

2026 Bradley F. Kidder Law Conference

**Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Grappone Conference Center
Concord, NH**



sponsored by

The New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA)

The New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA)

&

The New Hampshire Council of School Attorneys (NHCOSA)



2026 Bradley F. Kidder Law Conference

Agenda

Time		Location
8:00am - 8:30am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Hallway
8:35am - 8:50am	Welcome, Introductions, & Review of Agenda <i>Barrett Christina, Executive Director, NHSBA</i>	Salon A/B
8:50am - 9:00am	Attendee Transition Time Refresh Coffee	Hallway
9:00am - 9:45am	Concurrent Sessions Block A	Various*
9:45am - 9:50am	Presenter Transition Refreshment Break	Hallway
9:50 - 10:35am	Concurrent Sessions Block B	Various*
10:35am-10:50am	Presenter Transition Refreshment Break	Hallway
10:50am - 11:35am	Concurrent Sessions Block C	Various*
11:35am - 11:40am	Presenter Transition Refreshment Break	Hallway
11:40am - 12:25pm	Concurrent Sessions Block D	Various*
12:25pm - 12:30pm	Presenter Transition Refreshment Break	Hallway
12:30pm - 1:15pm	Concurrent Sessions Block E	Various*
1:15pm - 2:15pm	Lunch	Salon A/B
2:15pm - 3:00 pm	Closing Panel HB1300 is Here - Voter Education	Salon A/B
3:00pm	Closing & Adjournment	Salon A/B



**5 CONCURRENT
SESSION
TIMESLOTS**



**5 SESSIONS
PER TIMESLOT**



**13 IMPORTANT
TOPICS TO
CHOOSE FROM**

See schedule matrix on page 6

Concurrent Session Information

Session #1

The Intersection of Special Education and School Choice – *Gerald Zelin, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum*

This session will dispel the myth that the right to special education is “portable,” following a student to whatever school parents select. It will also review existing and proposed New Hampshire school choice laws that far exceed what federal law demands for students with IEPs. The session will conclude by exploring how other states have devised more sensible solutions for reconciling special education with school choice.

Session #2

Transgender Students in New Hampshire: School Sports, Nondiscrimination Requirements, and Transgender Student Rights – *Lauren Simon-Irwin, Attorney, & Katie Cox-Pelletier, Attorney, Upton & Hatfield, LLP*

What do school districts in New Hampshire need to know in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*? How can school districts best protect their transgender students from discrimination, while complying with state and federal law? We will discuss the recent Supreme Court decision, the withdrawal of the Tirrell Complaint, New Hampshire state statutes, and best practices for school district transgender student rights policies.

Session #3

Bullying Claims in New Hampshire: Investigations, Hearings, and Legal Updates – *Rachel Young, Attorney, Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward, & Loughman, P.L.L.C.*

In this presentation, we will discuss the world of bullying investigations in New Hampshire schools, from initial reports to appeals. We will go through proper review of documentation, interviews, and notification of students and families. This presentation will review the appeals process and what to expect when you land in front of the State Board of Education. Finally, we will review the latest update to the state bullying law and its effects on your policies.

Session #4

Artificial Intelligence and Liability Implications for Public Schools – *Gavin Gray, Attorney, Wadleigh, Starr, & Peters, P.L.L.C.*

This session will discuss the legal liability implications of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by school districts and their employees. In particular, this seminar will discuss how the use of AI tools may create liability concerns under federal and state laws concerning antidiscrimination, privacy, and student safety.



Concurrent Session Information

Session #5

Bookshelf Wars: Dusting Off the Policies and Procedures – Diane Gorrow, Attorney, Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Loughman, P.L.L.C.

School districts often accumulate policies and procedures the same way books collect dust on a shelf: they are created with good intentions, then gradually forgotten as daily operations take priority. Bookshelf Wars highlights the ongoing challenge of keeping policies or procedures up to date to address complaints about school library and media center books and information. The presentation will discuss how to prepare for a bookshelf war by having complaint procedures in place before the first battle.

Session #6

The Ugly, the Bad and the Good. A review of NH's 2026 School Finance Laws – Gordon Graham, Attorney, Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Loughman, P.L.L.C.

This presentation will review NH School Finance laws from 2026's Legislative Session, including: a new requirement for a November 2026 vote on a District tax cap and SAU budget cap (HB 1300 – RSA 32:5-i); new SAU budget and "adjusted budget" warrant article requirements for all school districts (HB 564 – RSA 194-C:9); changes to the purpose of an adequate public education so the legislature can continue inadequate funding (HB1815 – RSA 193-E:1); changes to the mandatory report to voters of district statistics (HB1807– RSA 189:76); changes to the contents of the district's annual report relating to anticipated grants and to the authorization to accept unanticipated revenue (HB656 – RSA 198:4 and 20-b); new independent audit requirements (HB 586 RSA 198:-d, VI); a new requirement for reports on student meal debt (SB531 – RSA 189:11-a); and new assistance /guidance for financial emergencies in districts and for vetting new BA's (HB1816 – RSA 186:5-a and b).

