



New Hampshire School Boards Association

Barrett M. Christina, Executive Director

Matt Pappas, President, Rochester

Ege Cordell, First-Vice President, Chesterfield

James Noyes, Second-Vice President, Bethlehem and Profile Regional

Holly Kennedy, Immediate Past-President, Hinsdale

25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603) 228-2061

www.nhsba.org

New Hampshire School Boards Association 2026 Delegate Assembly October 17, 2026

Dear NHSBA Members –

Last week, NHSBA sent a packet of documents for the 2026 NHSBA Delegate Assembly. After sending that packet, NHSBA was contacted by a few school board members who were confused about some of the proposed changes to the NHSBA Bylaws. NHSBA reviewed those concerns, agreed with some of them, **and is now issuing a REVISED NHSBA BYLAWS document.**

The proper version of proposed Bylaw changes is included in this packet. NHSBA apologizes for this confusion.

This year's DA is scheduled on Saturday October 17, 2026 starting at 10:30am. A full agenda will be provided in the coming weeks.

Members can register for the 2026 NHSBA Delegate Assembly here:

[2026 NHSBA Annual Delegate Assembly Registration](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2026 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

NHSBA is **proposing significant changes to our bylaws and is proposing significant changes to the structure and process of the current Delegate Assembly and Statement of Beliefs/Resolution process.**

The NHSBA *Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual* contains more than eighty (80) policy positions. Many of the current policy positions are decades old and are either no longer relevant or are not top priorities for NHSBA's legislative advocacy. Additionally, in any given year, NHSBA receives more than a dozen proposed resolutions, adding to the already overabundant number of Association policies. Further, given the number of existing legislative policies positions, it is not feasible for NHSBA to advocate with fidelity for all current policies.

In consideration thereof, NHSBA is proposing the following changes to our legislative policy process. Those proposed changes include:

- In even years (2028, 2030, etc.) NHSBA will host a "Legislative Policy Conference" meeting where Association legislative priorities will be established by member school boards.
- NHSBA's Legislative Policy Positions and guiding Legislative Principles will be established at a biennial legislative policy conference, where every member municipality has an equal voice.
- These policies and principles will serve to guide the Association in its advocacy activities for the legislative biennium.
- Legislative policy positions will be effective for two years (and therefore, two legislative sessions). At subsequent Legislative Policy Conferences, members may re-adopt existing policy positions, introduce new legislative policy proposals, or remove existing policy positions.
- Adoption of a legislative policies will take a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the locally appointed representatives in attendance.
- Existing NHSBA *Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual* will sunset. However, exiting legislative policies may be re-introduced, if these proposed processes are adopted by NHSBA members.
- In odd years (2027, 2029, etc.) NHSBA will host its Annual Business Meeting for matters such as electing members to the NHSBA Board of Directors, election of officers, receiving reports, and other business-related matters.
- Also, at the odd-year Annual Business Meetings, NHSBA will host a professional develop and training conference with presentations, guest speakers, and an opportunity for board members from across the state to interact with each other, collaborate, share ideas, and engage in peer-to-peer activities.

- Hosting this annual conference is a direct result of member feedback from NHSBA's ongoing strategic planning. School board members from across the state universally asked NHSBA to provide a forum for board members from different districts and different regions to interact with one another. We believe this change in process is one step toward addressing this request.
- NHSBA is borrowing some of these proposed changes from the NH Municipal Association's legislative policy process.

The proposed changes, as explained above, require NHSBA Bylaws to be amended. **We draw your attention specifically to Article IV and newly proposed/amended Article V.** A marked-up copy of the proposed Bylaw changes is included in this packet of materials. Please note that additional changes to the Bylaws are also being proposed. However, the Sections within the Bylaw regarding the Delegate Assembly is the most pressing.

Language proposed to be removed from the current Bylaws is in strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~).

Language proposed to be added to the Bylaws is in **red and bold font**.

Resolution Process for the 2026 NHSBA Delegate Assembly

Each member-school board may send one voting Delegate and one alternative. However, any and all board members are invited to attend. All proposed Resolutions will be brought forward to the Delegation. In past years, discussion of a proposed Resolution only followed a motion to adopt the proposal. This year, NHSBA will allow the Delegate from the board that submitted the proposed Resolution to speak to their submission, even if the proposal does not receive a motion to adopt.

NHSBA asks that our members please note the following:

- Have your local school board appoint/elect an official Delegate to attend the NHSBA Delegate Assembly and have the Delegate register using the link above.
- Have your local school board take an official vote/position on each of the Proposed Resolutions – support, oppose, abstain.
- NHSBA does not monitor local boards for their specific grants of authority and relies on each delegate to take positions consistent with their Board's authorization, therefore, the local school board should also discuss the authority of the delegate vote on amendments and amended resolutions.

- Every submitted Proposed Resolution is included as it was submitted. The Proposed Rationale was completed by the school board that submitted the Proposal.
- The recommendation from the NHSBA Board of Directors is just that - a recommendation. The ultimate positions/Resolutions will be determined by NHSBA member school boards.

Included in this packet on the following pages are:

1. Proposed Bylaw changes
2. 2026 Proposed Resolutions
3. 2026 Continuing Resolutions
4. NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please contact me directly if you or your board have any questions.

Thank you for your service and thank you for participating in this year's NHSBA Delegate Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barrett M. Christina".

Barrett M. Christina
Executive Director

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**BY-LAWS OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

ADOPTED OCTOBER 30, 1993
AMENDED OCTOBER 28, 1995
AMENDED OCTOBER 26, 1996

AMENDED NOVEMBER 3, 2001
AMENDED JANUARY 16, 2010
AMENDED OCTOBER 14, 2023
AMENDED OCTOBER 17, 2026

ARTICLE I

Membership and Membership Dues

1. **Local School Board Membership.** Local School Boards and the boards of state-approved Public Academies within **New Hampshire** may become members of the New Hampshire School Boards Association (hereinafter "NHSBA **(or the "Association")**") upon the payment of annual dues. The dues for local boards shall be based upon expenditure figures that are the most recent complete totals excluding federal funds and school construction costs. No board dues will increase more than 10% from one year to the other. All member boards will receive the same basic services, regardless of dues paid. No member board will pay less than their previous year's dues.

Dues increases must be approved by the NHSBA Board of Directors. NHSBA will provide notice to school boards by November 1st of each year if dues will increase for the following fiscal year.

For new member school boards (including boards rejoining NHSBA after a hiatus), incoming dues shall be the same as for the then current member school board whose expenditure totals for the most recently completed fiscal year (excluding federal funds and school construction costs) are nearest to those of the new member board's district.

2. **Associate Membership.** Other educational institutions and organizations which serve New Hampshire public schools may become Associate Members upon approval by the NHSBA Board of Directors and payment of membership dues. **The NHSBA services available and the annual dues for an associate membership of an institution's (or like class of institutions) will be established by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Executive Director.** ~~which shall entitle them to NHSBA services, provided however that such Associate Membership shall be established annually by the Board of Directors.~~

ARTICLE II

Board of Directors

1. **Members.** The Board of Directors shall consist of ~~seventeen~~ **ten** persons, ~~three~~ **two** from each of five **regions**: North Country, Lakes, South Central, Southeast, and Southwest, **to be elected by the Annual Business Meeting as described in Article II.5, below** and ~~two~~ **three at large to be** selected by the Board of Directors. Consideration shall be given to sizes of school district and geographical area, with the goal that at least ~~three~~ **two** Board members **will represent** city school boards. Officers of the Association shall serve along with other members

of the Board of Directors but selection **of the officers and relative duties** shall follow Article III of the By-Laws.

