



Friday Forum

February 9, 2024

- Join Marina Seevak, MAT, the founding executive director of the Beautiful Stuff Project, a teacher-driven organization, for a free and virtual [workshop](#) on **curating play experiences** for children with its loose parts treasure boxes from 7-8 p.m. on Feb. 20. Licensed educators in New Hampshire are eligible to receive CEUs.
- Join Dr. Peter Gray, a research professor from Boston College, for a free and virtual [webinar](#) on **free play** and social and emotional development from 7-8 p.m. followed by a Q&A until 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 21. Licensed educators in New Hampshire are eligible to receive CEUs.
- Interested in learning about the **NH Seal of Biliteracy** and how to implement the award in your school district? Attend [an informational webinar](#) at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 hosted by the New Hampshire Association of World Language Teachers. The link to join the webinar is [here](#). Email nhseal@nhawlt.org with questions.
- The 2024 [Yass Prize](#) application is now live. The \$1 million **Yass Prize** for Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding and Permissionless (STOP) education is considered the Pulitzer of education innovation. This year, 50 organizations will be chosen as semifinalists for the Yass Prize, each earning a minimum of \$200,000.
- Attention Liberty electric and natural gas customers. The **NHSaves** program is open for 2024 to help with new construction and retrofit projects, including those taking place at schools. Incentives are available for energy efficient equipment purchases such as water heaters, lighting, HVAC and commercial food service. The program also offers incentives for weatherization work, steam trap surveys, energy audits and technical assistance for proposed projects. A zero percent, on-bill financing option is available. [Learn more.](#)
- The **Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement Program** sponsored by the NH Urban and Community Forestry Program – Division of Forest and Lands is available again this year. This spring there is funding to plant free trees at public schools. Staff will provide training and support on the 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 Liz McKinley, community forester, at elizabeth.c.mckinley@dncr.nh.gov.
- Attention school leaders who may be attending the **American Association of School Administrators conference** next week in San Diego. Please [join](#) a conversation titled

“Creating 2030 Workforce Pathways: State and District Collaboration with the Department of Defense.”

- Join InfraGard National Members Alliance, an FBI-affiliated independent nonprofit organization, for a **webinar on the complex problem of sextortion**, including how this international crime has emerged as a massive challenge in this digital age, who and where the offenders are, the role of social media, the harms being done to its victims, and possible strategies and solutions. This [webinar](#) will be held at 1 p.m. on Feb. 20 and will feature a distinguished panel of experts from the FBI Violent Crime Section, HSI Cyber Crimes Center, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Snapchat, and Thorn.
- 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 to set up a meeting.

Resources for Educators

- Discovery Education, with NHED, is here to support reading and literacy in NH schools. Join an informal **NH Reading Roundtable** with Nancy Rose of Discovery Education and Kathleen McCaffery of NHED from 4-5 p.m. on Feb. 22. This is an opportunity to learn about resources from NHED and Discovery Education, ask questions, share information and brainstorm with colleagues. [Register here](#).
- **College Guidance Network** is hosting a webinar at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 titled “Academic Pathways: Know Your Options.” This live Q&A will discuss degrees and credentials, the process of transferring credits and where to find good online learning. [Register here](#).
- **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.
- NHED and 321 Insight are partnering to offer a [series](#) of virtual learning opportunities designed to support **paraeducators** in their daily work. The one-hour virtual sessions will focus on Behavior Support Strategies, and will take place on Feb. 14 and 21.
- **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.

To have information included in future editions of the Friday Forum, email Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov

