

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### 2022-2023 Session



#### SENATE BILLS

**This session, eleven (11) Senate Education bills were signed into law by Governor Sununu. Additionally, three (3) bills were rereferred to Senate Committees and four (4) bills were retained in House Committees for further study.**

**For the bills which have related Technical Advisories, there will be a link to access that document.**

*---Summary of Bills---*

[SB 24](#) Relative to conferring degree-granting authority to New England Aeronautical Institute

[SB 39](#) Relative to criminal history checks for school transportation monitors

[SB 77](#) Relative to changes in school placement for students

[SB 109](#) Relative to school safety and coordination with law enforcement

[SB 135](#) Relative to alternative dispute resolution in special education

[SB 136](#) Prohibiting the employment or volunteering of a revoked or suspended educator

[SB 152](#) Relative to New Hampshire workforce training programs

[SB 179](#) Relative to eliminating the use of seclusion as a form of punishment or discipline on children in schools and treatment facilities

[SB 213](#) Relative to educational institution policies on social media

[SB 215](#) Relative to nursing certification requirements

[SB 216](#) Making changes to the requirements for civics education in schools

---Overview of Senate Bills---

**SB 24, Relative to Conferring Degree-Granting Authority to New England Aeronautical Institute**

<p><a href="#">SB 24</a>--</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 6/1/23</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Higher Education</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> N/A (Session Law)</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>SB 24 authorized the New England Aeronautical Institute to confer degrees upon its graduates, subject to the authority of the Higher Education Commission.</p>
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**SB 39, Relative to Criminal History Checks for School Transportation Monitors**

<p><a href="#"><u>SB 39--</u></a></p> <p><b>Rulemaking</b> <b>Required:</b> N</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Technical</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Advisory</u></a></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/31/23</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:13-a, VI; RSA 189:13-b</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>The Department of Education will no longer be conducting the criminal history records check on transportation monitors. The criminal history records check for transportation monitors will now be the responsibility of the employing school district or charter school in accordance with the provisions of RSA 189:13-a.</p> <p>The Department of Education will continue to conduct the criminal history records check for bus drivers in accordance with the provisions of RSA 189:13-b.</p>
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## SB 77, Relative to Changes in School Placement for Students

<p><a href="#"><u>SB 77</u></a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/31/23</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 193:3, III-a, (e)</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Amends RSA 193:3, which pertains to a change of school assignment—best interests or manifest educational hardship—to allow a school board to place a student, pursuant to manifest educational hardship, at an approved non-public school. This is in addition to another public school or public academy. Placement at an approved non-public school is already permissible pursuant to the statute for purposes of a best interest determination.</p>
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## SB 109, Relative to School Safety and Coordination with Law Enforcement

<p><a href="#"><u>SB 109</u></a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking</b> <b>Required:</b> TBD</p> <p><b>Technical</b> <b>Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/6/2022</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Non-Public</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 193-D:7</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Adds a provision to the Safe School Zone law to allow law enforcement to disclose police reports or information contained within those police reports that is related to any “serious threat to school safety” as defined in RSA 169-B:2, XIV, to school officials for use in suspension and expulsions proceedings. All records must be maintained in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).</p>
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## SB 135, Relative to Alternative Dispute Resolution in Special Education

<p><a href="#"><u>SB 135</u></a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/6/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 186-C:23, II; RSA 186-C:24, II(b)</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>This bill amends the Alternative Dispute Resolution statute (RSA 186-C:23) and the Mediation statute (RSA 186-C:24), to add in a provision that scheduled process can be continued if mutually agreed to by the parties.</p> <p>This law codifies a regular practice by the Department of Education.</p>
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**SB 136, Prohibiting the employment of volunteering of a revoked or suspended educator**

<p><a href="#">SB 136</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA)</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 9/26/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter; Nonpublic</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:13-a, I(c); RSA 189:13-a, VII-a</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>This law adds a provision to the criminal history records check requirement for employment purposes to prohibit an SAU, school district, chartered public school or nonpublic school from hiring any individual whose teaching credential is currently suspended or has been revoked by the Department of Education.</p> <p>Individuals who are currently suspended or who have been revoked are on the Department’s Revoked or Suspended Educator List which is provided to the field on a routine basis and is also available on the Department’s website.</p>
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**SB 152, Relative to New Hampshire workforce training programs**

