



2026 New Laws for Members

Curriculum/Assessment

Bills	Title/Description	Effective Date	Quick Summary/Impact
HB 1467	Title: (New Title) relative to the New Hampshire seal of civic excellence and engagement program. This bill establishes the New Hampshire Seal of Civic Excellence and Engagement Program, which allows school boards and SAU boards to award a seal to graduating high school students who meet specific criteria in civics education and engagement.	07/04/2026	Creates a seal of excellence program and details criteria for meeting the designation.
HB 1573	Title: (New Title) permitting excused absences for student participation in certain activities and mandating the state board of education to grant school reassignment requests for students demonstrating a manifest educational hardship This bill establishes provisions for excused absences for students in public and public charter schools who participate in civic engagement and career or technical education (CTE) activities, allowing up to two absences per academic year, with potential for more if enrolled in extended learning opportunities. This bill also mandates that the state board of education grant requests for school reassignments when a student faces a manifest educational hardship.	7/10/2026	This bill mandates two absences per school year for "civic engagement" and CTE activities. There are also changes to the law around granting manifest hardship requests.

	<u>Department of Education and Laws Impacting Educator Licensure</u>		
HB 1051	Title: (New Title) modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks. This bill amends the procedures for conducting criminal history records checks for school bus drivers and expands the scope to include designated volunteers and contracted service providers. The NH DOE and state board are tasked with adopting rules governing the rights of personnel to appeal any denials of clearance based on criminal history.	07/01/2026	Includes volunteer and contracted school bus drivers for background check requirements.
HB 1270	Title: clarifying the definition of part-time teacher. This bill amends the definition of a part-time teacher which was passed last year. Among other things it clarifies that the professional code of ethics and conduct applies to all part-time teachers, replacing the previous language that referenced the New Hampshire code of conduct and ethics for educational professionals.	7/07/2026	Specifies that part-time teachers must abide by the educator code of conduct for fully certified educators.
HB 1373	Title: relative to background check disqualifications for applicants seeking educator credentials. This bill expands the list of disqualifying offenses for an educator by adding new crimes to the record check requirements. Specifically, the bill includes additional offenses under RSA 630, such as 630:3, 631:2, 631:2-b, 636:1, 638:1, and 638:15-a, which relate to various forms of assault and other serious crimes.	4/03/2026	Adds additional crimes to the list of violations preventing someone from holding an educator license in New Hampshire.
HB 1816	Title: (New Title) relative to the intervention of the department of education into a school or school district during a financial emergency and requiring the state school board to establish rules governing the vetting of school district business administrator candidates. This bill amends current law to empower the commissioner of the Department of Education to initiate a district recovery plan when a school district is deemed to be in a financial emergency by the state board of education. The bill specifies that the department can provide oversight and assistance to develop a recovery plan that may include altering administrative practices, reallocating resources, renegotiating contracts, and overseeing governance for up to one year. Additionally, the bill allows the department to request up to \$200,000 from the education trust fund to support the implementation of these recovery plans. Furthermore, the bill mandates the state board of education to establish rules for vetting school district business administrator candidates and monitoring their work.	1/1/2027	This bill outlines new authority the NH DOE has with school districts that could impact budgets and potentially contracts.
HB 1758	Title: relative to school bus drivers' certificates. This bill amends the existing law regarding school bus driver's certificates by introducing an alternative pathway for certification. Specifically, it allows individuals who are currently certified as school bus drivers in jurisdictions deemed acceptable by the director of the division of motor vehicles to obtain a special school bus driver's certificate in New Hampshire.	8/18/2026	Provides an alternative pathway to obtaining a school bus driver certificate.
SB 430	Title: (New Title) relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents and legal guardians. This law mandates that all educators credentialed by the New Hampshire Department of Education must respond "honestly and completely" to written inquiries from parents and legal guardians regarding their children. Responses must be provided within 10 business days, except where state or federal law prohibits such disclosures. Additionally, if a	1/01/2027	Establishes a mandate on licensed educators in replying to written inquiries from parents and legal guardians regarding their student.

