provide training and support on planting day. To qualify, students must participate in the planning and planting process and school staff must complete an application ensuring future tree care. For more information, email elizabeth.c.mckinley@dncr.nh.gov.
- Please share this [scholarship opportunity](#) with graduating seniors! FedPoint, a federal benefits administrator and marketplace operator, [announces](#) the window to apply for its annual **nursing scholarships** program. The company will award four \$5,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will be attending an accredited nursing program this fall.
- The **fingerprinting cost** at the Department of Safety is going down by \$1.25 due to the FBI reducing its fees. Education employees and school transportation providers will pay \$47 for the Records Check, and education volunteers and higher ed preparation programs for licensure will pay \$20.

Resources for Educators

- NHED is partnering with Khan Academy to offer **Khanmigo** for educators and students in grades 5-12 statewide. Khanmigo, an AI platform, serves as a teaching assistant for educators and a tutor for students. School administrators are encouraged to visit [Khanmigo for New Hampshire](#) to initiate the free contracting process.

- **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.
- [College Guidance Network](#) and NHED offer all NH high school counselors, students and families free access to CGN's Roadmap to College and comprehensive library of on-demand **college and career resources**.
- [Xello](#), in partnership with NHED and Granite Edvance, provides NH high school students with free tools needed to explore secondary and postsecondary plans, discover **career aspirations**, uncover interests, and make plans for future success.
- Microschools are an emerging model that provide a small, tailored approach to education. For educators considering launching a microschool, visit [KaiPodLearning.com](#) for details, or contact matt@kaipodlearning.com.

Internal News

- Ken Darsney, NHED's Canvas administrator, and Andrew Kelley from iLearn NH will have office hours to support **Canvas** use on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in classroom 101. Individuals or groups can meet individually or virtually. Contact Kenneth.R.Darsney@affiliate.doe.nh.gov for details.

To have information included in future editions of the Friday Forum, email
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