2. **Term of Office.** The term of office for the ~~fifteen~~ **ten regional** Board members shall be three years. The term of office for the ~~two~~ **three** at-large members will be one year. Members of the Board of Directors shall serve through the end of the ~~annual Delegate Assembly~~ **Annual Meeting of the Association ("Annual Meeting") held in** year in which their respective terms expire. **With the exception of the office of Immediate-Past President** membership on the Board of Directors is contingent upon continued service as a local school board member and continued membership of his/her board in **the** Association.
3. **Qualifications.** A member of the Board of Directors must be a member of a school board in the state at the time of election and throughout the term of service. No person shall serve as a **regional** member for more than two three-year terms. At-large members shall not serve for more than ~~two~~ **three** one-year terms. There exist only two situations which would automatically exclude a local school board member from becoming a member of the Board of Directors. Those two situations include: (1) the candidate is not a member of a local member school board; and (2) the candidate would experience a professional conflict of interest benefiting him/herself by serving on the Board of Directors.
4. **Meetings.** All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the President or of any three of its members. **A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of then sitting members of the Board of Directors.**
5. **Election.** Members of the Board of Directors, other than those in at-large seats, shall be elected by the ~~Delegate Assembly~~ named representatives at the time of the ~~annual Delegate Assembly~~ **Annual Meeting** and take office at the conclusion of ~~that~~ meeting. At-large members shall be selected as soon as possible after each **Annual Meeting of the Association.**
6. **Vacancy.** If a member of the Board of Directors dies, resigns, becomes incapacitated, leaves the state permanently, becomes an officer of the Association, or becomes unqualified according to the provisions of these by-laws the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement to hold office until the next ~~annual Delegate Assembly~~ **Annual Meeting, at which the membership will elect a person to serve the balance of the original member's term.**
7. **Powers and Duties.** The Board of Directors shall carry out the purposes of the Association to the best of its ability. It shall transact the business of the Association, shall have the power to appoint and remove all agents and employees of the Association. ~~and prescribe their duties, shall fix the salaries of officers, agents, and employees, shall conduct, manage, and control the affairs of the Association and shall supervise all officers, agents, and employees to the end that their duties are properly performed.~~ It shall in all things, however, be guided by all duly adopted resolutions of the ~~Delegate Assembly~~ **legislative principles and policies established at the biannual Legislative Policy Conference as described in Article V, below,** as well as by the Statement of Responsibilities enacted by the Board of Directors (~~incorporated herein as Appendix A).~~

8. **Executive Committee.** There shall be an Executive Committee made up of the Officers ~~and chairs of all standing committees.~~ Membership on the Executive Committee may be expanded at any time **by the Board of Directors.** The Executive Committee assumes only those responsibilities which the full Board of Directors grant.

ARTICLE III

Officers

1. **Number.** The **O**fficers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Immediate Past President.
2. **Election and Term of Office.** Officers shall be elected at the ~~Delegate Assembly~~ **Annual Meeting** and **shall** take office **immediately following that Meeting.** ~~The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of officers at the annual Delegate Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall also submit a slate of Board of Directors members to the Delegate Assembly.~~ **Nominations may be made by the Board of Directors or** from the floor **of the Annual Meeting.** No person shall serve more than two terms in each of the four officer positions.
3. **Vacancies.** If any **O**fficer dies, resigns, becomes incapacitated, or leaves the state permanently, his or her term of office shall terminate, and the Board of Directors shall elect a successor to serve until the close of the next annual ~~Delegate Assembly meeting.~~ **Annual Meeting.**
4. **President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors, shall carry on the business of the Association ~~subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors,~~ and shall appoint **members of any** committees approved by the Board of Directors as desirable to carry out the business of the Association. He/she shall perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.
5. **First and Second Vice-Presidents.** It shall be the duty of the First Vice-President to perform the duties of the President in his/her absence. In the absence of both the President and First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President.
6. **Immediate Past President.** The Immediate Past President serves as an *ex-officio* member of the Board with full voting privileges. The Immediate Past-President serves until the term of the President expires. Service as the Immediate Past-President does not require current membership on a local school board.
7. **Treasurer.** ~~A designated member of the Finance Committee shall act as the Association's Treasurer with all voting rights as a member of the Board of Directors.~~

ARTICLE IV

[REPLACE ARTICLE IV IN FULL]

Meetings of the Association Membership

1. **Membership Meetings.** Meetings of the membership of the Association will be composed of annual meetings and special meetings (collectively “membership meetings”). While all individual board members (“individual members”) from member boards are welcome to attend membership meetings, and as discussed in Article IV, Section 3, below, voting at such meetings shall be by individual representatives appointed by their member school board (“member representative”).

Written notice of each membership meeting shall be sent via email to all individual members at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. A full report of each membership meeting will be sent in like manner to all individual members.

2. **Annual Membership Meetings.** Annual meetings of the Association shall be held at a time and place established by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may, for good cause, schedule the annual meeting beyond twelve (12) but not more than eighteen (18) months from the date of the preceding annual meeting.

At each annual meeting the membership shall meet act upon programs and policies initiated by the Board of Directors, receive necessary reports, elect Association officers, and elect the regional members of the Board of Directors.

Beginning with the annual meeting for 2028 and in each even year thereafter, the annual meeting shall include the Association’s biennial Legislative Policy Conference as discussed in Article V, below.

Beginning with the annual meeting for 2027 and in each odd year thereafter, the annual meeting will include guest speakers, development and training opportunities, peer-to-peer engagement, and/or other special programming.

3. **Member Representatives.** Although all individual school board members are eligible to attend membership meetings, each member school board is entitled to only one voting representative at membership meetings. Member school boards may appoint both a voting representative and an alternate representative for each meeting. The member school board is responsible for communicating the names of the appointed representative and alternative representative to NHSBA staff. Each school board is responsible for granting such authority to its representative(s) as deemed appropriate by that school board. Only the appointed member representative and, in the absence of the appointed representative, the alternative, may vote at membership meetings. There is no voting by proxy.

Each representative and alternate must serve on a member school district board as defined in Article I. Directors may serve as their local school board representative, provided their appointment is disclosed to the Executive Director prior to the membership meeting.

4. **Quorum.** Representatives representing twenty percent of the school boards which are then members of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

The Delegate Assembly

Annual Business Meetings

1. **Membership Meetings.** Meetings of the membership of the Association shall be called Business Meetings, and the business shall be conducted by individual representatives appointed by each member school board.
2. **Annual Meetings of the Association.** There shall be an Annual Business Meeting held annually at a time and place established by the Board of Directors. Written notice thereof shall be sent to all Association members at least thirty (30) days prior to the assembly.
3. **Special Assemblies.** Special **assemblies** of the Association may be called by the Executive Director upon request of the President or a majority of the Board of Directors. Written notice thereof stating the purpose therefore shall be sent to Association members at least **15 days** prior to the said meeting. Only such business stated in the notice and matters reasonably incident thereto shall be transacted at said **special assembly**.
4. **Voting by Representative.** Although all individual school board members are eligible to attend assemblies, each member school board is entitled to only one voting representative at the Annual Association. Member school boards shall may appoint both a voting representative and an alternate representative for each assembly. Each school board is responsible for granting such authority to its representative(s) as deemed appropriate by that school board. A person authorized by the local school board shall forward to the Association the names of the representative and alternate so appointed.
5. **Qualifications.** Each delegate **representative** and alternate must serve on a member school district board as defined in Article I. Officers of the NHSBA may not serve as their local school board delegate. Directors may serve as their local school board delegate **representative**, provided their appointment is disclosed to the Executive Director prior to the assembly.
6. **Duties of the Delegate Assembly Annual Business Meeting.** The Delegate Assembly **Annual Business** meeting shall meet **convene** annually to approve or modify programs and policies initiated by the Board of Directors, adopt such resolutions as are necessary and desirable to further the purposes of the Association, **receive necessary reports**, and elect officers and members of the Board of Directors, except for members to be selected to at-large seats as provided in Article II. A full report of the proceedings of the Delegate Assembly **Annual Business Meeting** will be sent to the entire membership. **Other Association Business Meetings** meetings of the Delegate Assembly may be held at the call of the Board of Directors with 30 days' notice.
7. **Resolutions.** The Delegate Assembly has full authority to adopt such resolutions as in its judgment are necessary and desirable to further the purposes of the Association. All NHSBA resolutions shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors, which shall recommend resolutions to the annual Delegate Assembly meeting. School boards shall receive copies of the resolutions at least 30 days prior to the Delegate Assembly. Consideration of additional resolutions requires a 2/3 vote of the delegates present.