	credential holder believes that providing a complete response could put the child at imminent risk of abuse or neglect, they are required to report this to the superintendent and deny the request in writing. The bill also includes provisions for the state board of education to adopt rules by June 30, 2027, to amend the code of ethics and conduct for educators in relation to this new requirement. Violations of this section will be treated as breaches of the code of conduct and will be subject to investigation.		
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	<u>Election Law and Local Governance</u>		
HB 340	Title: relative to electioneering by public employees. This bill amends existing laws regarding electioneering by public employees, specifically defining what constitutes electioneering and establishing penalties for violations. The definition of "electioneer" is changed to the definition used in RSA 652:16-h, of the election law and campaign finance statutes. Additionally, the bill introduces new penalties for violations: individuals found guilty of electioneering will be charged with a misdemeanor, while those not subject to this penalty may face a civil fine of up to \$1,000.	1/1/2026	Members should consult NEA-NH if they have any questions regarding the changes to the law as we approach upcoming election or annual meeting seasons.
HB 1300	Title: (Third New Title) establishing a school district local tax cap question for the state general elections of 2026 and 2028 and related limitations on central office administrative expenses in school districts. HB 1300 requires every town and ward to conduct a vote on both a local tax cap and a fixed cap on the central office administrative budget of the school district, with the question included on the ballot by law without needing additional local legislative approval. The bill specifies that the central office administrative expenses cannot exceed 6% of total school district appropriations, excluding bonded capital costs, and defines the maximum allowable property tax levy as the prior fiscal year's levy adjusted for inflation and new taxable property growth.	9/01/2026	Requires a vote on a tax cap in each school district for the next two elections
SB 534	Title: (New Title) relative to compliance with certain political expenditures and contribution statutes. This bill prohibits foreign nationals from making political contributions during state election cycles. Additionally, it requires political committees to affirm compliance with specific statutes (RSA 664:4, VI and RSA 664:5, III) when filing reports with the secretary of state. The bill also expands the applicability of certain provisions to include city, town, school district, and village district elections, as indicated by the insertion of new language in RSA 664:1. It modifies the definition of "measure" in RSA 664:2, X, and clarifies the language regarding prohibited political expenditures in RSA 664:5. Furthermore, it establishes penalties for violations, making directors, officers, or members responsible for financial decisions jointly and severally liable for any amounts due.	1/01/2027	Important for local unions to know certain state reporting requirements apply to local elections. Please consult NEA-NH with questions.

Health Care

SB 408	Title: relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics. This bill amends existing health insurance laws to require coverage for prosthetic devices for both children and adults. Specifically, it modifies RSA 415:18-ff by removing the previous limitation of coverage solely for children and inserting provisions that mandate coverage for individuals over 19 years of age as well. Insurers are required to provide coverage for medically necessary prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for both age groups. For children, coverage may be limited to one activity-specific device per plan year, while for adults, it may be limited to one device every five years. The bill also clarifies that coverage is subject to the terms and conditions of the insurance policy, including any applicable cost-sharing.	1/01/2028	This bill requires health private health insurance to cover prosthetic devices.
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Labor/Collective Bargaining Impact

HB 1109	Title: (Second New Title) relative to notice requirements regarding public employee suspensions and investigations and recognizing certain positions in the department of corrections as group II positions. This bill introduces new requirements for public employers regarding the suspension of public employees. Specifically, it mandates that if a public employee is suspended, they must receive written notice within seven days detailing the cause of the suspension and its anticipated duration, if known. Additionally, the employer is required to provide periodic updates every 90 days until a final decision is made. <i>However, this notice requirement does not apply to public employees who are covered by collective bargaining agreements that already establish disciplinary procedures.</i> The bill also places some non-education related positions into Group II (Law Enforcement group for the NH Retirement system)	Part 1: 1/1/2027 Part 2: 6/30/2026	Places minimum requirements on public employers related to suspension of employees not represented by a collective bargaining agreement.
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Local/School District Elections or Governance

HB 564	Title: relative to the adoption of school administrative unit budgets. This law requires that the SAU budget must now appear as its own distinct warrant article at each constituent school district's annual meeting. If voters reject the proposed SAU budget, the SAU must adopt an "adjusted budget" funded at the exact same level as the prior year, preventing pay raises, benefit increases, or the addition of new programs/positions. At the end of the fiscal year, any leftover unassigned SAU funds must be returned to the constituent school districts rather than retained by the SAU.	8/18/2026	SAU budgets must be approved by a separate warrant article.
HB 1234	Title: identifying certain school district offices as incompatible for purposes of school district elections. This bill prohibits individuals from simultaneously holding multiple incompatible positions. The new legal language in RSA 671:18 outlines that candidates must be registered voters in the district and cannot hold more than one of the specified offices, which include	9/8/2026	Adds certain school district elected offices that cannot be served simultaneously.

