

Key Education Legislation Overview - 2017
New Hampshire Coalition for Business & Education
January 25, 2017

Reaching Higher NH tracks all education bills at its dedicated website: <https://educationbillsnh.org/>. You can get the up-to-date hearing schedule, amendments, news coverage, etc. for all the bills or just the categories you care about and subscribe for daily or weekly emails. Plus we live-tweet key hearings and executive sessions. You can track committee commentary and votes minute by minute on the bill tracker or @reachinghighernh.

If we're not tracking a bill you care about, let us know.

While over 70 education bills have been introduced in this session, the majority either have limited impact or are likely to be killed. However, there are 15 or so bills, tabulated below, that could have significant impact. Here's an overview of those bills.

Funding for an Adequate Education

Thirteen bills relate to adequacy in some way (listed here on the bill tracker: <https://educationbillsnh.org/category/education-funding/>). The complexity and scale of the issues is such that the Legislature may well not try to change the adequacy formula during this budget session. However, we are paying special attention to 4 bills.

HB 155 amends enrollment calculations to count each full-day kindergarten student as a full student vs. ½ currently. This would increase funding by approximately \$14.5 million to schools that offer full-day kindergarten (approximately 60% of students attend full-day kindergarten currently).

HB 356 increases the base cost of an opportunity for an adequate education to \$3,591.27 from \$3,561.27 beginning in FY 2018, representing about \$5 million in increased funding.

HB 354 awards payments due to the remaining towns that were capped on constitutional adequacy in 2016 and are now being paid because of the Dover lawsuit. This will be about \$9 million in one-time payments.

HB 525 removes the 4% annual reduction in stabilization grants implemented beginning in FY 2017, restoring \$13 million in funding, primarily to less affluent communities.

Standards

HB 207 would prohibit the State from requiring the Common Core standards. That's already state policy. The more important change would require general court approval of all academic standards.

HB 304 is House Education Chair Rick Ladd's bill, reintroduced this year, to empower the State Board of Education to make rules requiring that "if a school board elects not to implement academic standards adopted by the state board of education, a school board shall implement alternative academic standards that meet or exceed the state academic standards."

Chairman Ladd has sent HB 207 and HB 304 to subcommittee to be combined.

Assessments

There is only one significant assessment bill this year. HB 166 would maintain the existing requirement that every child in grades 3-8 and one grade in high school be given an annual assessment, but would require a statewide assessment like Smarter Balanced in only three grades - once in elementary, middle, and high school. In the other years, the school district could give its own assessment. As one option, districts could benefit from the many years districts have already invested into developing their own assessments and join the PACE (Performance Assessment of Competency Education) initiative. (Note: the New Hampshire department of education anticipates applying to receive Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority from the federal government, a new authority provided in the Every Student Succeeds Act--this authority would support HB 166's intent of creating more locally-driven assessments.)

School choice

HB 505 creates a new statewide commission with the authority to authorize charter schools. However, it is a first cut that is unfunded and leaves accountability and other questions unanswered.

Curriculum

HB 414 requires the department of education to help districts implement pre-engineering and technology curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Current law only requires the department to focus on grades 6-12.

Child Care

HB 370 appropriates \$7,000,000 in FY 2018 and \$8,000,000 in FY 2019 to the department of health and human services to comply with federal regulations (published September 30, 2016) implementing the reauthorization of the Child Care Development Fund. The appropriations are critical to ensuring that income-eligible families can afford child care so that they can work or attend training/school.

Asset Building

LSR 0003 (no bill number assigned yet) authorizes the state treasurer to provide startup grants of \$250 from the New Hampshire children's savings account (CSA) trust fund (already established) for 529 accounts created - by a parent or legal guardian - on behalf of any New Hampshire public school student who has completed a financial literacy program approved by the department of education. The legislation builds on the work of a commission established in 2015 to investigate ways to increase participation in New Hampshire's college tuition savings plans (i.e., 529 plans) as well to establish and oversee a CSA program. CSA programs build on substantial research finding that wealth is critical to educational attainment and economic mobility (and even relatively small grants have been found to have a positive impact).

Workforce Development and Retention

SB 75 (sponsored by new Senator Jay Kahn) authorizes tax-credit opportunities - in total of up to \$500,000 a year - for businesses that donate to career and technical education centers.

LSR 0790 (no bill number assigned yet) establishes the New Hampshire college graduate retention partnership which will enlist businesses to provide an annual incentive of \$1,000 for up to four years to graduates of New Hampshire institutes of higher education that they hire. The goal is to retain high-quality graduates here in the state.

SB 101 extends eligibility to attend career and technical education centers to sophomores.

School Building Aid

LSR 00800 (no bill number assigned yet) removes the prohibition on school building aid and specifies the amount of school building aid that shall be distributed in 2018 and 2019.