8. ~~Attendance. Only delegates **named representatives**, or in their absence the alternates, elected in accordance with this Article, may vote on matters presented to the meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy. **Representatives representing twenty percent of the school boards then members of the Association** shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.~~

ARTICLE V

Area Organizations

~~The Association shall encourage the organization of regional areas as sections of the Association to discuss problems of a local nature and to widen the participation of school board members in the activities of the Association. Each area may adopt its own Constitution and By Laws not inconsistent with these By Laws or the Articles of Agreement of the Association. Each area shall keep the Secretary-Treasurer informed of its current officers.~~

ARTICLE V

Legislative Policies & Legislative Policy Conferences

1. **Adoption of Legislative Principles and Policies.** Legislative principles and policies to be supported by the Association shall be adopted by the Association members at **biennial Legislative Policy Conferences** pursuant to the provisions of these Bylaws and supplementary procedures as may be approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **Legislative Policy Conferences.** **Legislative Policy Conferences** shall be held no less often than biennially for the adoption of legislative principles and policies. The Legislative Conferences may be held as part of any Annual or Special Meeting of the Association and may constitute the only business of a Special Meeting. The adoption of any legislative principle or policy shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those member boards represented at and voting on the question. Rules of procedure, not inconsistent with this section, for separate Legislative Conferences may be adopted by the Parliamentarian, pursuant to Article VI of these bylaws.
3. **Adoption by Board.** Between Legislative Policy Conferences, the Board of Directors may adopt legislative policies as necessary to address issues not addressed by the Association's existing legislative policies, to determine a clear policy on specific legislation where existing policies or principles are subject to interpretation, or to resolve apparent conflicts between existing policies. The adoption of a legislative policy may be approved at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds of the directors present and voting on the question.

ARTICLE VI

Parliamentary Authority and Rules of Order

The Board of Directors, in consultation with a parliamentarian, shall establish Rules of **Order for every meeting of Officers, the Board of Directors, Annual Business Meetings, or Legislative Principles and Policies Conference**, which shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable **provided such rules are subject to approval of the meeting and** are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended, altered, or replaced by a majority vote of those present and voting at the ~~Delegate Assembly~~ **Annual Business Meeting, Legislative Policy Conference, or any specially called Business Meeting**, provided written notice of the same is given in the call of the **Annual Business Meeting**.



New Hampshire School Boards Association

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25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
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www.nhsba.org

Proposed Resolution #1

Submitted By: Governor Wentworth School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Establish a new Policy III:B that states: NHSBA supports school districts' ability to join and govern governmental pooled risk management programs, commonly called "risk pools." Further, NHSBA supports multiple forms of risk pools to be permitted to exist, including, but not limited to, assessable and nonassessable risk pools. NHSBA also supports the reasonable regulation of risk pools and for those regulations to promote and ensure risk pools' solvency, which creates stability for risk pool members and their employees.

Rationale:

We believe NHSBA should have a clear established position on governmental pooled risk management program. We also believe the position should support multiple forms of risk pools existing and reasonable regulations of the pools.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Not support. Recent legislation and related matters concerning New Hampshire's pooled-risk programs, specifically as it relates to health insurance, are important matters to school boards. However, the Board of Directors believes that the proposal is too specific and does not necessarily relate to school board governance matters. Additionally, NHSBA has not taken a position on such legislation the last two years, believing that the issues at hand do not relate to NHSBA's vision and mission statements.

Proposed Resolution #2

Submitted By: Dover School Board

Proposed Resolution:

NHSBA opposes any legislation that enacts a statewide school budget cap.

Rationale:

NH operates on a long, cherished tradition of local control. Recent legislative attempts to enact a statewide mandated school budget cap threaten that local control, locking every district into a one-size-fits-all restriction that provides no flexibility for unique community needs. Local residents already have the ability to enact a budget cap in their own communities - voted on by the people who would be directly affected by that decision. Many essential education costs - disability services, transportation and health insurance to name just a few - often rise faster than inflation. School board members and administrators are best suited to know and address the needs of their local communities, and should be trusted to act with fidelity in developing budgets that balance those needs with the capacity of their local residents to fund education services.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Not support. While the NHSBA Board of Directors recognizes the importance of this proposal and legal problems with HB 1300 as adopted, the Board believes this proposal is not necessary, given that NHSBA advocated vigorously against this bill. Further, given that HB 1300 is now law, the proposal seems reactive to a law that is now in place.

Proposed Resolution #3

Submitted By: Chesterfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA) adopt a default advocacy position in favor of focused, germane legislation affecting New Hampshire public schools; that NHSBA communicate to the New Hampshire Legislature its concern about the use of non-germane amendments as a vehicle for unrelated policy; and that NHSBA oppose non-germane amendments when, in NHSBA's judgment, they compromise the clarity, transparency, or effectiveness of legislation impacting public school students and communities — while retaining full discretion to support any amendment that, upon thorough review, advances the interests of New Hampshire public schools.

Rationale:

Local school boards across New Hampshire — regardless of district size, geography, or political composition — share a common need: clear, predictable, and transparent state law that they can implement faithfully on behalf of their students and communities. This resolution does not seek to restrict NHSBA's legislative flexibility or to intervene in the internal procedures of the New Hampshire Legislature. Rather, it asks NHSBA to give voice to a practical concern that school boards across the state encounter when unrelated policy is bundled into education legislation through the use of non-germane amendments.

This is not a partisan concern. Non-germane amendments have been used by legislators across the political spectrum, and the burden they place on school boards falls equally regardless of which party introduces them. The following benefits illustrate why focused, germane legislation serves New Hampshire's public school students, educators, and communities more effectively:

1. CLARITY OF IMPLEMENTATION

When a law addresses a single, clearly defined subject, school boards and administrators can develop coherent policies and procedures to implement it. Non-germane amendments introduce unrelated obligations into a single statute, forcing boards to simultaneously address policy areas that may require entirely different stakeholders, legal reviews, and community input processes. Focused legislation allows school boards to implement new law efficiently, consistently, and with fidelity to legislative intent.

2. INFORMED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

School board members are directly accountable to their communities. When a bill is amended with non-germane provisions, parents, educators, and community members may be unaware that policy affecting their schools is advancing under an unrelated bill title. This is true even when a public hearing is technically held — hearings on non-germane amendments are frequently scheduled with little notice, giving advocates and community members insufficient time to understand the amendment's implications or meaningfully participate. Germane legislation ensures that a bill's title and stated purpose accurately reflect its content, giving the public a fair opportunity to engage with their elected representatives.

3. PROTECTION OF STRONG, STANDALONE LEGISLATION

Non-germane amendments can place school boards and legislators in an untenable position: accepting harmful or inadequately vetted policy in order to advance important protections, or rejecting a meritorious bill entirely because of an unrelated rider. This dynamic has occurred repeatedly in the New Hampshire Legislature across multiple legislative sessions and across bills of varying subject matter. Requiring that amendments be germane protects the integrity of good bills regardless of their origin or sponsorship.

4. ACCURATE FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

School boards engage in multi-year and long-range operational planning. Non-germane amendments can introduce unfunded mandates or significant operational requirements with little notice and no opportunity for fiscal analysis prior to passage. When legislation is focused and its content is predictable from its title and stated purpose, school boards can anticipate costs, engage their communities on resource needs, and plan for compliance — rather than being required to implement policy they had no meaningful opportunity to review.

5. STRENGTHENING NHSBA'S LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS

NHSBA's credibility and effectiveness as an advocate depends on its ability to evaluate legislation thoroughly and respond in a timely, informed manner. Non-germane amendments — frequently introduced late in the legislative session — compress the time available for staff analysis, member input, and stakeholder consultation. A consistent, publicly stated position that NHSBA expects germane legislation strengthens NHSBA's standing at the statehouse and signals to legislators that the association is a rigorous, principled advocate for New Hampshire's public schools.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support. In the past, NHSBA has not uniformly opposed the use of non-germane amendments, as such amendments could include positions that the Association supports. However, the volume and complexity of legislative activity in recent years have exacerbated the challenges this practice creates for policymakers, stakeholders, and the public, with several such amendments becoming law without full hearing and without integration into current statutory frameworks. As a result, the Board of Directors now supports requiring amendments to be germane to the underlying legislation to promote greater transparency, meaningful review, and informed decision-making.

Proposed Resolution #4

Submitted By: Pittsfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) should be made available only to students who meet the eligibility requirements for free and reduced lunch and who are not succeeding academically in their local public school. This restores the initial intent of EFAs and prevents the current free-for-all approach that has spiraled costs out of control.

