



## *Friday Forum*

December 6, 2024

- **Cell phones** can be powerful tools for education when used correctly, and we know that when students are truly engaged in learning, phones are not a distraction. Understanding, however, that young people are feeling the weight of excessive screen time and might feel overwhelmed, teaching them how to responsibly manage their technology usage is vital. NHED has been at the forefront of this work, previously publishing its [Social Media Curriculum Framework and Guidelines](#) as part of an [executive order](#) from Governor Sununu. As schools throughout New Hampshire respond to the [U.S. Department of Education's call](#) to adopt policies that guide the use of cell phones in schools, it would be our hope that students can find their purpose and meaning outside of the mindless scrolling to help improve their overall well-being.
- Two [students](#) have been selected as New Hampshire delegates for the **U.S. Senate Youth Program**. Congratulations to William N. Brochu of Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro and Ryan C. Casey of Bishop Brady High School in Concord.
- NHED has awarded [fifteen schools](#) throughout the state with **hydroponic gardens** in an effort to expand hands-on learning, offer new scientific opportunities and support STEM initiatives in classrooms statewide.
- **Safe Grants (Rounds 1, 2, and 3)**: All funds must be expended and all activities completed by Dec. 31, 2024. There are no extensions available. The last day to submit reimbursement requests is Jan. 30. Please submit your reimbursement requests in GMS. Email [Krzysztof.J.Armatys@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Krzysztof.J.Armatys@doe.nh.gov) with questions.
- The **New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards** acknowledges schools and individuals who demonstrate high standards of excellence. The [Intent to Apply to be considered for the Schools of Excellence Awards](#) closes on Dec. 20. All [Collaborative Partners](#) may join in honoring incredible educators in their communities. The Collaborative Partners Participation Form is due Jan. 17. [Nomination Forms for the Doris Barnes Lifetime Achievement Award](#) are due Feb. 7. This is an opportunity to recognize the dedication and impact of those who empower our students every day. Save the date for June 7 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown.
- For those applicants intending to apply for **School Building Aid in FY26**, applications are due by April 1. Applicants should currently be working on their application, as it is detailed and takes time to complete. The application form and related documents are available [here](#).

Incomplete or late applications are unable to be accepted after April 1. For questions or assistance, contact [carrie.a.gorman@doe.nh.gov](mailto:carrie.a.gorman@doe.nh.gov), 603-271-0955, with the Bureau of School Facilities.

- **Initial Lease Aid applications** for 2025-2026 are due by Jan. 1. This version of the application is for charter schools that did not receive aid for the 2024-2025 school year, or whose lease has undergone substantive changes from last year; the application may be found [here](#). Charters that did receive aid for the 2024-2025 school year, and whose lease has not undergone any substantive changes from last year, may submit a **Renewal Lease Aid Application** [here](#) by Sept. 1. Under the Charter School Lease Aid program, public chartered schools may receive aid of up to 30% of eligible costs or \$50,000, whichever is less.
- The Office of ESEA Title Programs will be accepting [applications](#) to join the **Title I Committee of Practitioners** through Dec. 1. The deadline for accepting applications has been extended until Dec. 15 for those that meet the requirement of either being a member of a local school board or are a representative of a non-public school/students. The application is closed for all other committee positions.
- **Mandated Reporting Training for Professionals**, a program of the Granite State Children's Alliance, is offering a training opportunity in partnership with NHED. The [training](#) will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 26 at 25 Hall St. in Concord. Participants will learn about mandated reporting responsibilities required by law, child abuse signs, tips for making the reporting process easier and legal definitions of neglect, physical, psychological and sexual abuse. The cost is \$25.
- [One World Language School](#), based in Durham, NH, is an independent 501(c)(3) organization with more than 20 years in the school systems around the Seacoast of New Hampshire and now in the greater Manchester area. It offers pilot programs for **Spanish classes**, which are available to start as early as January 2025 for once or twice per week. It is also fielding requests for Spanish classes in the Manchester and Seacoast areas for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact Marie Gurley, Outreach Director, at [info@oneworldlanguageschool.org](mailto:info@oneworldlanguageschool.org), or call 207-370-8398 to discuss adding language to your curriculum.
- The **MIT Club of New Hampshire** is excited to offer a scholarship of \$2,300 to one outstanding STEM educator from NH to join a group of 50 exceptional teachers from around the world in a week-long program on MIT's campus. This [program](#) is designed for secondary school educators who teach science, technology, engineering or math and are recognized as innovative, creative and dedicated leaders in their communities. If you, or a teacher you know, would be an excellent fit for this opportunity, please show your interest by [registering](#).
- The Softwood Lumber Board and USDA Forest Service are proud to support the [2025 Mass Timber Competition: Building Sustainable Schools](#), providing \$1.8M in funding to potential projects. The **competition** is designed to increase the use of mass timber and deepen industry experience with wood construction. Eligible projects must be K-12 educational projects including, but not limited to, classrooms, libraries, athletic facilities, offices, resource centers, portable classrooms, daycare facilities, and vocational centers. The entry period is now open and will close Jan. 13.

- In order to support Title V, Part B, Rural & Low-Income School Program (RLIS) program focusing on providing rural districts with financial assistance for initiatives aimed at improving student achievement, NHED is seeking approval from USED for a Tydings waiver for FY21 **Title V, Part B funds** awarded under Section 5202 of ESEA until Sept. 30, 2026. This request to extend the obligation period is submitted pursuant under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, and permits NHED to expend the remaining FY21 awarded balance related to this waiver request. NHED is seeking public input on its request. More details [here](#); email comments to [ESEA@doe.nh.gov](mailto:ESEA@doe.nh.gov) by Jan. 1.

### **Resources for Educators and Students**

- Give your chess students the gift of **ChessKid Gold licenses** for Christmas! The Granite Gambit program, sponsored by NHED, will be distributing a limited number of ChessKid Gold licenses at no cost to NH schools with existing chess programs. The licenses are available now with an expiration date of Sept. 30, 2026, for both students and chess coaches. To apply for free licenses, send an email to [support@chessineducation.us](mailto:support@chessineducation.us). Include: your full name, email address containing your NH school domain, school email address, the number of gold licenses requested (limited to those students who will use the program), a brief description of your chess use/program and the number of students, and the approving principal/administrator's name and email.
- Paid access to **Discovery Education Experience** has been available to all NH schools since 2021. Interested to learn more about your district or school's usage or how Discovery Education's multimodal content supports literacy, science, math, social studies, NH Civics, ELLs, and universal design? Want to go on a Virtual Field Trip or replace some of your edtech subscriptions? All of these are possible with a tool you already have. [Self-schedule a meeting](#) or email [Nancy Rose](mailto:Nancy Rose) today!
- Attention school-wide Title 1 Elementary Schools: **Children's Museum of NH** offers free, self-guided group visits when scheduled before the end of March, as well as reimbursement for 50% of bus costs up to a maximum of \$200. [Details here](#).
- 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.
- NHED's [UpGrade](#) program aims to increase the number of **educators earning tech credentials**, as well as encourage existing technology leaders to receive educator endorsements to teach computer science and similar tech courses. For existing educators, NHED will reimburse the cost of any exams or licensure costs for qualified credentials, up to a total of \$2,000. In addition, teachers will receive a stipend for each credential acquired, up to a total of \$750.
- **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.

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