	members of the school board, school district moderator, treasurer, auditor, clerk, or budget committee member-at-large. Additionally, it states that individuals employed in salaried positions by a school administrative unit or school district cannot serve as school board members or budget committee members-at-large.		
HB 1331	Title: (New Title) enabling the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment. This bill allows the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through the charter amendment process.	6/19/2026	Enables Derry to use charter amendment process to absorb its school district.
HB 1374	Title: (New Title) modifying the procedures for withdrawal from a cooperative school district and the discontinuance of elementary and high schools and requiring the review of school district operating documents by school boards. This bill, HB 1374, modifies the procedures for withdrawal from cooperative school districts and the closure of elementary and high schools. It allows a majority of voters in a single withdrawing district to decide on withdrawal, replacing the previous requirement for a majority across the entire cooperative district. A new provision establishes that a 3/5 supermajority of voters in the withdrawing district will serve as conclusive evidence of withdrawal. Additionally, the bill mandates that all municipalities served by a school district must vote on the closure of schools, providing an option for municipalities to preserve a school's operation if a majority of voters in the district vote to close it. The bill also requires governing bodies of municipalities to enter into operating agreements with the school district when they choose to preserve a school's operation.	10/8/2026	This bill makes it easier for a single town to unilaterally withdraw from a cooperative school district.
SB 586	Title: (New Title) requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public. This bill mandates that chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 undergo an audit by an independent public accountant at the end of each fiscal year. The results of these audits must be made publicly available. The bill repeals and reenacts RSA 198:4-d, which outlines the reporting requirements for these entities, including the submission of various financial reports to the commissioner of the department of education in a searchable electronic format.	7/01/2026	This bill places new annual audit requirements on school districts.

School Privatization and Home Education Changes

HB 1268	Title: (Second New Title) modifying the structure and administration of home education programs and relative to pharmacy benefits managers, managed care laws, notice of drug pricing options and pharmacy benefit manager business practices. This bill significantly revised New Hampshire's home education framework including making it explicit that participation in home education programs will not be considered grounds for child neglect assessments and eliminates the requirement for parents to notify school districts when their child begins participating in the EFA voucher program, requiring notification only if accessing public school programs. The bill also makes several unrelated changes that address regulations around pharmacy benefit managers.	1/1/2027	This bill eliminates the requirement that families notify the district that they are participating in home education. Home education programs cannot solely be grounds for a report to DCYF for neglect.
HB 1774	Title: (New Title) relative to qualifying scholarship granting organizations and federal workforce Pell grants. This bill requires the Department of Revenue Administration to annually opt into the federal school voucher program and obtaining a list of qualified scholarship granting organizations from the NH Department of Education, which will be submitted annually to the Secretary of the Treasury and published on the department's website. The bill also mandates that the governor, in coordination with the State Workforce Innovation Board, approve all workforce training programs eligible for federal Workforce Pell Grants, ensuring they meet federal requirements.	7/1/2026	Requires New Hampshire annually to opt into the new federal school voucher program established by Congress.
HB 1817	Title: (New Title) relative to access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs within school districts. This requires school districts to provide access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs for students enrolled in the EFA voucher program and without the same state support given to those home education students who enroll in classes. The local school board is required to adopt a participation policy that is not more restrictive for these students than for those attending the district's schools.	8/18/2026	EFA Voucher students get access to their resident public school classes with no additional state support to local school budgets.

School Transportation

HB 1537	Title: relative to the use of high resolution cameras to identify school bus stop light violators. This bill amends current law to allow the installation of high-resolution video recording devices on school bus stop bars to enhance the identification and prosecution of individuals who violate school bus laws.	9/17/2026	Outlines enabling language for use of cameras to identify school bus stop light violators.
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School Funding Issues