Rationale:

EFA funds are being provided to parents who do not need them (kids already in private school, have the means to pay) and the resulting impact on the budget is squeezing other services.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Not support. NHSBA has two long-standing Statements of Belief opposing vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that divert scarce tax dollars away from public education (I:A, adopted in 1991; and I:B, adopted in 2005). If the delegates wish to adopt this proposal, those two long-standing Statements of Belief would have to be amended or deleted.

- *I:A• NHSBA supports the utilization of public education funds solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (1991)*
- *I:B• NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. Specifically, NHSBA opposes the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools. Rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms, NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public schools and meet current funding obligations and promises, benefiting the vast majority of America's children who are educated daily in our public schools. (2005)*

Proposed Resolution #5

Submitted By: Pittsfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

If the legislature continues its pursuit of state-mandated open enrollment, the state should be responsible for covering the full cost of the student's participation in the receiving district and should fund transportation expenses for students attending a school other than their public school of record. No local funds from the sending district should be allocated to the receiving district since the state will have superseded local control over these decisions.

Rationale:

The state should fully fund state-required changes in educational policy such as this, rather than allowing the burden to fall on local school districts.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support alternative language.

Alternative Resolution Proposed by the NHSBA Board of Directors:

Amend continuing resolution #5 to read: NHSBA opposes state-mandated open enrollment as a primary legislative position. Such opposition is paramount when any proposals to expand open enrollment is not fully funded by the state, and/or does not include sufficient state funding to provide transportation for all K-12 students to the open enrollment of their choice.

NHSBA Rationale:

In 2025, NHSBA members adopted Continuing Resolution #5, which states “NHSBA opposes state-mandated open enrollment.”

The Board of Directors holds firm on that commitment as a primary position, but acknowledges that continuing legislative efforts to expand open enrollment may require the Association to work to mitigate negative effects of future bills. In recent proposed legislation, some of the negative impacts would have included further erosion of New Hampshire’s longstanding principle of local control, the forced impact of individual family choices upon school district budgets, and the disparate impact on families lacking the financial or time resources necessary to transport their children to other schools.

If the delegates wish to accept this Proposed Resolution in some form, the NHSBA Board of Directors amending Continuing Resolution #5.

Proposed Resolution #6

Submitted By: Pittsfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may pursue agreements to share, streamline, or merge SAU administrative services as negotiated by their local school boards. Any state-driven merging of such SAU services must, however, allow a minimum of three years before implementation and must articulate how smaller and/or poorer districts will not be overlooked in a larger administrative unit.

Rationale:

We do not disagree that administrative services for smaller districts are expensive to maintain. However, the decisions about when and whether to consolidate in some way should be left to local boards (local control). If the state mandates such consolidation, they must allow time to consider its implementation, and the state must articulate how the plan will not disenfranchise smaller and/or poorer districts.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support alternative language.

Alternative Resolution Proposed by the NHSBA Board of Directors:

The New Hampshire School Boards Association supports local school districts pursuing agreements to share, streamline, or merge SAU administrative services as negotiated by the local school boards. However, NHSBA believes that any state-mandated merging of SAUs or SAU services must, allow for a reasonable time before implementation so such implementation can be done with fidelity. Further, state-mandated SAU mergers must articulate and ensure that smaller and/or poorer school districts will not be overlooked by a larger administrative unit.

NHSBA Rationale: Though NHSBA has opposed state-mandated SAU mergers the last two legislative sessions, there is continuing discussion at the legislature about implementing some sort of legislation to consolidate SAUs and/or SAU services. NHSBA believes that such mergers, if any, should be left to local voters to approve following negotiation among and by local school boards. Further, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes ensuring that smaller and poorer school districts are not overlooked by a larger SAU structure is a prudent principle.

Proposed Resolution #7

Submitted By: Pittsfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The state will not further decrease or eliminate any tax or other revenue stream unless and until 40% of the cost of special education in every district in the state has been funded by a combination of state and federal funds.

Rationale:

Education does not have a spending problem. We have a revenue problem, driven largely by the legislature's decisions to reduce or eliminate sources of revenue such as the Interest and Dividends tax and the BET. If the decision to reduce revenue is taken, the state should ensure that its obligations to local districts' special education costs have been met first.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Not support.

NHSBA Statement of Belief IX:A states “NHSBA urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds to pay 40% of the cost of implementing IDEA, and to fully fund any additional requirements in the area of special education and to provide financial impact statements.” (1990)

Additionally, NHSBA Statement of Belief IX:B (2002) states in part “Congress should fully fund the federal share of IDEA as a mandatory program.”

For these reasons, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes the Proposed Resolution is already covered by these two existing Statements of Belief.

Proposed Resolution #8

Submitted By: Pittsfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

NHSBA supports the right of parents to homeschool their children. However, parents who choose to do so should be required to submit accountability measures to the State Board of Education. Furthermore, no parents homeschooling their child should receive an Education Freedom Account (EFA) unless their child would meet the eligibility requirements for free and reduced lunch in public school.

Rationale:

Accountability for education rests with the public schools. If children are educated at home by parents, the state has a vested interest in ensuring that children are making academic progress. Parents who choose to homeschool their children should not receive EFAs unless their child would meet the eligibility requirements of FRL in the public school to keep the system fair.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Not support. First, as noted above, NHSBA has two long-standing Statements of Belief opposing school vouchers. This proposal implies that NHSBA does not oppose vouchers provided certain conditions or criteria are met. Second, homeschooling matters are not necessarily matters impact or affecting school board governance. For these reasons, the NHSBA Board of Directors does not support this proposal.

Proposed Resolution #9

Submitted By: Raymond School Board

Proposed Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hampshire School Boards Association establish a process requiring any resolution that is seven (7) years old or older to be reviewed by the appropriate committee or governing body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following such review, the resolution shall be recommended for one of the following actions:

1. Retain the resolution as written;
2. Amend or update the resolution; or
3. Remove the resolution from the Association's active policy positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the review process be communicated to the membership as part of the Association's regular resolution and delegate assembly process.

Rationale:

The New Hampshire School Boards Association maintains a series of resolutions intended to guide advocacy efforts, legislative priorities, and organizational positions on behalf of member school districts; and

Resolutions adopted many years ago may no longer reflect current educational priorities, legislative realities, fiscal conditions, or the needs of New Hampshire school districts; and

Regularly reviewing existing resolutions helps ensure that the Association's positions remain relevant, accurate, and representative of its membership; and

A formal review process would provide member districts with the opportunity to reaffirm, revise, or retire outdated resolutions in an organized and transparent manner.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support. The NHSBA Board of Directors agrees that the Association currently has too many Resolutions/Statement of Beliefs and that many of them are either outdated or no longer pertinent.

Proposed Resolution #10.1

Submitted By: Claremont School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Developing a New Hampshire Educational and Municipal Finance Workforce Pipeline

WHEREAS, New Hampshire school districts and municipalities are experiencing significant difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified business administrators, finance directors, accountants, and other public-sector financial professionals; and

WHEREAS, accounting practices, statutory requirements, reporting obligations, tax-rate calculations, grant administration, governmental auditing standards, and financial management responsibilities in school districts and municipalities differ substantially from those found in private-sector accounting; and

WHEREAS, many skills and competencies required for governmental and school finance administration are not routinely taught in traditional business accounting degree programs; and WHEREAS, the shortage of qualified candidates creates operational risks for school districts, threatens compliance with state and federal requirements, and increases costs associated with recruitment, training, and turnover;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hampshire School Boards Association advocate for legislation, appropriations, and state-supported initiatives that encourage New Hampshire colleges, community colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education to establish, expand, or support programs, certificates, concentrations, internships, apprenticeships, and degree pathways focused on governmental, municipal, and school district accounting and finance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NHSBA advocates for scholarships, loan-forgiveness programs, internships, and other incentives designed to attract and retain qualified professionals in New Hampshire's public education and municipal finance workforce.

This resolution is contingent on Claremont School Board approval

Rationale:

New Hampshire faces a growing shortage of qualified school and municipal finance professionals. Private-sector accounting experience alone often does not provide the specialized knowledge necessary to administer public funds, comply with governmental accounting standards, calculate tax rates, manage grants, and meet state and federal reporting requirements. Establishing educational pathways focused specifically on governmental and school finance will strengthen the workforce pipeline, improve compliance, reduce risk, and better protect taxpayer resources.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: See the NHSBA Board of Directors response and recommendation following Proposed Resolution 10.3.