<p><a href="#"><u>SB 152--</u></a></p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/1/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Career Technical Center</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 188-E:30</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>The bill creates the following in the Career and Technical Education programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Establishes an advisory council to discuss the needs of marine trades and related fields;</li><li>2) Establishes a marine trades training fund to support education and training initiatives for individuals in marine trades; and</li><li>3) Establish a work-force pathway for marine trades.</li></ol>
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**SB 179, Relative to eliminating the use of seclusion as a form of punishment or discipline on children in schools and treatment facilities**

<p><a href="#">SB 179</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><a href="#">Technical Advisory</a></p> <p><a href="#">Subsequent TA</a></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/6/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter; Public Academy; Non-Public</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 126-U:1, V-a; RSA 126-U:5-a; RSA 126-U:5-b; RSA 126-U:7</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>SB 179 amends the law that pertains to seclusion in four significant ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends the definition of “seclusion”—to clarify what actions are permitted and which are prohibited;</li> <li>• Makes it explicitly clear that seclusion shall not be used as punishment or discipline;</li> <li>• Adds a condition when seclusion is used to include the use of a “co-regulator” to monitor the child and to develop a plan to help the child manage their state of regulation; and</li> <li>• Amends the guidelines for notice and record-keeping to include the use of a reporting form that is to be developed by the Department of Education, DHHS, and in consultation with the Office of the Child Advocate.</li> </ul> <p><i>SB 179 should be read in conjunction with <a href="#">HB 491</a>, Relative to prohibiting the use of prone restraint for minors.</i></p>
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**SB 213, Relative to educational institution policies on social media**

<p><a href="#">SB 213</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 10/3/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Career and Technical Education (CTE)</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:70, IV; RSA 189:66, V</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Amends the definition of “social media account” to exclude social media platforms that are used for demonstrating evidence in student career development from being prohibited by a school district.</p> <p>The bill also added a new subsection which allows for students who are participating in career exploration or CTE programs to register for technology platforms and services, which require the provision of personally identifiable information, to be part of the student’s approved course of study. Participation requires parental consent.</p>
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## SB 215, Relative to nursing certification requirements

<p><a href="#">SB 215</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/28/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional (School Nurses)</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 200:29</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>This bill amends the requirements for a school nurse certification from requiring a bachelor’s degree or higher to requiring an associate’s degree or higher. The certification still requires three (3) years of current experience in pediatric nursing or other related nursing areas as well as other skills, competencies, and knowledge as enumerated in statute.</p> <p>The new law also clarified the “grandfather provision” that all school nurses with an associate’s degree, who were hired after August 25, 2019, have a period of six (6) years to enroll and complete a registered nurse to bachelor of science in nursing program</p>
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## SB 216, Making changes to the requirements for civics education in schools

<p><a href="#">SB 216</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b></p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:11</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>The current law requires that all public and non-public schools to provide regular courses of instruction in history, government, and the United States and New Hampshire Constitutions. SB 216 now expands that requirement to all public, chartered public, non-public, and privately incorporated schools which serve as public schools, to provide class time for civics education.</p> <p>The new law also defines what constitutes a civics education and the responsibility of school districts to develop and offer the required courses.</p> <p>Details of the new requirements are set forth in the Technical Advisory.</p>
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### **SENATE Bills Rereferred to Senate Committees for Further Study**

- [SB 93](#) Relative to the individualized education program of chartered public school students
- [SB 194](#) Allowing students under age 21 to taste wine in educational settings
- [SB 217](#) Establishing a rural and underserved educator incentive program for higher education

### **SENATE Bills Retained in House Committees for Further Study**

- [SB 25](#) Repealing a requirement for a report on chartered public school payments
- [SB 151](#) Relative to mental health education
- [SB 218](#) Establishing an early educator professional development grant
- [SB 266](#) Relative to the statewide improvement and assessment program

## HOUSE BILLS

This session, twenty-four (24) House Education bills plus HB 2 were signed into law by Governor Sununu. Additionally, thirty-three (33) bills were retained in the House Education committee and one (1) bill was rereferred to a Senate Committee for further study. One (1) bill was passed which established a study committee. Two (2) bills were vetoed by the Governor.