Session #7

Electioneering: Vote "Yes" for This Seminar! – Alison Minutelli, Attorney, & Dean Eggert, Attorney, Wadleigh, Starr, & Peters, P.L.L.C.

This fast-paced session will cover the recent amendments to the statutory provisions governing electioneering in New Hampshire and will provide best practices to assist in avoiding claims of electioneering.

Session #8

Parental Rights in the Classroom – Meghan Glynn, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum

Parental rights have evolved significantly over the past few years in New Hampshire. With the enactment of the Parental Bill of Rights in 2025, educators, administrators and board members should be aware of the District's obligations to parents and to students. Classroom recording, responses to parent information requests, objectionable course materials and other timely topics will be discussed.

Concurrent Session Information

Session #9

By the Book: The Rules of Engagement When Working with Law Enforcement - Luke Webster, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum

This session is designed to equip administrators and educators with an understanding of legal boundaries when engaging with law enforcement in and outside the school building. We will outline practical and actionable strategies to balance student rights and safety with compliant collaboration between school staff and law enforcement personnel.

Session #10

Changing Schools - the Evolution of Best Interest and Manifest Educational Hardship Transfers - James O'Shaughnessy, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum

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Session #11

Whose File is it Anyway? - Autumn Kish, Attorney, & Elizabeth Trautz, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum

This session will examine how to navigate 91-A requests and the exemptions, FERPA requests and exceptions and access to records, the parental bill of rights, and record requests for various other entities (Law Enforcement, DCYF, etc.).

Session #12

Employee Workplace Accommodation Requests and the Interactive Process - Anna Cole, Attorney, & Hadley Johnson, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum

School Districts regularly face difficult questions involving teacher and staff medical conditions and related workplace accommodation requests. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and state law, employers must engage in the "interactive process" to determine whether a reasonable accommodation can be provided to enable a qualified employee with a disability perform all of their essential job functions. This session is designed to provide attendees with a practical guide to the stages of the ADA interactive process – from recognizing when the process is triggered to evaluating accommodations to documenting decisions. Using real world examples, attendees will learn how to navigate accommodation requests while balancing district needs, confidentiality, and employee rights.

Concurrent Session Information & Closing Panel

Session #13

Collective Bargaining 101 – Abby Tucker, Attorney, Wadleigh, Starr & Peters, P.L.L.C

Abby will discuss the fundamentals of collective bargaining and explore the roles and responsibilities of administrators as key members of the management bargaining team. They will also highlight some recent trends and provide useful tips to help achieve your goals at the bargaining table. Administrators who are new to negotiating as well as those looking for a “refresher” will find this session useful.

Closing Panel

HB1300 is Here – Voter Education

This panel brings together superintendents and school attorneys to discuss the importance of voter education about HB1300 prior to November’s statewide “election,” and the intersection of such education efforts and New Hampshire’s electioneering laws, with particular attention given to the optional public hearings authorized under the legislation. Panelists will share how some districts are approaching both general educational efforts and their public hearings. The conversation will welcome questions from the audience about how school districts can use the hearing process and other means to provide factual, balanced, and transparent information regarding the potential educational, operational, and financial impacts of the ballot question.



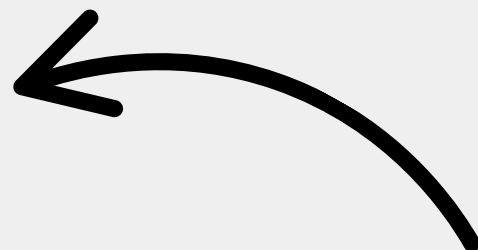
Concurrent Session Schedule Matrix



Room Name	Block A 9:00-9:45am	Block B 9:50-10:35am	Block C 10:50-11:35am	Block D 11:40-12:25pm	Block E 12:30-1:15pm
Capital	Session # 9	Session # 12	Session # 9	Session # 12	Session # 13
Concord	Session # 4	Session # 3	Session # 13	Session # 4	Session #3
Merrimack	Session # 11	Session # 10	Session # 11	Session # 5	Session # 10
Pierce	Session # 2	Session # 8	Session # 8	Session # 2	Session # 5
Webster	Session # 1	Session # 7	Session # 6	Session # 7	Session # 6

Click the button below to access all presenter handouts and conference resources.

CLICK HERE



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Registration Information

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Registration cost = \$229.00

Please register via the NHSBA website and/or access the QR code below



Scan me!

Registration questions? Contact Amanda at amanda@nhsba.org or 603-228-2061