Resolution #10.2

Submitted By: Claremont School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Reinstatement of State Certification Requirements for School District Business Administrators

WHEREAS, school district business administrators are responsible for the stewardship of substantial public funds and for ensuring compliance with complex state and federal financial requirements; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of school district business administrators include budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, tax-rate development, grant administration, procurement, debt management, internal controls, auditing coordination, and regulatory compliance; and

WHEREAS, these responsibilities require specialized expertise that is distinct from private-sector accounting and financial management; and

WHEREAS, consistent professional standards help ensure sound financial practices, transparency, accountability, and protection of taxpayer resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hampshire School Boards Association advocate for legislation and administrative rules requiring school district business administrators to obtain and maintain state certification as a condition of employment in New Hampshire public school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certification standards reflect the specialized knowledge and competencies required for school finance administration and governmental accounting in New Hampshire.

Rationale:

School district business administrators occupy positions of significant fiduciary responsibility. Requiring state certification establishes a consistent baseline of professional competence, promotes accountability, and helps ensure that individuals entrusted with managing public education funds possess the specialized knowledge required to perform these duties effectively. Reinstating certification requirements will strengthen financial oversight and reduce the risk of costly compliance failures.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: See the NHSBA Board of Directors response and recommendation following Proposed Resolution 10.3.

Proposed Resolution 10.3

Submitted By: Claremont School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Strengthening Continuing Education Requirements for Certified School District Business Administrators

WHEREAS, state and federal laws, regulations, accounting standards, grant requirements, auditing expectations, and financial reporting obligations affecting school districts change regularly; and

WHEREAS, maintaining professional competency requires ongoing education and demonstrated mastery of specialized subject matter; and

WHEREAS, continuing education programs that rely solely upon attendance verification do not adequately demonstrate comprehension or competency; and

WHEREAS, failures in grant administration, reimbursement procedures, tax-rate calculations, financial reporting, procurement compliance, and other areas of public finance can result in financial losses, audit findings, delayed reimbursements, and increased taxpayer burden;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hampshire School Boards Association advocate for mandatory continuing education requirements for all certified school district business administrators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that continuing education programs include objective assessment measures demonstrating successful completion and comprehension of course content, including examinations, competency assessments, case-study evaluations, or other measurable methods of evaluation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that required continuing education include instruction and demonstrated competency in areas including, but not limited to:

- School district accounting and governmental accounting standards;
- State and federal grant administration;
- Grant reimbursement procedures and compliance requirements;
- Financial reporting and audit preparation;
- Tax-rate calculation and revenue estimation;
- Budget development and long-range financial planning;
- Procurement and contracting requirements;
- Internal controls and fraud prevention;
- State-specific statutory and regulatory requirements;
- Federal compliance requirements and reimbursement regulations; and
- Other topics essential to the effective stewardship of public education funds.

Rationale:

Continuing education should ensure not only participation but also demonstrated competency. School district business administrators must remain current on increasingly complex financial, regulatory, and grant-management requirements. Requiring objective evaluation as part of continuing education will promote professional excellence, improve compliance, reduce audit findings, maximize reimbursement opportunities, and strengthen public confidence in the management of taxpayer resources.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support alternative language.

Alternative Resolution Proposed by the NHSBA Board of Directors:

- 10.1** The New Hampshire School Boards Association will advocate for and support legislation and administrative rules requiring school district business administrators to obtain and maintain state certification (with appropriate alternative pathways) as a condition of employment in New Hampshire public school districts; and that certification standards reflect the specialized knowledge and competencies required for school finance administration and governmental accounting in New Hampshire.
- 10.2** The New Hampshire School Boards Association will advocate for and support mandatory continuing education requirements for all certified school district business administrators; and that continuing education programs include objective assessment measures demonstrating successful completion and comprehension of course content, including examinations, competency assessments, case-study evaluations, or other measurable methods of evaluation.
- 10.3** The New Hampshire School Boards Association will advocate for and support legislation, appropriations, and state-supported initiatives that encourage New Hampshire colleges, community colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education to establish, expand, or support programs, certificates, concentrations, internships, apprenticeships, and degree pathways focused on governmental, municipal, and school district accounting and finance; and that the Association will advocate for scholarships, loan-forgiveness programs, internships, and other incentives designed to attract and retain qualified professionals in New Hampshire's public education and municipal finance workforce.

NHSBA Rationale: New Hampshire school districts, many with annual budgets in the 10s of millions of dollars, face significant challenges recruiting and retaining qualified business administrators, finance directors, accountants, and other public-sector financial professionals, creating operational risks and increasing costs associated with recruitment, training, and turnover.

School district finance work requires specialized expertise in budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, tax-rate development, grant administration, procurement, debt management, internal controls, audit coordination, and regulatory compliance—knowledge that differs substantially from private-sector accounting and is not routinely taught in traditional business accounting programs.

School district business administrators (SBA's) are responsible for the stewardship of substantial public funds and must maintain compliance with complex and regularly changing state and federal laws, regulations, accounting standards, grant requirements, auditing expectations, and financial reporting obligations.

Breakdowns in grant administration, reimbursement procedures, tax-rate calculations, financial reporting, procurement compliance, or other public-finance functions can result in financial losses, audit findings, delayed reimbursements, increased taxpayer burden, and diminished public accountability.

Consistent professional standards and continuing education demonstrating mastery of specialized subject matter support sound financial practices, transparency, accountability, compliance, and protection of taxpayer resources.

Proposed Resolution #13

Submitted By: Hooksett School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The New Hampshire School Boards Association advocate for legislation affecting the governance, operations, or finances of public school districts to include implementation timelines that provide school districts with sufficient notice to comply with new statutory requirements through their normal governance and budgetary processes. Legislation requiring board action, budget committee approval, public hearings, policy revisions, or other district action should not become effective immediately upon passage when doing so could reasonably result in administrative hardship, loss of statutory authority, or significant unbudgeted financial impacts.

Rationale:

School districts operate on annual budget cycles and are required to comply with numerous statutory processes involving school board action, budget committee review, public hearings, and voter authorization. When legislation imposing new requirements or modifying existing statutory authority becomes effective immediately upon passage, districts may have little or no opportunity to complete these required processes before the close of the fiscal year.

HB 1610 (2025) illustrates this concern. The legislation modified the requirements governing school district contingency funds, including annual authorization requirements, funding limitations, and the conditions under which such funds may be used. Because the bill became effective immediately upon passage, districts faced uncertainty regarding whether actions needed to be taken before the Governor signed the bill in order to preserve their ability to establish or retain contingency funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

Reasonable implementation periods promote thoughtful decision-making, compliance with statutory public processes, sound fiscal management, and equitable administration across all school districts. The New Hampshire School Boards Association should advocate that legislation affecting school district governance or finances include effective dates that provide adequate time for districts to implement new requirements without unnecessary administrative or financial hardship.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support. NHSBA routinely informs the legislature that certain timelines for implementing new legislation, new policies, and new practices are not possible; and further, NHSBA routinely asks the legislature to delay the effective date of legislation so school boards and administrators can prepare and plan properly.

Proposed Resolution #14

Submitted By: Chester School Board

Proposed Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Chester School Board supports the inclusion of implementation safeguards in any universal enrollment legislation or policy, including:

1. Prevent duplicate tuition payments and preserve existing tuition and area agreements.
2. Limit student transfers during the school year, except for hardship or relocation.
3. Require timely parent notification to resident and receiving districts.
4. Preserve existing area agreements, tuition agreements, and enrollment rights.
5. Allow districts to determine participation and available enrollment capacity.
6. State funding follows the student.
7. Resident districts shall not be responsible for tuition payments.

Rationale:

Universal enrollment can expand educational opportunities for students and families; however, it must be implemented in a manner that promotes fiscal responsibility and operational stability for school districts. Clear provisions addressing tuition obligations, enrollment timelines, student mobility, and existing area agreements will help districts budget effectively, maintain educational continuity, and preserve successful collaborative school arrangements while supporting family choice.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: No position. As with Proposed Resolution #5, last year, NHSBA members adopted Continuing Resolution #5, which states “NHSBA opposes state-mandated open enrollment.” If the delegates choose to adopt this proposal, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes Continuing Resolution #5 should be amended to add these proposed provisions, rather than create a new Resolution.