For the bills which have related Technical Advisories, there will be a link to access that document.

### *---Summary of Bills---*

[HB 71](#) Repealing a Department of Education report on chartered public school funding

[HB 170](#) Requiring the teaching of cursive handwriting and multiplication tables

[HB 207](#) Relative to school district unanticipated funds

[HB 266](#) Relative to notice and public access requirements for hybrid and virtual agency public comment hearings for rulemaking

[HB 275](#) Relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board

[HB 349](#) Relative to a special purpose school district for Bridgewater, Hebron, and Groton

[HB 364](#) Relative to transportation for students attending career and technical education centers

[HB 365](#) Relative to a statewide facility condition assessment for school buildings

[HB 367](#) Relative to eligibility of students in the education freedom account program

[HB 377](#) Relative to screening and intervention in public schools and public charter schools for dyslexia and related disorders, and establishing an addition to adequate education grants for certain pupils screened for dyslexia and related disorders.

[HB 446](#) Relative to participation in the Education Freedom Accounts program by students with disabilities

[HB 452](#) Relative to the Department of Education procedures for school building aid applications

[HB 466](#) Relative to water bottle filling stations in schools

[HB 491](#) Relative to prohibiting the use of prone restraint for minors

[HB 492](#) Requiring the Department of Education to provide the house and senate standing committees responsible for education with copies of the laws and rules relative to education

[HB 501](#) Relative to ages for special education services

[HB 517](#) Relative to background checks for surrogate parents

[HB 530](#) Relative to withdrawal from a cooperative school district

[HB 536](#) Relative to the chartered public school joint legislative oversight

[HB 604](#) Relative to reading specialists

[HB 640](#) Relative to cost recovery for vocational rehabilitation programs

[HB 654](#) Relative to the one-year certificate of teaching eligibility

---Overview of House Bills---

**HB 2, Budget Bill**

<p><a href="#">HB 2</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/1/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> <i>Special Education and Related Services</i></p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 193:27; RSA 169-F:1; RSA 186-C:18, III(a); RSA 186-C:18, V; RSA 186-C:19-b</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>In large part, HB 2 is a budget bill. However, it is worth noting that HB 2 contains a provision that defines “episode of treatment” for when children are placed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide children intensive treatment and support and sets forth the financial obligation of the Department of Education for such instances.</p>
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## HB 71, Repealing a Department of Education report on chartered public school funding

<p><a href="#">HB 71</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/16/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Charter</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 194-B:11, I(e)</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Removes the requirement that the Commissioner of the Department of Education submit a report to the fiscal committee of the general court for each payment that is made in a fiscal year by the state to a chartered public school. The payment information is available on the Department’s website.</p>
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## HB 170, Requiring the teaching of cursive handwriting and multiplication tables

<p><a href="#">HB 170</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/3/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:11-c</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>HB 170 amends the current law to make the teaching of cursive writing and the instruction of the multiplication tables mandatory rather than permissive. Instruction in both cursive writing and the multiplication tables must be completed by the end of the fifth grade. This requirement is applicable to both public schools and chartered public schools.</p>
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**HB 207, Relative to school district unanticipated funds**

<p><a href="#"><u>HB 207</u></a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/18/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 198:20-b, III</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>The new law increases the amount of unanticipated funds—from \$5,000 to \$20,000—for which a school district is required to hold a prior public hearing on the action to be taken.</p>
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**HB 266, Relative to notice and public access requirements for hybrid and virtual agency public comment hearings for rulemaking**

<p><a href="#">HB 266</a> –</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/29/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Department of Education</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 541-A:1, VII-C; RSA 541-A:1, XVII; RSA 541-A:6, I; RSA 541-A:11, I-V; RSA 541-A:19-a, II; RSA 541-A:19-a</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>This bill amends the Administrative Procedure Act to insert notice and public access requirements for hybrid and virtual agency public comment hearings. In short, this bill codifies the Governor’s executive order when state agencies were engaged in virtual and hybrid meeting requirements to ensure that the public had full access.</p>
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## HB 275, Relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board

