



NH EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



LIMITLESS OPTIONS. PROVEN RESULTS.

Earn class credit through learning experiences that happen outside the traditional classroom.



Extended Learning Opportunities, or ELOs, are credit-bearing learning experiences that happen outside of the traditional classroom. They provide limitless options to deeply explore fields of study and career paths that students are passionate about, including those that may not be available through their school curriculum, and may even provide an alternative pathway to fulfilling graduation requirements.



ELOs use resources within the school and the community to create a unique learning experience. Working in collaboration, school faculty, students, and community partners develop an ELO that is relevant to each student and his or her course of study. This can take the form of an independent study, private instruction, internships, community service, or work study. Online classes and on-site work experience offer students access to people, resources, and curriculums that may not be available at their school.

Mentorship plays a key role in the ELO program. An expert in the field guides the student through their learning process, knowing what the student's goals are and what competencies must be met for a challenging and meaningful experience. Often times, students find these powerful mentorships a valuable resource that extend well beyond their high school years.

A high quality ELO is competency-based, not hours-based. These are immersive learning experiences where students can earn course credits, develop soft skills, professional skills, and research experience that they can leverage in the college and career application process.

ELOs provide students with an innovative educational platform that prepares them for college and careers while also allowing them to explore fields that are new to them. Whether they are the highest achiever or struggling with academics, ELOs engage every student in their education, and put them on a path for personalized growth.

ELOs offer students learning opportunities with proven results.



Brenden discovered a love for welding through his auto mechanics ELO program, and will pursue welding as a career after high school. Kelsey's ELO in nursing helped her obtain an LNA certification before graduation which then facilitated her acceptance to her top choice for college and a scholarship awarded to only 1% of incoming students. Kyle enrolled in an ELO in physical therapy, thinking he would become an X-ray tech, but after learning more about the field, he's planning to enroll in an eight-year physical therapy program.

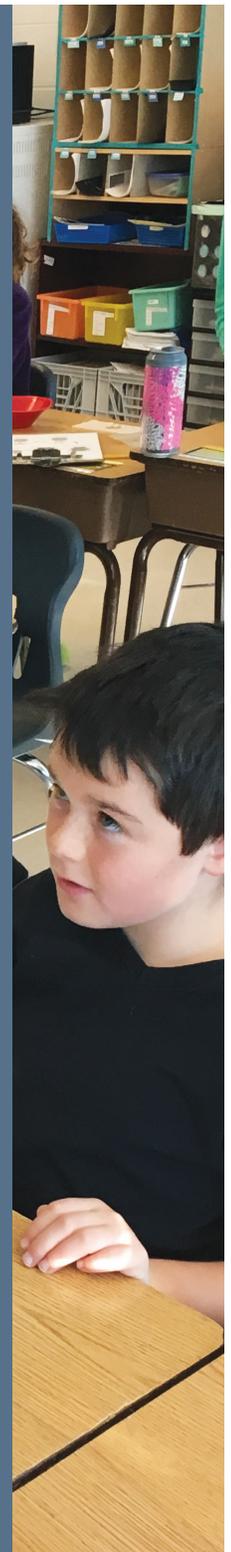
"You learn a lot about yourself," said Brenden. "It gives you a chance to get a taste for the real world and get an idea of what you want to do before you go."



ELOs are encouraging students to explore careers they never would have considered and are giving them the confidence to push themselves further. There's plenty of data to confirm these stories. A two-year study of ELOs in New Hampshire conducted by Research for Action found that ELOs are improving outcomes for a wide range of students including the traditionally underserved. Students participating in at least one school-facilitated ELO were more likely than non-ELO takers to accumulate credits and be on track to graduate. Twelfth-grade students who participated in school-facilitated ELOs scored higher on the SAT and were more likely to enroll in college than non-ELO takers.

"I'm going to be attending Suffolk University in the fall and I'm going to be majoring in psychology. When I was there, they told me that one of the things that sparked their interest was actually looking to see I had done an ELO."

Elise, ELO in Criminal Psychology



Meeting Academic Standards with ELOs

ELOs can offer students a rigorous and rewarding educational experience within the right program. Successful ELO programs engage students in developing a personalized learning plan and result in the student earning school credit. Developing competencies, benchmarks for success, and an effective means for assessment, as well as having a connection to an active community partner are major components to a successful ELO experience. This helps build stronger schools, families and communities.

How to Build an Effective ELO Program in Your Community

Creating a high quality ELO program will improve student outcomes and develop a richer community relationship with the school system. The most effective ELO programs are those in which students, school faculty, and community and business leaders are all engaged, and include features such as:

- ★ A full-time ELO Coordinator
- ★ Credit for ELOs in accordance with district and graduation requirements
- ★ Well-established community partner relationships
- ★ A district policy that supports the implementation of ELOs
- ★ Clear guidelines on how certified school personnel will oversee ELO students
- ★ Availability to all students
- ★ Programs that are rigorous and challenging

When building an ELO program, active leadership is a key element in success. Research shows schools with an ELO coordinator and active community partner relationships have significantly more student participation. Advocates for robust school-facilitated ELO programs are advocates for student learning.



Learn More! www.reachinghighernh.org/ELO

Reaching Higher NH is a nonpartisan 501c3 public education policy resource for NH parents, educators, and elected officials. Our mission is to support high-quality public education and the infinite potential of every child in New Hampshire.