Proposed Resolution #15

Submitted By: Deerfield School Board

Proposed Resolution:

NHSBA will actively support legislation that fully funds special education costs in the State of New Hampshire and IDEA federally, this is consistent with the promise Congress made when the creation of IDEA occurred in 1975 and signed into law by President Gerald Ford.

Rationale:

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Not support. As with proposal #7, NHSBA Statement of Belief IX:A (1990) urges Concord to fulfill its IDEA obligations. Further, Statement of Belief IX:B calls for Congress to fully fund the federal share of IDEA as a mandatory program.



Barrett M. Christina, Executive Director

Matt Pappas, President, Rochester

Ege Cordell, First Vice President, Chesterfield

James Noyes, Second-Vice President, Bethlehem and Profile Regional

Holly Kennedy, Immediate Past-President, Hinsdale

25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603) 228-2061

www.nhsba.org

**Continuing Resolutions for 2026
Adopted at the 2025 NHSBA Delegate
Assembly October 25, 2025**

1. The NHSBA will advocate for minimum standards for public school approval, ED 306, that are consistent with the NHSBA Statement of Beliefs Manual and current approved Continuing Resolutions. (2024)
2. NHSBA will advocate for laws governing impact fees to be updated to require local Planning Boards to revisit impact fee methodology, policy, and schedule at least every five years, to ensure local ordinances reflect legislative or rule changes and consider other local factors and school district concerns. (2024)
3. NHSBA will support legislation that requires the State of New Hampshire to fund the cost of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for all New Hampshire middle school students in the state in districts that wish to implement it. (2024)
4. NHSBA supports legislation which prioritizes the well-being and safety of students and, while recognizing the rights of parents to make decisions about their children, also gives due consideration and weight to educators' professional judgment and their responsibility under the Code of Ethics for New Hampshire Educators to always act in a student's best interests. (2024)
5. NHSBA opposes state-mandated open enrollment. (2025)
6. NHSBA supports legislation that would for a simple majority to approve bonds intended for the maintenance, repair, or improvement of existing school district facilities, especially when the major portion of the borrowed

funds are essential to bring such facilities up to fire and other safety requirements, or improvements necessary to meet the requirements of the minimum standards for school facilities.



New Hampshire School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 228-2061
(603) 228-2351 (fax)
www.nhsba.org

Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual

October 2025
By Procedure Adopted Unanimously at Delegate Assembly,
November 4, 2006
And Following Action of the
October 25, 2025 Delegate Assembly

Overview of Action Taken at the 2006 Delegate Assembly

The resolutions contained herein have been adopted for three consecutive years by a vote of the Delegate Assembly. Such resolutions become a continuing commitment of the Association and part of this document, *Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual*. This practice is based on the proposal adopted unanimously at the 2006 Delegate Assembly on November 4, 2006:

Whereas NHSBA takes consistent positions on certain issues that repeatedly come before the Delegate Assembly as re-adopted resolutions; and

Whereas these issues deserve special recognition for their continued importance as long-standing positions;

Be it therefore resolved that any resolution adopted for at least three continuous years be moved to the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual.

**RESOLUTIONS QUALIFYING FOR INCLUSION IN THE
POLICIES, RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF BELIEF MANUAL**

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Perennial Resolutions of the New Hampshire School Boards Association

I - School Choice

- I:A• NHSBA** supports the utilization of public education funds solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (1991)
- I:B• NHSBA** urges the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. Specifically, NHSBA opposes the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools. Rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms, **NHSBA** urges the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public schools and meet current funding obligations and promises, benefiting the vast majority of America’s children who are educated daily in our public schools. (2005)

II - Education Funding

- II:A• NHSBA** proposes that the state fully fund all state public schools, public school districts and education aid formulas before the funding of any other state obligation. (1994; amended 2025)
- II:B• NHSBA** supports reducing the threshold for determining the local share of a catastrophic aid special education placement to 2 times the state average elementary and secondary costs of general education. (1998)
- II:C• NHSBA** supports additional appropriations under RSA 198:15-a, IV, the state’s Building Aid Program to adequately fund all necessary school facility needs. This program has effectively created local and state partnerships in financing school building improvements that benefit all students of New Hampshire, and which should be considered a significant part of fulfilling the State’s constitutional duty to provide an adequate education to all children. (First Adopted in 2000; Revised 2014; Revised 2020; Revised 2023)
- II:D• NHSBA** supports a continual review of all costs associated with providing the opportunity for an adequate education, including costs associated with facilities, transportation and increasing the state commitment to reflect actual costs incurred. Any additional revenue raised by the state to meet this obligation shall be dedicated solely for the

purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state.
(First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014 – Revised in 2020)

II:E• NHSBA proposes that the state develop an equitable and sustainable tax plan dedicated solely to public schools operated by local school districts education for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. (2002; amended 2024)

II:F• NHSBA opposes the dramatic and unpredictable changes in educational funding each year – often with solid information only coming to the school districts after the balloting or school district meetings are done.

NHSBA also opposes any new educational funding legislation, passed and enacted by the Legislature, which takes effect any earlier than the next biennium. School boards cannot be expected to work with legislation passed after the budget cycle for the following year is completed. (2005)

II:G• *Replaced by Resolution II:D in 2014.*

II:H• NHSBA supports a required kindergarten program as part of a comprehensive K-12 curriculum offering, with concurrent state kindergarten funding. (*First Adopted in 2003 – Revised in 2014*)

II:I• *Replaced by Resolution II:N in 2014.*

II:J• NHSBA opposes any constitutional amendment that vacates the spirit and intent of the Claremont and Londonderry lawsuits and attempts in any way to limit or redirect funding in a manner that is contrary to the New Hampshire Supreme Court’s ruling and present interpretation of the New Hampshire Constitution. (2008)

II:K• NHSBA opposes transfer of the responsibility to provide and fund a free and appropriate education (FAPE) for special education students from resident districts to attending districts when a non-resident student is placed in a district by a parent. (2008)

II:L• *Replaced by Resolution II:C in 2014.*

- II:M• NHSBA** opposes the recent change in statute that decreases the state share of local employer retirement costs. NHSBA calls for the immediate return of the state share of local employer retirement costs for teachers, police and fire to 35% for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, as well as maintaining this commitment in the future. (2010)
- II:N• NHSBA** opposes legislation that would directly or indirectly divert state costs or responsibilities to local school districts, including unfunded state aid programs (e.g. catastrophic aid and building aid), and the state share of retirement contributions. (2011)
- 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. 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. (First Adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2020)
- II:P• NHSBA** supports amending New Hampshire’s special education statute so that only the state legislature, not the state board of education via rulemaking or any other process, decides when it is appropriate for state law to exceed federal law. (2010)
- II:Q• NHSBA** supports fully funding the School Building Aid program pursuant to RSA 198:15-a. Furthermore, NHSBA believes that an adequate school building is a component of the requirement to provide an adequate education and therefore the state is obligated to provide funding for adequate school facilities. The state has failed to meet this obligation since 2009. (2017)
- II:R• NHSBA** supports modifying RSA 198:38 to provide state funding for the cost of full day kindergarten for school districts that have chosen to provide kindergarten for the entire school day. (2017)
- II:S• NHSBA** supports additional state adequacy aid for public pre-kindergarten. (First adopted in 2017; revised in 2023)

II:T• NHSBA supports the state seeking to provide viable financial solutions and funding models to assist municipalities in completing the true “last-mile” broadband Internet networks throughout their towns or cities or establish a regulatory framework that requires providers to complete the networks, so that broadband Internet access is available along every public way in the state. (January 2021)

II:U• NHSBA calls upon the New Hampshire Legislature to full fund any legislation that creates or has a fiscal impact on local school districts. (2020).

