



New Hampshire Scholars Initiative

The NH Scholars Initiative builds the capacity of school districts to enhance personalized learning, individualized progress and encourages students to take more rigorous course work. This happens through various strategies, most specifically by strengthening school/community partnerships. All students will graduate better prepared for college & career by exceeding graduation requirements and understanding the growing importance to attain high level skills.

The State Scholars Initiative continues to build momentum in the state. What started as six pilot school districts has grown to seventy-seven (77), by adding 71 districts since '09. Active school districts include:

- Academy for Science & Design
- Auburn
- Bedford
- Berlin
- Bow
- Candia
- Claremont (Stevens)
- Colebrook Academy
- Concord
- Con-Val
- Dover
- Epping
- Exeter
- Fall Mountain Regional
- Farmington
- Franklin
- Gifford
- Goffstown
- Gorham
- Governor Wentworth (Kingswood)
- Groveton
- Hillsboro-Deering
- Hinsdale
- Hollis Brookline
- Hooksett
- Hopkinton
- Hudson (Alvirne)
- Inter-Lakes
- Jaffrey-Rindge (Conant)
- John Stark Regional
- Kearsarge Regional
- Keene
- Laconia
- Lin-wood
- Lisbon
- Litchfield (Campbell)
- Littleton
- Londonderry
- Manchester (all 4)
- Mascenic Regional
- Merrimack
- Merrimack Valley
- Milford
- Monadnock Regional
- Moultonborough Academy
- Nashua (North & South)
- Nashua Christian Academy
- Newfound Regional
- Newmarket
- Newport
- Oyster River
- Pelham
- Pembroke Academy
- Pinkerton Academy
- Pittsburg
- Pittsfield
- Plymouth Regional
- Profile
- Prospect Mountain
- Raymond
- Rochester (Spaulding)
- Salem
- Sanborn Regional
- Shaker Regional (Belmont)
- Somersworth
- Souhegan
- Timberlane Regional
- Trinity High School
- Virtual Learning Academy
- White Mountains Regional
- Wilton-Lyndeborough
- Windham
- Winnacunnet
- Winnisquam Regional
- Woodsville

Students are encouraged to take prescribed rigorous core courses in high school. Through ongoing reinforcement activities beginning in middle school, students understand the importance of gaining high level skills through challenging coursework. By completing the NH Scholars core courses, students are better prepared for college-level work, test out of remedial classes and attain 21st century skills necessary in today's competitive workforce.

At a minimum, New Hampshire Scholars students take this rigorous Core Course of Study in high school – patterned after the recommendations made by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. Other courses may qualify including CTE Programs, ELOs, online classes, etc.

NH Scholars

- * 4 years of English
- * 4 years of Mathematics
- * 3 years of Lab-Science
- * 3 ½ years of Social Science
- * 2 years Foreign Language

(over)

NH Scholars STEM

- * 4 years of English
- * 4 years of Math
- * 4 years of Science (3 labs)
- * 3 ½ years of Social Study
- * 2 years Foreign Language
- * 1 yr or more STEM course
- * Minimum 3.2 GPA

NH Scholars Art

- * 4 years of English
- * 4 years of Math
- * 3 years of Lab-Science
- * 3 ½ years Social Study
- * 2 yrs Foreign Language
- * 2 yrs Art-related course
- * Minimum 3.2 GPA

The immediate impact is seen in course enrollments. Data from schools show significant increases within a two year period. School districts have had overwhelming success.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse

- More than **90%** of the 4,239 NH Scholars' 2014 graduates immediately enrolled in college the following fall
- Comparatively, only 65% of all the state's seniors immediately enroll in college (21% below NH Scholars avg)
- Last year's NH Scholars seniors graduated with a 3.4 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- 4,674 NH Scholars graduates in the Class of 2015 were recognized at NH Scholars Day

Endorsed by the NH Coalition for Business and Education (NHCBE)

- More than **400** business and community leaders volunteer as mentors in NH Scholar schools

New Hampshire colleges and universities are supporting the initiative by representing the program at high school award nights, offering free course vouchers, providing application fee waivers, offering merit awards and serving on local school advisory committees for New Hampshire Scholars high schools.

- Colleges offer scholarships for NH Scholars, especially within the STEM and Art Pathways.
- Prime candidate for **Fisher Cats Foundation Scholarship** managed by NHCUC

Initiative's Goals & Leadership

The goal of achieving statewide implementation is now a reality. Our objective is for all NH high schools to participate and to graduate at least 50% of all NH seniors as NH Scholars by 2015. Increasing the number of schools increases the number of students reached and increases NH Scholar graduates.

In an effort to increase visibility to the initiative and encourage other key constituents to engage in this statewide effort, we have developed a Leadership Board to provide oversight regarding the initiative's sustainability plan.

Chair, Senator Molly Kelly, *Senate Education Committee*

Dave Juvet, *Sr. Vice-President, NH Business & Industry Association*

David Cuzzi, *President, Prospect Hill Strategies*

Deborah Scire, *Executive Director, Campus Compact for NH*

Dr. Debra Livingston, *Superintendent, Manchester School District*

Dr. Ed MacKay, *Director, Higher Education Commission, NH Dept. of Education*

Dr. Mark Watman, *Provost, New England College*

Dr. Patty Lynott, *Provost/Sr. VP Academic Affairs, Southern New Hampshire University*

Dr. Susan Huard, *President, Manchester Community College*

Dr. Tom Horgan, *President/CEO, NH College & University Council*

Dr. Virginia Barry, *Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education*

Fred Kocher, *Co-Founder/Coordinator, NH Coalition for Business & Education*

Heather Gage, *Chief of Staff, NH Department of Education*

Holly Vieten, *Past-President, NH School Counselor Association (Inter-Lakes High School)*

Kate Luczko, *President/CEO, Stay Work Play New Hampshire*

Lucille Jordan, *President, Nashua Community College*

Marjorie Chiafery, *Superintendent, Merrimack School District*

Matt Cookson, *Executive Director, NH High Tech Council & President, Cookson Strategies Corp.*

Maureen Curtiss, *Director Critical Motion Products, Timken Aerospace*

Phil Suter, *President/CEO, Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce*

Representative Mary Gile, *House Education Committee*

Scott Power, *Director, New Hampshire Scholars Initiative (NHCUC)*

Scott Spradling, *President, Spradling Group*

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, *Vice Chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee*

Senator Nancy Stiles, *Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Tom Raffio, *President/CEO, Northeast Delta Dental and Chair, State Board of Education*

Will Tagye, *Sr. Marketing Manager, Velcro USA*