



## *Friday Forum*

December 15, 2023

- The Public School Infrastructure Committee is [recommending these projects](#) for round three of **SAFE grants**; this funding is contingent upon Fiscal and Governor and Executive Council review and approval likely early next year. This is the [waitlist](#) for round three.
- NHED and CAST invite all educators across the state to join a free, six-part webinar series designed to support both general and special education teachers to boost student engagement and achievement using **Universal Design for Learning**. Save the dates and check out the [Session Descriptions and Schedule](#); register [here](#).
- NHED is holding a book group featuring the new book from Scholastic, **“7 Mighty Moves: Research-Backed, Classroom-Tested Strategies to Ensure K-to-3 Reading Success.”** The author is Lindsay Kemeny with a forward by Anita Archer. The purpose of this activity is to provide a curated experience where NH educators may read, learn and talk about proven classroom strategies to ensure reading success. These practices and ideas are grounded in scientific evidence to bridge the research-to-practice gap. Register here for this exciting experience: [7 Mighty Moves Registration Form](#). The event is capped at 100 educators. Contact [Kathleen.A.McCaffery@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Kathleen.A.McCaffery@doe.nh.gov) with questions.
- Accelerate your journey to **ESOL Certification** with NHTI’s Fast-Track Program. Join an informative [Zoom webinar](#) at 4 p.m. on Dec. 20 and discover how you can become ESOL certified in just one year. This opportunity is ideal for reading and writing instructors, English educators and special education professionals who wish to provide ESOL services to English Language Learners. Kelly Dunn, director of the program, will be available to answer questions.
- NHED will publish an updated **data dictionary** in support of the iNHDEX SSIS project by January 1, 2024.
- **Project ECHO**, a Dartmouth Health program to help support NH schools, is offering an interactive web-based [learning series](#) for school staff. The series will provide tools to better support students experiencing mental health distress.
- The State of New Hampshire, Business and Economic Affairs would like to inform you of their broadband effort as it relates to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, **Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program**. BEA is coordinating efforts to apply for their federal BEAD allocation of \$196,560,278.97. [BEA's work](#)

will consist of developing multiple documents for NTIA to review and approve the funding allocation. NTIA and BEA's work will be to develop opportunities to close the digital divide for all residents and businesses in the state. Feedback as it relates to broadband services and direct connection to the populations you serve is being sought. Feedback and comments may be emailed to [broadband@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:broadband@livefree.nh.gov).

- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is offering state and national **scholarships to graduating seniors**. School counselors should have received information to share with students on how to apply for these scholarships. If students wish to apply for any of the 26 national scholarships, it may be done online [here](#). For more information or application forms for state scholarships, contact Linda Konitzer at [Lindak1220@gmail.com](mailto:Lindak1220@gmail.com). The deadline for all applications is Jan. 31.
- The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) is currently accepting applications for its 2024-2025 **Year of the Book Grant**, which provides \$25,000 worth of new books, literacy programs, author visits, and more with the goal of building a culture of literacy in a school community. Open to preK-6 public schools in Vermont and New Hampshire with at least 35% free/reduced lunch and at least 30% of students scoring below proficient on reading/writing assessments. Applications are due March 15, 2024; more details [here](#).
- "Outside Our Minds," a [Showcase AI international competition](#), is available to students under the age of 20. It is designed to spark **AI-inspired creativity** while still recognizing some of the important foundational aspects of modern society such as arts and culture. The competition encourages students to use AI as tools to create something such as artwork, a song, video game, poem or more.
- NHED is sponsoring a **research project on student wellbeing and play** in public elementary schools with child development researchers in the Boston College School of Social Work. The aim of the research project is to implement and evaluate two no-cost, school-based programs, [Let Grow](#) and [Play Club](#), during the 2023-2024 academic year. The research will also measure student social, emotional and cognitive development. Superintendents and school principals interested in learning more may email Dr. Maggie Van Camp, associate researcher, at [vancampm@bc.edu](mailto:vancampm@bc.edu) to set up a meeting.

### ***Resources for Educators***

- **Tutor.com** offers free, 24/7 online [tutoring](#) for all students in New Hampshire in grades 4-12, as well as adult education learners.
- **Graduation Alliance** provides 1-1 mentoring for students in need of an extra layer of support to boost school engagement and academic success. Call 603-758-3259 to get set up.
- **College Guidance Network** is a valuable resource for school counselors, which offers on-demand college and career resources, live events and its free [Roadmap to College](#) platform.

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