Category	Bill	Sponsors	Title & Summary
Assessment	HB 166	Rep. T. Wolf; Rep. McGuire; Rep. Cordelli; Rep. Hinch; Rep. Grenier; Rep. Myler; Rep. Shaw; Rep. Ladd	<p>Providing greater local control over annual academic assessments</p> <p>This bill amends assessment requirements to stipulate that a statewide assessment only be administered in all school districts once in each grade band (elementary, middle, and high school); in the years where the school district does not administer a statewide assessment, the school district shall develop and administer its own assessment.</p> <p>Currently all school districts in the state administer the statewide assessment in grades 3-8 and once in high school (using the SAT). This bill provides greater flexibility for school districts to develop and administer locally-developed assessments while providing for 3 statewide assessments to hold districts accountable.</p>
Education Funding	HB 174	Rep. Hill; Rep. Itse; Sen. French; Sen. Avard; Sen. Giuda	<p>Limiting jurisdiction of the superior courts over certain adequate education statutes and adequate education grants.</p> <p>This bill restricts the superior court</p>

			from having jurisdiction over laws adopted under RSA 193-E (Adequate Education) or distributions made pursuant to the provisions of RSA 198 (School Money).
	HB 354	Rep. Bates; Rep. Gould; Rep. Murphy; Rep. R. Gordon; Rep. Spillane; Rep. Eaton; Rep. G. Smith; Rep. Abrami; Rep. Hoell; Rep. Lovejoy	<p>Providing additional adequate education grant payments to certain municipalities.</p> <p>This bill appropriates approximately \$9 million in FY 2018 to select municipalities (with high population growth) that did not receive certain adequacy funds in FY 2016 due to the legislative cap imposed in FY 2016 that limited a municipality from receiving more than 160% of its FY 2015 adequacy grant.</p>
	HB 356	Rep. Ladd; Rep. Hinch; Rep. T. Wolf; Rep. Steven Smith; Rep. Grenier; Rep. Myler; Rep. Shaw	<p>Increasing the per pupil cost of an adequate education.</p> <p>This bill increases the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education to \$3,591.27 per pupil (ADMA). The bill is presumed to go into effect in FY 2018 and beyond (the cost increases every biennium with inflation). The bill will increase funding for district schools and charter public schools.</p> <p>Currently the cost is set at \$3,561.27 per pupil (ADMA). The increase is predicted to have a total impact of \$4,938,037.</p>
	HB 525	Rep. Horn; Rep.	Restoring full stabilization grants

		<p>Gauthier; Rep. Testerman; Rep. Chirichiello; Sen. Woodburn</p>	<p>for education.</p> <p>This bill removes the annual 4 percent reduction in stabilization grants. The bill has no effect on FY 2017 grants, but beginning in FY 2018, stabilization grants will be restored to 100% of what they were in FY 2012 (provided that a municipality's total cost of an opportunity for an adequate education exceeds its statewide education property tax (SWEPT)).</p> <p>Currently stabilization grants, first administered in FY 2012, are set to decrease by 4% a year until zeroing out in 25 years (beginning in FY 2017). This bill eliminates the annual decrease. The total impact in FY 2018 is estimated to be \$12,566,764.</p>
<p>Standards</p>	<p><u>HB 207</u></p>	<p>Rep. Chandler; Rep. Ladd; Rep. Nigrello; Rep. Cordelli</p>	<p>Prohibiting the implementation of common core in public elementary and secondary schools.</p> <p>This bill prohibits the department of education (DOE) and state board of education (SBOE) from requiring any school or school district to implement the common core standards. (Note: despite the title, this bill does NOT prohibit school districts from implementing common core nor their existing academic standards.)</p> <p>Currently school districts are not required to implement any singular set of standards (common core or otherwise), they must meet or exceed minimal standards. The bill proposes to clarify existing flexibilities and</p>

			prevent DOE and the SBOE from making such a requirement in the future.
	<u>HB 304</u>	Rep. Ladd; Rep. Hinch; Rep. Chandler; Rep. Cordelli; Rep. T. Wolf; Rep. Murotake; Sen. Giuda	<p>Clarifying that local school boards can set academic standards that meet or exceed the state academic standards.</p> <p>This bill proposes to clarify that school boards have the authority to implement alternative academic standards that meet or exceed state academic standards.</p> <p>Currently school districts are required to implement academic standards that meet or exceed the state academic standards. This bill proposes to clarify that school districts (and school boards) have such authority.</p>
Charters	<u>HB 505</u>	Rep. Cordelli; Rep. Ladd; Rep. Weyler; Rep. V. Sullivan; Sen. Avar, Dist; Sen. Reagan	<p>Establishing an an additional authorizing entity for chartered public schools.</p> <p>This bill creates a new state chartered public school commission that would have statewide authority to grant charters (i.e., authorize public charter schools).</p> <p>Currently only the SBOE grants charters to applicants. This bill would create a second authorizer with statewide authority.</p>
Curriculum	<u>HB 412</u>	Rep. Major; Rep. Ladd; Rep. Gile; Rep. DeSimone;	Relative to the pre-engineering technology curriculum.

