

Just the **FACTS:** An NEA-NH Factsheet

The Truth About HB 607

NEA-NH believes in a strong, fully-funded public education system that ensures all students can succeed. HB 607 makes reaching that goal much more difficult.

HB 607 would create another, even more dangerous school voucher plan that allocates your locally raised school taxes to fund school voucher accounts that can be used to pay for private, religious, or homeschooling. For most NH communities, the majority of the funding needed for their public schools is raised at the local level through local property taxes. HB 607 targets that funding.

Why is HB 607 bad for students and their neighborhood public schools?

Like the recently passed state voucher scheme, this bill removes funding from our schools while not taking into consideration that fixed costs remain. Since it uses locally raised tax dollars, HB 607 could take a much more substantial amount of funding from our district schools. If adopted, it would require taxpayers fund two school systems, one public and one to pay private, religious and homeschool tuition and expenses. This would negatively impact the quality of our district schools and result in increased property taxes to fund both systems.

This bill would also represent a dramatic expansion of the school voucher program which is already 5,000% over budget, largely due to public money now funding students who were already not in a public school, not those who left their district public school. Like the current state voucher program, HB 607 has little accountability built into it and outsources local property taxes to a third party management organization that is not accountable to taxpayers, and takes 10% of the funds to administer the program - valuable funding that could be used to educate students.

Other Important Information

- No income limit - there is no income limit when qualifying for this program. That means property taxpayers would be subsidizing extremely wealthy families' tuition at private, religious and home schools.
- Vouchers are set at a floor - If you receive a voucher through this program, you can never receive less than what you were paid in the first year in which you participate, which means local property taxpayers have no say in the amount of any existing voucher grant should they need to reduce local spending. Local school budgets never get a floor like a local voucher account would.
- No way out - Even after a 3/5 majority vote to rescind their local voucher program, local property taxpayers remain on the hook to pay any existing voucher accounts until the student graduates high school.

The majority of Granite Staters believe we should be investing in our public schools, not defunding them to pay private, religious and home school expenses.

What Can We Do About HB 607?

Call Your Legislators

Let them know:

- HB 607 would have a disastrous effect on our local school districts and our students and could result in big property tax increases in order to fund two school systems.
- It means working families will pay for the private and home school tuition for ultra-wealthy families with no accountability.
- With the recent state voucher plan passed, that is resulting in lots of new spending, it's time to pump the brakes before we risk that happening at the local level as well.



Examples of What New Hampshire communities could end up spending in new money per home school child or loose from existing students:

Thousands of dollars would leave the public school districts using this method with each child that uses local-level voucher. For example,

- \$11,462 per student in Newfields,
- \$10,787 in Rumney,
- \$4,871 in Conway, and
- \$8, 870 in Deerfield.

Go to the [NEA-NH Take Action Page](#) for details on how to help stop HB 607 from taking even more money from our public neighborhood schools.

neanh.org/nea-nh-legislative-dashboard/nea-nh-legislative-take-action-center/