HB 656	Title: relative to the authority of local school districts to accept federal grants. This bill mandates that all funds received by school districts from state or federal government units must be disclosed in the school board's annual report or during public hearings regarding unanticipated funds. Specifically, the annual report must now include a summary of estimated funds anticipated from these governmental units, detailing the title or identifier of each fund and any obligations incurred by accepting these funds, or stating that there are none. Additionally, any funds not disclosed in the annual report will be classified as unanticipated money, requiring public hearings for amounts of \$20,000 or more, with specific notice requirements that include the fund's title and any obligations. Furthermore, for unanticipated funds under \$20,000, the school board must post notice in the meeting.	8/11/2026	This bill further complicates the process of accepting federal grants. School administration should be aware of this if they are not doing so already to ensure this does not interfere with the acceptance of federal grant money.
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	agenda and include it in the meeting minutes, which must also detail the fund's title and any obligations.		
HB 1563	Title: (New Title) relative to the special education aid formula and the administration and monitoring of state special education aid. The bill changes the special education aid formula by requiring that the Department of Education distribute aid for special education costs exceeding 2.5 times the state average expenditure per pupil, introducing specific thresholds for district and state liabilities. The bill also outlines responsibilities of school districts and the Department of Education in covering these costs, while also establishing that districts must submit certified reports for reimbursement requests. The bill makes numerous other changes but does not take effect for two years.	7/1/2028	This bill makes important changes to how special education aid from the state is calculated. Note the effective date being 2028.
HB 1815	Title: relative to education financing. This bill is a part of the state's appeal to school funding lawsuits. It essentially states that all education funding should be counted toward the state's responsibility toward funding an adequate education, including the funds raised at the local level.	5/26/2026	This bill is part of the state's effort to appeal and overturn Conval court decision around school funding.

Student Health

HB 131	Title: (New Title) relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention. This bill amends existing laws concerning bullying and cyberbullying in schools by introducing new reporting requirements and policy development mandates. It requires the Department of Education to include in its annual report the number of waivers granted for parental notification and investigation extensions, as well as the number of out-of-state cyberbullying cases reported and investigated. Additionally, it mandates that anti-bullying procedures be included in student handbooks, ensuring that alleged victims receive written information about their rights, protections, and available support services. The bill overhauls the policies that school districts are required to adopt for prohibiting bullying and cyberbullying. Key provisions of the bill include a written procedure for communication with parents or guardians of victims and perpetrators within 10 school days of an investigation's completion, and the identification of school officials responsible for policy implementation. There are also specific responsibilities on staff, including some that are tied to code of conduct standards.	1/1/2027	This bill overhauls the anti-bullying statute and will require a number of school policy changes that members should make sure they are aware of from their administration.
SB 429	Title: (New Title) relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor and relative to the parental bill of rights concerning the creation of student media recordings. This bill mandates the installation of trauma kits in public schools and allocates funding for this initiative through the establishment of a trauma kit fund. Specifically, it amends RSA 153-A:33-a to include public schools in the requirement for trauma kits, which must contain essential first aid items such as tourniquets and bleeding control bandages. Separately, the bill also modifies the parental bill of rights regarding student media recordings. The new language specifies that parental written consent is not required for certain types of recordings, including those made during court proceedings, forensic interviews, safety demonstrations, and school-sponsored events open to the public.	Senate, Jul 17, 2026: II. Remainder Effective 07/15/2026	In addition to the trauma kit fund this also creates an exception allowing school sports, plays, etc... to be recorded.
SB 575	Title: (New Title) establishing a committee to study the issue of school bullying and modifying both the exemption of teacher certification records from the right-to-know law and the assignment of superintendent services for school administrative units. This bill establishes a committee tasked with studying the issue of school bullying, which will consist of one Senate member and three House members, all appointed by their respective leaders. The committee is required to report its findings and any legislative recommendations by November 1, 2026. Additionally, the bill modifies existing laws regarding the exemption of educator certification records from the right-to-know law, changing the terminology from "teacher" to "educator" to broaden the scope of the exemption. The bill amends the assignment of personnel authorized to perform superintendent services, allowing both the superintendent and the school board to assign such personnel. This change aims to provide greater flexibility in the management of school administrative units.	7/02/2026	Creates a study committee on school bullying, broadens the school employees covered under the certification record exemption under the right to know law, and adds the school board the ability to designate certain superintendent authorities to other personnel.
SB 577	Title: (New Title) prohibiting the use and recommending avoidance of specific color additives in meals offered or made available by public schools as a part of school breakfast and lunch meal programs. This bill prohibits public elementary and secondary schools from offering or making available certain color additives in meals provided as part of school breakfast and lunch programs. Specifically, it bans the use of FD&C red number 3, FD&C citrus red number 2, and FD&C orange letter B. Additionally, the bill encourages schools to avoid offering foods containing other color additives, including FD&C blue number 1, FD&C blue number 2, FD&C green number 3, FD&C red number 40, FD&C yellow number 5, and FD&C yellow number 6, and to work with vendors to transition away from these additives where feasible.	7/01/2028	Prohibits certain color additives be added to meals served by the school.

This summary is intended to make NEA-New Hampshire members aware of new laws that impact their profession, workplace, and local union and state association. If a member has further inquiries about guidance related to one of these laws they should contact their local union or NEA-New Hampshire.