



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Friday Forum

July 22, 2022

- The NH Department of Environmental Services has issued this [press release](#) about House Bill 1421, which reduces the allowable lead in drinking water at schools and licensed child care facilities. This [flyer](#) provides additional details on lead testing requirements for schools.
- There are early signs of improvement following two years of academic disruptions and negative impacts on learning from the pandemic. Although New Hampshire assessment scores have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, [preliminary performance scores](#) from 2022 are beginning to show slight gains, or remain unchanged.
- As of this week, NHED has renewed 8,350 educator credentials, which is higher than last year's number of 8,232 renewals. Learn [more](#) about the state's net gain of 300 credentialed teachers since 2020.
- USED's Office for Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has issued [new guidance](#) to help public elementary and secondary schools fulfill their responsibilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities and avoid the discriminatory use of student discipline.
- NHED has partnered with [Graduation Alliance](#) to provide children with mentors to help them successfully navigate school. Graduation Alliance will be implementing its attendance recovery program called [ENGAGE New Hampshire](#), which will be offered to 2,000 secondary and middle school students.
- A few legislative updates to keep on the radar:
 1. [SB 234](#) requires that student ID cards include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. (effective July 31)
 2. [SB 238](#) requires a chartered public school and a resident district of a student with disabilities to create a memorandum of understanding to ensure compliance with RSA 194-B:3, II(e). (effective July 1)
 3. [SB 410](#) requires a school board public comment period and a State Board of Education public comment period. (effective Sept. 6)
 4. [SB 421](#) amends the current dual and concurrent enrollment program by CCSNH to include the participation of non-residential, non-public school students. (effective Aug. 16)
 5. [HB 1125](#) requires every public, chartered public and non-public school to develop a site-specific school emergency operations plan that is based on and conforms to the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System, and shall submit the plan to the

Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Safety, by Oct. 15 every year. (effective June 17)

- Attention paraprofessionals! [321 Insight](#) is partnering with NHED to offer targeted and engaging facilitated **professional development sessions** from Aug 16-18 to NH teachers and paraeducators. Initial professional development opportunities will include a half-day workshop focused on building effective partnerships, coaching and supervising. These workshops will be offered regionally across the state and free of charge for NH educators. Please be on the lookout for more details. Email kathryn.j.nichol@doe.nh.gov for more information.
- NHED has launched its annual [backpack drive](#). Please consider donating to this cause. New, donated **backpacks** are provided to school nurses for distribution across the state to students who need one. For more information, email Diana Fenton at diana.fenton@doe.nh.gov.
- The NHSAA is seeking nominations for the 2023 New Hampshire Superintendent of the Year. Members of the NHSAA are invited to [nominate](#) a colleague who meets the needs of their students by demonstrating communication strength, a commitment to professional development and growth, and significant community involvement.
- The application for the new **Security Action for Education (SAFE) grant** is live and may be accessed [here](#). Public and non-public schools may submit applications until Aug. 26. Awards will cover 100% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per school. Award recipients will have 180 days after notice of award to obligate their grant funds. For more information, please visit the [SAFE grant webpage](#). We have received inquiries as to the eligibility of proposed projects where it is unclear if the proposed activities fall under one of the three grant categories of access control, surveillance, or emergency alerting. In such cases, it is suggested that schools submit an application and select the “other” category option in the application form. Eligibility of all projects will be determined after application submission. Please note that applications for projects clearly outside the scope of the three project categories should not be submitted. For example, salary for a school resource officer is not a SAFE grant eligible expense.
- 2022 **i4see End of Year collections** are still live in the system. As a reminder, submissions (batch verified) were due June 24, (district verified) were due July 6 and certified no later than July 8 for EOY Enrollment, F&R EOY Collection and Home School Academic. All others, including College and Career Readiness and Civics (12th graders only), Credits and GPA (high school only), ELO Students (high school only), EOY Academic (targeted Title I schools only), and Virtual Instruction/Remote Learning are due July 30 (batch verified), Aug. 10 (district verified) and certified by Aug. 12.
- [Discovery Education](#) has a new look! [Check out](#) the Back to School features and updates, and don't forget to [register](#) to receive Back to School Kits containing cards for educators to remind them of the wealth of engaging multimodal resources, instructional activities, and professional learning available in the Discovery Education learning platform. Contact Nancy Rose at nrose@discoveryed.com for more details.

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