



New Hampshire | LIVE FREE AND LEARN  
**Department of Education**

**Friday Forum**

**Sept. 20, 2024**

- Schools should be aware that an amendment to **RSA 288:1** requires that certain educational institutions and all local governments use a holiday's statutorily designated title in official communications, publications, and documents. More details on the amendment are available [here](#).
- This week, NHED celebrated **Constitution Day** and New Hampshire's [efforts](#) to prepare young people on how to effectively participate in our Constitutional Republic. Discovery Education is creating engaging civics resources built expressly for New Hampshire students, which will include 78 lessons that support civic engagement.
- NHED's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation has [acquired](#) a state-of-the-art adaptive driving van. **Adaptive driving** training plays a crucial role in empowering individuals with disabilities, and will help teens and young adults learn how to drive and achieve another step toward independence.
- **Robotics grants** are now available! NHED has issued competitive grants for year two of the grant cycle for NH public and public charter schools that did not receive funding in year one and meet eligibility requirements for financing the establishment of a robotics team and its participation in competitive events. Responses to this [Request for Applications](#) received by the Oct. 4 deadline will be scored by independent peer reviewers. The purpose of the grants is to motivate students to pursue educational and career opportunities in STEM, while building critical life and work-related skills. Contact [anne.k.wallace@doe.nh.gov](mailto:anne.k.wallace@doe.nh.gov).
- In order to advance student achievement, NHED is seeking approval from the U.S. Department of Education to waive pursuant to Section 8401 of the ESEA of 1965, the period of availability of consolidated administrative funds in Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act to extend the period of availability for **ARP**

**administrative funds** and FY 2022 **ESEA program administrative funds** consolidated under ESEA section 8201 to March 31, 2026. As a result, NHED is seeking public input on its request. More details are available [here](#). Email comments to [esser@doe.nh.gov](mailto:esser@doe.nh.gov) by Oct. 1.

- NHED is hosting a **Statewide Assessment and Accountability Conference** from Oct. 1-2 at the Grappone Center in Concord. There will be 36 sessions with more than 10 hours of professional development hours. Register [here](#).
- Student tickets are still available for the [New Hampshire Bringing Back The Trades](#) event on Nov. 15 at NHTI. Student scholarships totaling \$50,000 will be distributed. Students may [apply here](#).
- The School Readiness Program **Emergency Operations Plans** (EOP) submission portal for the 2024/2025 school year is now open. Plans shall be reviewed annually and submitted to NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management by Oct. 15 of each year using the secure [portal](#). Please be aware that the portal will close on Oct. 16. To request technical assistance, email [schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov](mailto:schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov).
- NHED's Bureau of Career Development is hosting an [Opportunity Gap Analysis](#) workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 24 at 25 Hall St. in Concord titled, "**Using Data to Identify and Address CTE Opportunity Gaps.**" This event is ideal for CTE stakeholders, school district BAs, school counselors, advisors, administrators and principals. Register [here](#).
- **Poetry Out Loud** is a dynamic national recitation contest, which is free to high school students. The mission is to inspire students and encourage them to step into the world of poetry in a fun and engaging way. Schools that are interested in joining may [register here](#). Contact [nhpol.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nhpol.coordinator@gmail.com).
- The NH State Police Criminal Records Unit will be transitioning to a new AFIS software system on Sept. 23. During this transition, the AFIS system will be unavailable and **fingerprints** will not be able to be processed or submitted to the FBI. To help reduce backlog, the AFIS team is available this weekend to ensure it has processed all applicant fingerprints that it has received payment for. It will work to ensure that fingerprints are processed as efficiently as possible.

- The New Hampshire Science Teachers' Association's Fall Conference, **Connecting Classrooms to Careers: STEM is for All**, will be held on Oct. 17 in Pembroke. [Register here](#).
- NHED is looking for some talented **high school artists** to paint a mural for our mascot, Max. Please share this [flyer](#) with your art teachers and students. The deadline for entries is Oct. 1.
- School administrators and teacher leaders are invited to join NHSAA on Sept. 24 for its second **"Unconference"** for interactive and fun professional development. This event allows participants to be involved in the conversation and learning. Cost is \$219, with sessions on innovative practices, curriculum and instruction, supporting student and educator needs, and money, grants and compliance. [Register here](#). Contact [kymra@nhsaa.org](mailto:kymra@nhsaa.org) with questions.

### **Resources for Educators**

- **Discovery Education** is continuing its Reading Roundtable conversations in partnership with NHED. NH educators involved in the teaching of reading may gather virtually to share ideas, ask questions and learn from each other. The roundtable will explore resources that help build background knowledge and support educators with skill gaps in reading instruction. [Register here](#).
- The competition is on for a [Pizza Party!](#) **Tutor.com** will be throwing a schoolwide pizza party for the (in-person) New Hampshire school with the highest percentage of students who connect with a tutor at least once between Sept. 23 and Oct. 31.
- 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.

- Dave Smith, Director of the Northeast Region for **Cognia**, developed a no-cost reading presentation titled, “*Cognia Reads: Bringing the Magic Through Reading*,” as a way to excite students into improving their literacy skills. Last year, nearly 4,000 elementary students in 16 schools participated in the program. If interested, contact [david.smith@cognia.org](mailto:david.smith@cognia.org).

*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)*