



## New Hampshire School Boards Association

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### **2020 Proposed Resolutions**

#### **6. Submitted by the Raymond School Board**

**Resolution:** To increase the appropriation amount in existing resolution IIC from \$50 million to \$100 million. The revised resolution would read “NHSBA supports the appropriation of at least \$100 million each fiscal year to fully fund, per RSA 198:15-a, IV, the state’s Building Aid Program. This program has effectively created local and state partnerships in financing school building improvements that benefit all students of New Hampshire, and which would be considered a significant part fulfilling the State’s constitutional duty to provide an adequate education for all children.

**Rationale:** The existing \$50 million is not sufficient to meet the significant improvement needs to provide an adequate education.

#### **7. Submitted by the ConVal School Board**

**Resolution:** The Contoocook Valley School Board requests NHSBA add this continuing resolution: that RSA 198:40-a, "The Cost of An Opportunity for an Adequate Education," be modified to require the state to fully reimburse the cost of basic transportation to every school district.

**Rationale:** This request is based on the following RSA requirements of public school districts in New Hampshire: \* RSA 193:1, that requires every child 6-18 years attend a public school in their resident district, or the school assigned by their resident district; \*RSA 189:6, that requires the local school district to furnish transportation to all pupils in grades 1-8 who live more than two miles from their assigned school; \*Additionally RSA 189:6-b allows school districts to further transport students from schools to before and after school programs; \*Additionally RSA 189:6-c allows school districts to transport students in mixed use school buses, with specific requirements, when needed, including children with disabilities to school activities both during and outside the normal school day; \*Additionally RSA 189:8 adds these limitations and additions on distance that a student must walk to reach the school bus stop, including 'inaccessible' residences; \*And

additionally, RSA 189:9 requires the school district to transport private school students, up to twelfth grade, within any town or district, the same method as the public school students. Finally, the Cheshire County Superior Court Judge David Ruoff, this June 2019, ruled that the NH Constitution requires the state to fully reimburse school districts for transportation. The difference in the cost of transportation between rural and urban districts is another source of inequity in the NH funding of school districts.

8. **Submitted by the Monadnock Regional School Board**

**Resolution:** II:O• Should the special education mandates of the state of New Hampshire exceed the federal special education requirements, then the state of NH should fully fund those mandates that exceed federal requirements to the local school districts. (2009)

**ADD:** This resolution should not be interpreted to obligate the NHSBA to challenge the renewal or re-authorization of mandates that uphold existing rights for students receiving special education services.

**Rationale:** In the 2017 reauthorization cycle for The NH Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities (formerly N.H. Rules for Education of Children with Disabilities), the NHSBA testified in support of HB 620, a bill that would have removed rights and protections for children with disabilities. When asked why, NHSBA's attorney responded "NHSBA bases its testimony on any number of bills primarily on our Resolutions, which are adopted each year at our annual Delegate Assembly. Because NHSBA has Resolutions that relate directly to this bill, I felt it necessary for NSHBA to testify regarding this bill." This resolution was cited as one of two that drove the NHSBA to testify. Our board would like to clarify that this resolution should not obligate the NHSBA to testify in such matters. Our board believes that the state should fund the existing and future mandates, as the resolution states, but feels it is not appropriate for our board or an organization representing our board to support measures that would remove existing rights and protections of children with disabilities.

9. **Submitted by the Manchester School Board**

**Resolution:** That the New Hampshire School Board Association opposes any legislation that has a fiscal impact to local communities without the appropriate state funding.

**Rationale:** Creates undue fiscal burden on the local communities.

10. **Jointly Submitted by the Oyster River, Nottingham, & Dover School Boards**

**Resolution:** The NHSBA supports legislation to restrict possession of firearms on school property, limiting possession to certified police officers only.

**Rationale:** NH is one of only three states that does not prohibit gun owners from bringing firearms onto school property. Under NH state law, anyone who legally owns a gun can carry that weapon onto school grounds and into schools. Local boards or town councils cannot act to restrict them. The proliferation of firearms within schools presents a danger to students and school personnel. Current initiatives which “harden” entrances to schools, to which the state has contributed millions of dollars, are futile if there are no legal restrictions for bringing firearms onto school property in the first place.

#### **11. Submitted by the Keene School Board**

**Resolution:** The New Hampshire School Board Association supports legislation that makes clear the authority of local school districts to restrict firearms on school property, excepting authorized police and security personnel.

**Rationale:** The Federal Gun Free School Zone Act appears to allow this local control, but recent state legislation and state attorney general actions have led to confusion, inconsistency, and a weakening of the federal act. School districts have a responsibility to provide environments “free of hazardous conditions,” under NH DOE rule 302.02. Given the recent heightened emphasis in school safety at both the state and local levels it is vital that state law is again aligned with federal law, and clear authority is given to districts to maintain gun-free schools.