



New Hampshire

**Department of Education**

## *Friday Forum*

August 19, 2022

- Continuing with its efforts to close gaps and recover from missed learning, NHED has selected Tutor.com to provide 24/7 online **tutoring for every middle and high school student** in the state. More information about this initiative may be found [here](#). School districts are being encouraged to [register](#) for Tutor.com's free access for their students.
- **Leaning into literacy!** Two exciting new initiatives have launched in the Granite State, both designed to improve the love of reading, enhance reading proficiency among NH youth, and provide educators and other adults with the tools needed to build literacy skills for students. NHED has partnered with Lexia Learning Systems to offer access to [Lexia's LETRS](#) (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) suite of professional learning programs designed to provide a deep knowledge of literacy and language expertise in the science of reading. NHED has also partnered with Gūd Marketing to launch a Statewide Reading Campaign to promote the love of reading and reading proficiency. Learn more [here](#).
- NHED has issued a [technical advisory](#) regarding the notice requirement to a chartered public school of a special education services meeting.
- Congratulations to the [four finalists](#) for the **2023 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Award**, Susan Bradford of Merrimack, Christian Cheetham of Hudson, Jennifer MacLeod of Hollis and Curt McDermott of Goffstown.
- [Read more](#) about how NHED is working to break down barriers, promote independence and provide ongoing support to individuals who are blind or vision impaired through its Silver Retreat, Interdisciplinary Collaborative Engagement and Youth Empowerment Solutions programs.
- A huge thank you to the many individuals and organizations that donated to NHED's annual **backpack drive**. More than 500 backpacks were donated and will be dispersed to school nurses to be delivered to students in need.
- We are sharing important updates for the **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program**. SAU's must submit their June claims for SY 2021-2022 by Aug. 29. September will be the last month to use your SY 2021-2022 FFVP funds. Please use these funds to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables or small equipment, if needed. Any leftover funds will be returned to the USDA.

- As we approach the closeout of the **CARES-ESSER grant** at the end of Sept. 2022, there are federal disposition requirements that must be followed regarding those supplies and equipment purchased under the grant. Last week, an email was sent to school leaders with additional information and resources that NHED thinks will be helpful in this process. Questions should be addressed to [ESSER@doe.nh.gov](mailto:ESSER@doe.nh.gov).
- NASA is now accepting entries for the second [NASA TechRise Student Challenge](#). Open to students in grades 6-12, the challenge invites teams to design, build, and launch science and technology experiments on high-altitude balloons. Entries are due on Oct. 24, 2022, and NASA will announce the challenge winners in January. Each winning team will receive \$1,500 to build their experiment, and an assigned spot to test it on a NASA-sponsored balloon flight. Educators may register for the [Virtual Educator Workshop](#) on Aug. 27 to learn more.
- Nominations and applications for the nation's highest honors for teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM, including computer science) is now open. This year, the **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)** will honor science, technology, engineering or math and computer science teachers in grades 7-12. Nominations close on Jan. 9, 2023. Applications are now open and must be completed by Feb. 6, 2023. Please consider [nominating](#) a 7-12 grade teacher, or nominate yourself.
- NHDES will be hosting a webinar for NH schools and child care facilities to outline the new requirements related to House Bill 1421 and new lead testing requirements, and to answer questions from 1-2 pm. on Aug. 23. Register [here](#).
- You are invited to [pre-register](#) for **Choose Love New Hampshire's Together We Teach conference** being held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Hilton DoubleTree Inn in Manchester. This is a free event designed to serve as a day of appreciation, connection and inspiration for those involved in the education field.
- The Public School Infrastructure Commission is meeting on Aug. 24, and there should be an update to share later that week regarding the new **Security Action for Education (SAFE) grant**, which is live and may be accessed [here](#). **Both public and non-public schools are still eligible** to 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](#).

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