II:V• NHSBA believes that school districts should be held harmless for pandemic related reduction in enrollment that may negatively impact differentiated aid. Differentiated aid should be based upon free and reduced numbers from pre-pandemic enrollment or current enrollment, whichever is greater. (2021)

II:X• NHSBA supports that the state and federal government seek and provide viable, sustainable, permanent funding to provide a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students and at no cost to local school districts. (2022; amended 2024)

II:Y• NHSBA supports legislation and rulemaking that requires the state of New Hampshire and NH Department of Education to participate in the federal Medicaid Direct Certification Program to more accurately calculate eligibility for free and reduced lunch programs. (2023)

III - Health Care Funding

III:A• NHSBA supports a statewide effort to work with legislative bodies to address the spiraling costs associated with health care benefits borne by the school districts in New Hampshire. (2005)

III:B• NHSBA supports legislation and rulemaking that helps make Medicaid to Schools (MTS) funding more accessible to school districts by allowing greater flexibility in signing off by school counselors and by supporting implied parental consent after due diligence on the school district’s part, and a clearly defined and executable opt-out process to increase access to public benefits for students with disabilities. (2023)

III:C• NHSBA will support legislation and rulemaking that proposes an increase in per service fees under Medicaid programs. (2023)

IV – Charter Schools

- IV:A• NHSBA** proposes that for any charter school authorized by the State Board of Education, state aid entitlements under RSA 198:42 should be paid directly to the charter school from state funds which are separate from local district grants. (2006)
- IV:B• NHSBA** proposes that the State Department of Education develop evaluation and accountability criteria for the state’s charter schools to ensure their financial stability as well as sound educational objectives. (2006)

V - Local Control and School District Autonomy

- V:A• NHSBA** supports legislation to lower the mandated 2/3-majority vote for passing a bond article to 60% for all school districts. (1997)
- V:B• NHSBA** supports the continued ability for Cooperative School Districts to adopt apportionment formulas based on locally determined factors. (2000)
- V:C• Deleted in 2014.**
- V:D• NHSBA** supports amending current law to allow school districts to establish a non-lapsing contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses. (2001)
- V:E• NHSBA** supports legislation that allows local governing bodies to indicate their recommendation on any warrant article, in addition to those recommendation requirements already specified in the municipal budget law, RSA 32. (2006)
- V:F• The NHSBA** supports the NH Legislature amending the “SB 2” process to allow a legislative body to specifically vote by a supermajority of 60% on a Warrant Article to create and fund a program that would then continue beyond the single year and its costs would be included as part of the following years default budget. (2008)
- V:G• NHSBA** opposes any change in statute implementing an “Evergreen Clause” in all negotiated contracts. Evergreen clauses mandate the continuation of any pay plan after the expiration of a contract when a successor agreement has not been reached. Any such

provision exceeds previous standards and usurps local control, significantly tipping the balance of negotiations. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)

V:H• NHSBA opposes any mandated teacher salary schedule requiring all districts in the state to pay salaries based on a common state schedule. (2009)

V:I• NHSBA supports local control provided in NH statutes and rules that allow local school districts the authority to make their own decisions in defining a school calendar that complies with both the spirit and the letter of the law. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)

V:J• NHSBA supports new legislation or administrative rules that impose penalties against school district employees who breach their employment contracts. (2011)

V:K• NHSBA opposes any branch of New Hampshire government adopting or supporting curriculum standards that usurp state's rights and de-emphasize and limit local control of curriculum and local school board oversight. (2011)

V:L• NHSBA supports legislation to allow local school districts to retain a percentage of their year-end unreserved fund balance in the same manner as local municipal governments. (2011)

V:M• NHSBA supports local boards and their responsibility for establishing the structure, accountability, advocacy and delivery of instruction within their local district. This includes statutory changes that affirm this managerial policy confided exclusively to public employers. Specifically, governing bodies have the right to determine standards for evaluation, compensation, selection, layoff and retention, discipline, assignment and transfer, and other traditionally accepted managerial rights so as to continue public control of governmental functions. (2013)

V:N• NHSBA supports state and federal legislation that affirms the responsibility for education resides with the states, which have delegated to local school boards the power and authority to adopt policies, establish priorities, and provide accountability to direct the operation of the schools, including the school system's mission and goals, organization, budget, program, curriculum and services, all essential to the daily operation of schools, consistent with state laws and regulations. (2014)

- V:O• NHSBA** supports legislative affirmation of the management right associated with teacher evaluation that is an integral component of the requirement that school boards adopt a teacher evaluation policy. Further, NHSBA supports involving teachers and principals by allowing a reasonable opportunity to comment on draft school board evaluation policy, understanding that the school board has the sole prerogative to adopt a local policy it deems appropriate. (2014)
- V:P• NHSBA** supports New Hampshire’s adoption of updated requirements in statutes and rules that reflect current document imaging technologies and backup capabilities. (2016)
- V:Q• NHSBA** supports language in legislation that provides parents’ rights to opt-out of content and programs that they feel are not appropriate for their child(ren). However, NHSBA opposes language requiring parents to opt-in to content and programs for their child(ren). Opt-in language creates an undue burden on the school district to account for every student who would participate, versus the few who choose not to participate. (2017)
- V:R• NHSBA** supports modifying RSA 193:12 to add the following: Any person who provides false information for establishing residency for school attendance purposes, or any person who assists in doing so, may be required to remit full restitution to the school district or districts that have financial or fiscal liability as a result of the false information. (2018)
- V:S• NHSBA** supports amending pertinent electioneering statutes to clarify: (1) the definition of “election” official”; (2) that electioneering by election officials may not occur at the polling place; and (3) that a public body may affirmatively promote positions established by formal actions of that body. (2018)
- V:T• NHSBA** supports modifying RSA 193:3, I, to require the New Hampshire State Board of Education to restore support for local decision in Change of School Assignments and Manifest Educational Hardship requests by requiring the State of New Hampshire to fully fund any change in school assignment made under RSA 193:3,1 so that the local school district will not be held financially responsible for any school assignment change prescribed by the State Board of Education which conflicts with the local school board decision. (2019)
- V:U• NHSBA** supports amending RSA 91-A to allow for remote participation of all public body members in official meetings of public bodies without having a quorum physically present, while still ensuring that full notice and full transparency are satisfied. (2021; amended 2025)

~~**V:V• NHSBA supports amending RSA 91-A to allow committees, subcommittees, and advisory committees to hold meetings without having a quorum physically present, while still ensuring that full notice and full transparency requirements are satisfied. (2022; rescinded 2025)**~~

V:W• NHSBA opposes any legislations that divests local school boards of original jurisdiction relative to complaints about local curriculum, instruction, and instructional resources such as books, library materials, and other instructional resources. Further, NHSBA opposes any legislation that subjects school district staff to civil lawsuits and sanctions relative to curriculum and instruction. (2023)

V:X• NHSBA affirms the qualifications of school district staff to research and select appropriate digital and printed material for schools. Literary and curricular collections should offer students information that provides a balance of cultural values. Further, literary collections should represent diverse points of view; provide a global perspective; stimulate essential thinking skills; and meet the interests, abilities, learning styles, and information needs of the learning community. (2023)

V:Y• NHSBA will support legislation that creates flexibility for town moderators and moderators of cooperative school districts to postpone school district elections in the event of inclement weather. (2023)

V:Z• NHSBA supports any legislation that intends to streamline the recruiting, credentialing, and hiring of certified teachers and other licensed school staff from other states. This resolution is in support of both the State of NH credentialing laws, as well as the interstate compact and reciprocity between NH and neighboring states. This resolution also supports changes to reduce barriers to teachers from other states who wish to transfer retirement savings from their current retirement program into the NH Retirement system. (2023)

VI - School Safety

VI:A• NHSBA supports legislation which excludes public schools from being designated as neutral ground for visitation purposes for children of parents undergoing a divorce procedure by legal or other administrative orders. (1998)

VI:B• NHSBA supports efforts to enact legislation which would require notification to school districts of restraining orders related to a student's behavior. (1999)

VI:C• NHSBA supports legislative action to remove the unfunded mandated provisions of RSA 193-F, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention. The imposition of these new mandates and their related financial costs, without additional state funding, violates the New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Article 28-a. (2011)

VI:D• NHSBA supports legislative action that allows criminal background checks to be shared with their Human Resources Department and that the specific charge be shared with the Superintendent so he/she can make an informed judgment related to their employment. (2017)

VI:E• NHSBA calls upon the United States Congress, the New Hampshire Legislature and local public safety agencies to prioritize collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with school districts; and further supports legislation at the federal, state and local levels that protect students and school district employees from on-campus violence. (2019)

