



New Hampshire

**Department of Education**

## *Friday Forum*

May 26, 2023

- NHED is pleased to announce the 20 [semi-finalists](#) for the 2024 New Hampshire **Teacher of the Year** award – the highest number of semi-finalists ever recognized. Congratulations to all of the outstanding educators among this cohort of exceptional educators.
- A total of \$1.2 million in [Beyond School Enrichment Grants](#) have been awarded to 56 New Hampshire schools. There is still \$125,490 remaining in Covid-relief funds that could be allocated. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted; funding must be utilized by Sept. 30, 2023.
- This week, the Surgeon General issued a new [advisory](#) about the effects **social media** use has on youth mental health.
- [HB 452](#) was signed into law this week changing the timeline for FY26 and FY27 **school building aid projects**. The key changes in this bill include: 1) creating an annual building aid application and ranking process, rather than every other year; 2) requiring that the ranked list be published by November each year after the State building aid appropriation is known, rather than publishing the list in January before the biennial appropriation is known; and 3) allowing building aid recipients to move forward with design/construction after local voters approve the project, rather than wait for the biennium budget to be determined. Contact [amy.c.clark@doe.nh.gov](mailto:amy.c.clark@doe.nh.gov) for more details.
- The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, in partnership with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has released the [K-12 Bystander Reporting Toolkit](#), which offers strategies to implement or enhance **school safety** reporting programs.
- The UNH Early Learning Coaching team is hosting free **summer professional development** for [play-based learning and guided play](#). The workshops are designed for educators in preschool through third-grade.
- The Parent Information Center is hosting a virtual workshop, [Support Summer Reading: A Workshop for Families](#) at 6 p.m. on June 14. Learn how to support children over the summer to make **literacy** fun.
- For all schools, New Hampshire has a [Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program](#), which focuses on improving **air quality** and reducing congestion issues. Projects are eligible to

receive up to 80 percent of the project costs from the program. Some eligible projects include public education and outreach activities, alternative fuels and vehicles, training, inspection and maintenance programs and more.

- The [LifeChanger of the Year program](#) is a national program that **honors K-12 public school educators** and employees annually, while also awarding cash prizes to teachers and their schools. Nominations are now open.
- As families begin to register their children for kindergarten this fall, please be aware of this [fact sheet](#) from the Institute of Education Sciences, which explains play-based learning in kindergarten.
- NHED is sponsoring a new project on elementary school **student wellbeing and play** in collaboration with the child development researchers in the Cell to Society Lab at Boston College School of Social Work. A [virtual information session](#) has been planned for 3 p.m. on May 31 for schools that are interested in learning more or getting involved.
- **End of year i4see reporting** is now live. Submissions for EOY enrollment, free and reduced meals and home school data must be batch verified no later than June 23 and certified by the superintendent no later than July 7. Other submissions, including college and career readiness and civics, EOY academics, credits and GPA, extended learning opportunities and virtual instruction/remote learning must be batch verified by July 31 and certified by the superintendent no later than Aug. 11.
- The 2022-2023 Unused District Facility data collection is now live in ESS. The deadline for submittal is July 1. To complete, login to myNHDOE and access the ESS System - [myNHDOE Single Sign On System](#). An email notice has also been sent to School Security Administrators. This information is collected in accordance with RSA 194:61, which requires districts to annually report information regarding **unused facilities**.
- The National Center for Competency Based Learning is hosting a series of [listening sessions](#) on the proposed draft of the **Ed 306 rules** (Minimum Standards for Public Schools Approval). Several sessions have been scheduled and more are in the process of being planned.
- **Learn Everywhere Spotlight!** [Signum University](#) is a nonprofit digitally native education institution located in Bedford. Signum Academy Clubs are online extracurricular groups that help teens learn remotely through Signum's interactive classroom. It is approved to offer courses where students may earn certificates for various open elective credits in high school English and language acquisition.
- NHED has awarded nearly \$800,000 for this summer's **ReKINDling Curiosity** program – hoping to ensure that every child who wants to attend a fun and engaging summer camp has the opportunity. This [flyer](#) outlines scholarship and eligibility information. Applications will be accepted until Aug. 31, or when funds are exhausted.

- NHED and Tutor.com partnered to provide 24/7 online **tutoring for students in grades 6-12** throughout the state. School districts are being encouraged to [register](#) for Tutor.com's free access for their students. This program meets all data privacy requirements.
- NHED partnered with **Graduation Alliance** to provide 1-1 mentoring for students in need of an extra layer of support to boost school engagement and academic success during the school year. Students who choose to participate in the program will be assigned an academic coach at no cost. Contact Christian Shiverdecker at 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](mailto:Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov)*