<a href="#">HB 275</a> —	<i>Summary</i> —
<b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y	Amends the Change of School or Assignment Law to clarify that if there is no public school for the child’s grade and the school district assigns children to a school that has been approved as a school tuition program, if the tuition cost is above the district’s established tuition cost per pupil, the local board may require the parent to pay the difference in cost as long as a public school or public academy that does not require additional tuition payment from the parent must be an option.
<b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A	
<b>Effective Date:</b> 10/3/2023	
<b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional	
<b>Statute:</b> RSA 193:3, VI	

## HB 349, Relative to a special purpose school district for Bridgewater, Hebron, and Groton

<a href="#">HB 349</a> —	<i>Summary</i> —
<b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N	Allows the towns of Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton to withdraw from the Newfound Area School District and establish a public school district comprised of those three towns.
<b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A	
<b>Effective Date:</b> 8/4/2023	
<b>Applicable to:</b> Bridgewater, Hebron, and Groton	
<b>Statute:</b> N/A (Session Law)	

**HB 364, Relative to transportation for students attending career and technical education centers**

<p><a href="#">HB 364</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b>  N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/1/2025</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Career Technical Education (CTE)</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Requires the Department of Education to create a new reimbursement formula for transportation to CTE centers. New formula will account for type of vehicle, mileage and number of trips and will not be dependent upon the number of students who are riding on a particular bus or other vehicle.</p>
<p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 188-E:8</p>	

**HB 365, Relative to a statewide facility condition assessment for school buildings**

<p><a href="#">HB 365</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 6/25/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 198:15-a, V</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Adds a recommendation—not a requirement—that in support of the Department of Education’s 10-year school facilities plan of potential school building aid projects, that each school district have in place and provide the Department with a long-range capital improvement program which identifies school facility goals, provides projected expenditures, and outlines procedures and guidelines to be followed to accomplish the goals.</p> <p>Districts are encouraged to review and update the district’s anticipated school facility capital improvement plan on a 2-year recurring basis or as needed.</p>
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## HB 367, Relative to eligibility of students in the education freedom account program

<p><a href="#">HB 367</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/26/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Education Freedom Accounts</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 194-F:1, VI</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Amends the definition of “eligible student” to increase the household income level based upon the federal poverty guidelines from 300 to 350</p>
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## HB 377, Relative to screening and intervention in public schools and public charter schools for dyslexia and related disorders

<p><a href="#">HB 377</a></p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 9/28/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Chartered Public</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 200:59</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Requires school districts to screen all public and chartered public school students, to include English learners, grades K through 3, upon entry to school for the identification of potential indicators or risk factors of dyslexia and related disorders. The screening must be done by an evidence-based screener and must be completed no later than 60 school days of the student entering school.</p> <p>While the school district is responsible for the screening, the district may coordinate efforts with the chartered public schools to allow the chartered public schools to conduct the screening.</p>
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**HB 446, Relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program by students with disabilities**

<p><a href="#"><u>HB 446</u></a></p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/29/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) Program</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 194-F:4, III</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Clarifies that the scholarship organization for the Education Freedom Accounts program is responsible for providing parents of students with disabilities with a written explanation of their rights to services pursuant to IDEA. The written explanation is to be developed and maintained by the Department of Education’s Bureau of Special Education.</p>
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**HB 452, Relative to the Department of Education procedures for school building aid applications**

<p><a href="#"><u>HB 452--</u></a></p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/1/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> <i>Public Traditional</i></p> <p><b>Statute:</b> <i>RSA 198:15-a, I-a; RSA 198:15-b; RSA 198:15-c; RSA 195-C:1, IV(a); RSA 198:15-hh; RSA 198:15-h (repealed)</i></p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Revises the timelines and procedure for the Department to review and approve applications for school building aid grants.</p>
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## HB 466, Relative to water bottle filling stations in schools

<a href="#">HB 466</a> —	<i>Summary--</i>
<b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N/A	Repeals the requirement that the Department of Education undertake rulemaking for the water bottle filling stations in schools law (RSA 200:11-b), which was passed during the 2021-2022 legislative session.
<b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A	As a reminder, the law (SB 233) that was passed last session required the installation of water bottle filling stations in newly constructed public schools and in existing public schools which are undergoing substantial renovations.
<b>Effective Date:</b> 6/25/2023	Schools shall allow students to bring a water bottle to school which meets the following criteria: --Is made of a material that is not easily breakable;
<b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional	--Has a lid to prevent spills; and --Is filled exclusively with water.
<b>Statute:</b> RSA 200:11-b, I	School boards may create and enact a disciplinary policy regarding the misuse of water bottles by students or employees.