VI:F• NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education, including curricular programs, co-/extra-curricular programs and governance. NHSBA supports adherence to all anti-discrimination laws, rules and statutes ensuring that no person is excluded or discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religious creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status, familial status, sexual orientation, health condition, or native language. (January 2021; amended 2024; amended 2025)

VI:G• NHSBA supports legislation to restrict possession of firearms on school property, limiting possession to certified police officers only. (2020)

VI:H• NHSBA supports diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects in our schools, is committed to the concept that free and open dialogue around such concepts as racism and

sexism is a vital component to education, and opposes any actions which limit this free exchange of ideas. (2021)

- VI:I• NHSBA** will advocate for legislative action that ensures local school boards comply with federal firearm laws and policies. (2022)

VII - Accountability

- VII:A• NHSBA** believes that all components of state testing (English Language Arts, Writing Prompt, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) should continue to be given annually at the end of the school year with appropriate and immediate steps being taken to ensure that these test results are received by school districts no later than the following July 1. Valid data to assess school performance relies on measuring individual student progress: NH should adopt gain score or value-added measures as the principal means for measuring student performance. If NH does not adopt gains-score or value-added measures as the principal means for measuring student performance, then annual testing should take place at the beginning of the school year so that information may be used instructionally during the year. *(First adopted in 1998 – Revised in 2016)*

- VII:B• NHSBA** supports the inclusion of only students who have enrolled in a district continuously for the previous school year in the numbers calculated to measure student performance. *(First adopted in 2005 – Revised in 2016)*

- VII:C• NHSBA** supports a review of NH’s accountability and performance measures as well as standards established for the NH state assessment program. (2009)

- VII:D• NHSBA** supports legislation to amend the State Common Core Testing that will begin in the school year 2014-2015 to allow special education students be tested at their grade level ability rather than their placement of their current school grade. (2013)

- VII:E• NHSBA** supports the development of curriculum for use by trained teachers in grades K-12 to educate students in the prevention of sexual abuse, with such curriculum to be developed locally using either a model developed by the New Hampshire Department of Education or by one of the 13 state agencies that already use evidence-based sexual abuse prevention education. (2016)

VII:F• NHSBA supports public school approval standards that encompass holistic and comprehensive academic subject areas including: English/language arts and reading; Mathematics; Science; Social studies, to include including civics, government, economics, geography, history, and Holocaust and genocide education; Arts education, to include music and visual arts; World languages; Health and wellness education; Physical education; Engineering and technologies including technology applications; Computer science and digital literacy; Personal finance literacy. (2022)

VII:G• NHSBA urges the New Hampshire Legislature and Department of Education to clarify the responsibilities, obligations and rights of school boards and school districts when students do not attend school on a regular basis; are habitually truant; and otherwise, do not conform to the rules and regulations of the district. (2023)

VIII - State Board of Education

VIII:A• NHSBA calls on the State Board of Education to continuously monitor all teacher training programs at New Hampshire colleges and universities to assure that such institutions are offering quality and relevant training programs preparing individuals for careers as teachers and/or administrators in New Hampshire’s public schools. (*First adopted in 1998 – Revised in 2014*)

VIII:B• NHSBA proposes that the Department of Education develop and maintain a database of available grants and other funding mechanisms to assist local school districts in their grant writing efforts and funding of locally determined programs. (2002)

VIII:C• NHSBA urges the State Board of Education to conduct a statewide study of the “traditional” school calendar utilized by most public school districts in New Hampshire and to issue a summary report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations. (2003)

VIII:D• NHSBA urges the NH State Board of Education to adopt Standards of NH School Approval which emphasize qualitative standards rather than quantitative standards. (2003)

VIII:E• *Replaced by Resolution II:H in 2014.*

VIII:F• NHSBA supports the development and implementation of poverty indicators for Title I eligibility, which best reflect the current distribution of children from low-income families in

the public schools across the State and maximizes the number of districts eligible for Title I funds. (2003)

VIII:G• NHSBA supports the concept and duties of the State Board of Education as established in RSA 21-N:10-11. In its capacity to review all programs, advise on goals and hear appeals, the State Board of Education should have the authority to appoint the Commissioner of Education as well as confirm the Deputy Commissioner and division directors nominated by the Commissioner of Education. (2005)

VIII:H• NHSBA opposes the changes in student assessment at the state level which are resulting in fewer content and skill areas tested, especially the loss of the writing assessment. Basing assessment decisions on availability of funding rather than on what is best for the students of New Hampshire is not something that **NHSBA** can support. (2005)

VIII:I• NHSBA supports a compulsory attendance age of eighteen (18), along with flexibility to utilize alternative options that allow students to continue a program of study to complete their high school education. (*First adopted in 2006 – Revised in 2014*)

VIII:J• NHSBA supports a Department of Education funded study on the impact on performance of extended learning opportunities and those extended learning opportunities' relationship to the funding formula. (2009)

VIII:K• NHSBA supports the adoption of statutory language requiring that any statute or New Hampshire Department of Education rule, which mandates the adoption of local school board policies, will expire after five years; and that such statute or rule cannot be renewed without full public hearings, debate and re-authorization by the New Hampshire Legislature. All rules and regulations stipulated by the New Hampshire Department of Education must be submitted to the full New Hampshire Legislature for final consent and approval. (2015)

VIII:L• NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193-C:6 to require that the State Department of Education publish the results of the statewide assessment within 30 days of receipt of the assessment results. The NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193-C:6 to prohibit embargos of assessment results by the State Department of Education, local school districts, or other agencies. (2017)

IX – Federal Legislation

Individual with Disabilities Education Act:

IX:A• NHSBA urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds to pay 40% of the cost of implementing IDEA, and to fully fund any additional requirements in the area of special education and to provide financial impact statements. (1990)

IX:B• Since its original enactment in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has played a pivotal role to assure that students with disabilities receive the services they need for their success. **NHSBA** supports and applauds the efforts and goals encompassed by IDEA's mission.

As our Congress considers the reauthorization of IDEA, **NHSBA** believes attention should be directed at components of the program that are moving away from the original mission of educating children to a mission that involves a wider range of functions. **NHSBA** believes that for special education to achieve its potential in today's environment, several areas should receive attention. **NHSBA** proposes that federal reauthorization of IDEA address these specific priority concerns in the following areas:

- federal funding - Congress should fully fund the federal share of IDEA as a mandatory program;
- teacher recruitment and retention - federal law should create and encourage incentives for new teachers seeking special education certification;
- administration and paperwork - federal law should ease the current complex paper trail aimed at documenting compliance as well as allowing greater flexibility in the IEP process;
- due-process hearings - federal law should provide for adequate notice of issues and good-faith mediation
- related services - federal law should identify the financial role of other governmental units rather than fix all costs for related services on the narrow portion of the tax base that just serves education;
- private placements - federal law should focus on whether a substantive deprivation of educational opportunities exists in the public setting before consideration of private placement;
- safe learning environment - federal law should allow local school district personnel the flexibility and discretion to make appropriate discipline determinations that are in the best interests of all students when it comes to disciplining children with disabilities;
- over identification - federal law should clarify the definition of those disabilities that can result in over identification. (2002)

IX:BA• NHSBA opposes changes in the IDEA allocation calculations resulting in funds being disbursed directly to the school/district in which the child is registered (in towns which do not have high schools) and not to the student’s residence. NHSBA calls for the immediate return of prior method of calculations for IDEA federal and state funds, as well as maintaining this commitment in the future to keep any and all funds distributed to the student’s town of residence. (January 2021)

Every Student Succeeds Act:

IX:C• NHSBA urges the New Hampshire Legislature and New Hampshire Department of Education, consistent with the language and intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to maximize local governance and community leadership through enhanced local school board flexibility in addressing key areas such as standards, testing, and accountability; and further to pro-actively engage and collaborate with NHSBA in all legislative and administrative discussions and decisions concerning the implementation of ESSA. (*First adopted in 2003 – Revised in 2009 – Revised in 2016*)

National School Boards Association:

IX:D• *Deleted/removed from the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual at the October 2023 Delegate Assembly. (2023)*

X – Public Pension System

X:A• *Deleted in 2019. Replaced with Perennial Resolution X:B (2019).*

X:B• NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally stable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will return state contributions to NHRS. (2019)