		Rep. Murotake; Rep. T. Wolf	<p>This bill requires the development and implementation of a pre-engineering and technology curriculum for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12.</p> <p>Currently the DOE is only required to facilitate the development and implementation of pre-engineering technology curriculum in grades 6 through 12. This bill proposes to expand that obligation down through kindergarten.</p>
Early Childhood	HB 155	Rep. Luneau; Rep. Myler; Rep. Heath; Rep. Gile; Rep. Elliott; Rep. Wallner; Rep. Murotake; Sen. Feltes	<p>Increasing funding for full-day kindergarten programs.</p> <p>This bill increases funding for pupils attending full-day kindergarten programs. The bill amends the definition of “average daily membership in attendance or ADMA” to “count” pupils who attend full-day kindergarten as a full pupil. ADMA is what determines what a district receives for state adequacy funding. This bill does not impose a requirement for districts to offer full-day kindergarten nor does it change the mandatory age of enrollment (currently age 6).</p> <p>Currently pupils attending kindergarten are counted as ½ for ADMA purposes. This bill proposes to count kindergarten students as 1 for ADMA purposes if the students attend full-day kindergarten. Pupils who attend half-day kindergarten will still be counted as ½ for ADMA purposes.</p>
Child Care	HB 370	Rep. Rosenwald;	Making an appropriation for the

		Rep. Fothergill; Rep. LeBrun; Rep. Nordgren; Rep. M. MacKay; Sen. Fuller Clark; Sen. Feltes; Sen. Bradley	<p>purpose of meeting new federal regulations relative to child care.</p> <p>This bill provides an appropriation to the department of health and human services in each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2019, to comply with federal regulations implementing the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund. This bill appropriates \$7,000,000 in FY 2018 and \$8,000,000 in FY 2019.</p>
Asset Building	<u>LSR 0003</u>	Rep. Gile; Rep. Gargas; Rep. Wallner; Rep. Lovejoy; Rep. Ladd; Sen. Feltes; Sen. Woodburn	<p>Establishing a children's savings account program and appropriating funds from mutual-fund registration fees.</p> <p>This bill authorizes the state treasurer to provide startup grants of \$250 from the New Hampshire CSA trust fund (already established) for 529 accounts created – by a parent or legal guardian - on behalf of any New Hampshire public school student who has completed a financial literacy program approved by the department of education. When the principal balance of a 529 account established through this bill reaches \$500, the state treasurer will make additional transfers into the account from the CSA trust fund—the amount will be determined annually by the CSA commission based upon the availability of funds in the CSA trust fund. The bill increases the annual registration fee for issuers of open end mutual funds to \$1,100 (from \$1,000) and obligates the secretary of state to</p>

			transfer \$100 from each such payment into the CSA trust fund. The bill authorizes the CSA trust fund to accept funds from other parties and appropriates \$2,500,000 for FY 2018 and FY 2019.
Workforce Development	<u>SB 75</u>	Sen. Watters; Sen. McGilvray; Sen. D'Allesandro; Sen. Bradley; Sen. Fuller Clark; Sen. Gannon; Sen. Hennessey; Sen. Lasky; Sen. Soucy; Sen. Woodburn; Rep. Cornell; Rep. Southworth; Rep. Gile; Rep. Grenier	<p>Establishing a tax credit against business profits taxes for donations to career and technical education centers.</p> <p>This bill authorizes the provision of tax credits up of to \$500,000 in total to businesses that make a donation to career and technical education centers.</p>
	<u>LSR 0790</u>		<p>Establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP).</p> <p>NH GRIP enlists New Hampshire employers to pay a \$1,000 bonus to graduates of NH institutes of higher education for each year of work completed for the first four years of employment.</p>
	<u>SB 101</u>	Sen. Watters; Sen. Reagan; Rep. Major; Rep. Gile; Rep Ladd; Rep. Grenier; Rep. Gray; Sen. McGilvray; Rep. Innis	<p>Extending eligibility to high school sophomores to attend career and technical education centers.</p>

School Building Aid	<u>LSR 0800</u>	Pending publication	Ending moratorium on school building aid. Removes any prohibition on the distribution of school building aid or alternative school building aid grants for the biennium ending in 2019 and provides that the department of education will distribute total school building aid and alternative school building aid grants in FY 2018 in the amount that would have been distributed in FY 2017 had it not been for the prohibition in 2015; additionally requires the department of education to distribute \$50,000,000 in school building aid and alternative school building aid in FY 2019.
----------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------	---