## HB 491, Relative to prohibiting the use of prone restraint for minors

<p><a href="#">HB 491</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><a href="#">Technical Advisory</a></p> <p><a href="#">Subsequent TA</a></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 9/26/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter; Public Academy; Non-Public</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 126-U:1, IV(d); RSA 126-U:4, V</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Although already prohibited under the old law, HB 491, made it explicitly clear that a “prone restraint” is strictly prohibited. The new law also added a “catch-all” category of prohibited “circumstances under which the use of other form of physical restraint must cease to protect the well being of the child.</p> <p><i>HB 491 should be read in conjunction with <a href="#">SB 179</a>, Relative to prohibiting the use of prone restraint for minors.</i></p>
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**HB 492, Requiring the Department of Education to provide the house and senate standing committees responsible for education with copies of the laws and rules relative to education.**

<p><a href="#"><u>HB 492</u></a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 10/3/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Department of Education</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 21-N:4, XII</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>The Department of Education is now responsible for providing the education laws and the administrative rules to the House and Senate Education Committees. Such information can be a physical copy of the laws, a portable data storage device or a searchable internet database. The education laws shall also be provided to all New Hampshire superintendents in any format that is practicable.</p>
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## HB 501, Relative to ages for special education services

<p><a href="#">HB 501</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 6/25/23</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 186-C:3-a; RSA 186-C:9; RSA 186-C:14; RSA 189:1-a; RSA 189:65; RSA 194:60; RSA 193:1-c</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>During the 2021-2022 legislative session, a law was passed which amended the special education definition of “child with a disability” to be inclusive of the age 21—extending the required provision of services until the student’s 22nd birthday. HB 501 was a “clean-up” bill which added the language of “child with a disability” from the last legislative session to other applicable sections of existing law which were inadvertently overlooked.</p>
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**HB 517, Relative to background checks for surrogate parents**

<p><a href="#">HB 517</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> Y</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/19/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:13-c, V</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Requires the Department of Education to conduct a criminal history record check of individuals who apply to be a surrogate parent. This new law codifies and clarifies a pre-existing practice of the Department.</p>
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## HB 530, Relative to withdrawal from a cooperative school district

<p><a href="#">HB 530</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/30/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Cooperative School Districts</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 195:29</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>The new law amends the withdrawal process for a district in a cooperative schools districts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a majority of voters in the withdrawing district vote in the negative, against withdrawal, then the withdrawal process stops;</li><li>• If a majority of the voters in the withdrawing district vote in the affirmative, in favor of withdrawal, and a majority of the voters in the entire cooperative district vote in the affirmative, in favor of withdrawal, the clerk shall send a copy of the warrant to the State Board; or</li><li>• If a 3/5 supermajority of the voters in the withdrawing district vote in the affirmative, in favor of withdrawal, the clerk shall send a copy of the warrant to the State Board, unless a 3/5 supermajority of the voters in the entire cooperative vote in the negative, against withdrawal.</li></ul> <p>This amendment should make it easier for a pre-existing district within a cooperative school district to withdraw.</p>
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## HB 536, Relative to the chartered public school joint legislative oversight committee, and relative to chartered public school use of unused district facilities.

<p><a href="#">HB 536</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 8/4/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional; Public Charter</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 194-B:21; RSA 194-B:17, VI; RSA 194:61, III (d)</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>This is a repeal and re-enactment of the currently existing Chartered Public Schools Oversight Committee. The committee is required to meet at least twice a year to review the chartered public school system and make recommendations for any legislative changes.</p> <p>The bill also adds a provision to the Chartered Public School Use of Unused District Facilities law. Specifically, it adds a timeframe of 60 days during which the chartered public school and the offering school district can engage in substantive, good faith negotiations. If no agreement is reached, the commissioner of the Department of Education is required to engage an independent mediator who is to gather independent appraisals of the value of the property to determine a fair market value for the chartered public school.</p>
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## HB 604, Relative to reading specialists

<p><a href="#">HB 604</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 5/19/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Department of Education</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 200:60</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Allows the Department of Education to employ a staff member who is a reading specialist rather than contracting for that specific position.</p>
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## HB 640, Relative to cost recovery for vocational rehabilitation programs

<p><a href="#">HB 640</a></p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 1/1/2024</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Vocational Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 200-C:6-a</p>	<p><i>Summary—</i></p> <p>Repeals the recovery of costs provision in the Vocational Rehabilitation statute.</p>
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## HB 654, Relative to the one-year certificate of teaching eligibility

<p><a href="#">HB 654</a>—</p> <p><b>Rulemaking Required:</b> N</p> <p><b>Technical Advisory (TA):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 7/31/2023</p> <p><b>Applicable to:</b> Public Traditional</p> <p><b>Statute:</b> RSA 189:39-b</p>	<p><i>Summary--</i></p> <p>Allows for the school board to extend the certificate of eligibility for an additional one-year period for an individual who is interested in employment as an educator.</p> <p>The Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct apply to individuals with a certificate of eligibility.</p>
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### HOUSE Study Committees

- [HB 550](#), Establishing a committee to study chartered public school dissolution

## HOUSE Bills Retained in House Committees

- [HB 147](#), Relative to membership of the advisory committee on the education of students with disabilities
- [HB 155](#), Relative to the division of educator support and higher education and relative to surety indemnification for private postsecondary career schools
- [HB 267](#), Relative to criminal record checks in school employment
- [HB 272](#), Increasing chartered public school per pupil funding
- [HB 332](#), Relative to school building aid for eligible projects
- [HB 352](#), Relative to excused absences due to a student's mental or behavioral health
- [HB 354](#), Relative to chartered public school eligibility for state school building aid
- [HB 419](#), Relative to the math learning communities program of the community college system and making an appropriation therefor
- [HB 420](#), Relative to the availability and funding for the dual and concurrent enrollment program by the community college system and making an appropriation therefor
- [HB 437](#), Relative to a reading assessment and intervention program
- [HB 439](#), Relative to the duty to provide education and contracts with private schools
- [HB 468](#), Making an appropriation to the department of education for an attorney to recodify education laws
- [HB 505](#), Relative to comprehensive mental health education in schools
- [HB 521](#), Department of education payment for placement for an episode of treatment
- [HB 529](#), Relative to additional aid grants for schools based on free and reduced price meals and fiscal capacity disparity
- [HB 533](#), Relative to authorizing the commissioner of the department of education to issue subpoenas.
- [HB 540](#), Relative to adequate education grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services
- [HB 541](#), Relative to school building aid
- [HB 542](#), Establishing an academic research and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education
- [HB 546](#), Relative to the school building aid program
- [HB 553](#), Relative to school district information on personnel salaries
- [HB 569](#), Relative to the state education property tax and the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief program
- [HB 577](#), Relative to state aid for special education pupils
- [HB 601](#), Relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals
- [HB 619](#), Prohibiting gender transition procedures for minors and young adults, relative to sex and gender in public schools, and relative to the definition of conversion therapy
- [HB 620](#), Establishing a division of early learning in the department of education and relative to a pre-kindergarten pilot program
- [HB 623](#), Creating a teacher candidate loan forgiveness program
- [HB 625](#), Relative to the calculation of average daily membership in attendance and average daily membership in residence for school districts



- [HB 627](#), Relative to local education improvement plans and disparities in education
- [HB 628](#), Requiring certain non-public schools or education service providers that accept public funds to perform background checks on all employees and volunteers
- [HB 637](#), Relative to the calculation of average daily membership in attendance for certain home educated pupils
- [HB 638](#), Relative to the extraordinary need grants to schools
- [HB 651](#), Authorizing the department of education and local school districts to contract with transportation network companies to provide school transportation services

#### **HOUSE Bills Rereferred to Senate Committees for Further Study**

- [HB 572](#), Relative to eligibility for free school meals

#### **HOUSE Bills that were Vetoed**

- [HB 35](#), Requiring student identification cards to include the National Eating Disorder Hotline
- [HB 342](#), Relative to lead testing in children