

<u>Comparing Extended Learning Opportunities and Learn Everywhere</u>	
ABRIDGED	
Extended Learning Opportunities (Existing)	Learn Everywhere (New)
<i>Note: All content in this column is sourced from the “Learn Everywhere Q & A and Overview of Program,” issued by the NH Department of Education.¹</i>	
Question 1: What is it?	
Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are personalized credit-bearing learning experiences that happen outside of the traditional classroom.	Learn Everywhere (LE) is a new proposal for students to earn credits while learning outside of the classroom. LE grants the State Board of Education authority to grant credits towards graduation.
Question 2: How does it work?	
Students interested in ELOs work with school staff coordinating out-of-school learning experiences ² to develop a personalized, robust ELO design. School staff include ELO coordinators, teachers, administrators, counselors, among others.	Nonprofit and for-profit partners interested in offering learning opportunities complete an application ³ to the State Board of Education (SBOE). The NH Department of Education reviews the application for completeness and then applicants present their program to the SBOE. If the program meets the requirements, the SBOE will grant the program a one-year license to operate.
Question 3: Who determines high school graduation credits?	
Local school boards set and approve graduation requirements as well as ELO experiences for high school credit.	The SBOE approves credits towards graduation. The home district must accept those credits.
Question 4: How is the program funded?	

¹ Source: [Learn Everywhere Q and A Overview of the Program, NH Department of Education, accessed January 2019.](#)

² In accordance with Minimum Standards for Public School Approval, every district shall offer ELOs for students and designate a school staff to facilitate.

³ The application includes information about the program, course credit, monitoring assessment, and grading.



<p>ELO programming expenses are included in school operating budgets to make ELOs accessible to all students. Expenses include supplies, technology, and transportation.</p>	<p>LE does not impact school funding. However, LE invites applications from for-profit programs. For-profit programs will likely require program expenses to be covered by students and families.⁴</p>
<p>Question 5: What are the educator certification requirements?</p>	
<p>All ELOS require that a certified educator at the student’s school take part in the ELO design plan development, progress monitoring and assessment⁵.</p>	<p>LE does not require certified teachers.</p>
<p>Question 6: How do students with disabilities participate in this program?</p>	
<p>Students with disabilities work with the ELO Coordinator, their family members, and special education staff to develop an ELO. The student’s school provides accommodations and services written into the student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) plan and implements IDEA safeguards. Schools are monitored and report on these accommodations.</p>	<p>Students with disabilities will have the same accommodations as those written into IEP plans. LE program participants will coordinate with the school to accommodate appropriate services in support of the student. The school remains responsible for providing these services.</p>
<p>Question 7: How does accountability work? How do we know that students are learning what they need to know?</p>	
<p>The ELO Design plan is based on unique content area competencies which students explore through the common components of quality ELOs: research, reflection, product and presentation. Through these common components, students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they demonstrate through their particular ELO.</p>	<p>LE applicants are required to submit details about their plan for assessing students. However, the proposed Learn Everywhere rules do not ask applicants to include competency level information in the program approval process.</p>
<p>Question 8: How does local control work in each proposal?</p>	
<p>ELOs are developed locally by certified educators and are approved by</p>	<p>LE is developed by for-profit and nonprofit outside entities and then</p>

⁴ Examples offered by the Department include: private gymnastics lessons, Boys and Girls Club after-school programs; and, Private art classes. Oftentimes, these programs have related expenses (enrollment fees, materials and supplies, etc.).

⁵ Minimum Standards for Public School Approval, ED 306.27

local school boards.	approved by the State Board of Education.
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<p align="center">Comparing Extended Learning Opportunities and Learn Everywhere</p> <p align="center">UNABRIDGED</p>		
	<p align="center">Extended Learning Opportunities</p>	<p align="center">Learn Everywhere</p> <p align="center"><i>Note: All content in this column is sourced from the “Learn Everywhere Q & A and Overview of Program,” issued by the NH Department of Education.⁶</i></p>
<p>What is it?</p>	<p>Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs), are existing personalized credit-bearing learning experiences that happen outside of the traditional classroom.</p> <p>ELOs look different across the state but encompass independent study; private instruction; performing groups; internships; community service; apprenticeships; and online courses.⁷</p> <p>These experiences have been shown to improve student outcomes and provide increased access to college and career pathways to all NH students by meeting rigorous academic competencies that are responsive to student needs.</p>	<p>Learn Everywhere is a new proposal for a program and process that awards students high school graduation credit for experiences that happen outside of the classroom and outside the process for approving them by the local school district.</p>
<p>What does it do?</p>	<p>ELOs provide students with options to explore fields of study and career paths while learning outside of the traditional classroom.</p> <p>School staff work closely with students, their families, and</p>	<p>Similar to ELO’s, Learn Everywhere programs provide students options to engage in learning outside of the traditional school setting.</p>

⁶ Source: [Learn Everywhere Q and A Overview of the Program, NH Department of Education, accessed January 2019.](#)

⁷ Source: [Minimum Standards for Public School Approval, ED 306.02](#)

	<p>educators to craft a highly personalized learning experience, aligned to core academic competencies, that can count towards graduation requirements set by local school districts.</p>	<p>Learn Everywhere differs from ELOs in process. Instead of students, school staff, and local school boards engaged in determining the learning experience, Learn Everywhere has external community programs, which include both for profit and nonprofit entities, working with the School Board of Education (SBOE) to determine program specifics and propose course credit towards graduation.</p> <p>Once approved by the SBOE, districts are required to accept certificates of completion and student performance results and award local graduation credit.</p>
<p>How does it work?</p>	<p>For ELOS, students drive the process; students approach the appropriate school faculty dedicated to coordinating out-of-school learning experiences.⁸</p> <p>Designated school staff then work with students and other ELO community partners to develop a personalized, robust ELO design plan that is both responsive to individual student needs and aligned to a High Quality Framework for ELO Implementation.</p> <p>Importantly, each experience is designed to be fully personalized--meeting the individual needs, abilities, and interests of the student.</p>	<p>The Learn Everywhere process is driven by the nonprofit and for-profit sector who complete an application to the State Board of Education (SBOE). The application includes information about the program, course credit, monitoring assessment, and grading.</p> <p>The New Hampshire Department of Education then reviews the application for completeness and once complete, applicants appear before the SBOE and present their program for approval.</p> <p>If the program meets the requirements, the SBOE will grant the program a one-year license to operate.</p>
<p>Who determines if students receive high school graduation credits?</p>	<p>ELOs are locally-driven. Local school boards set and approve graduation requirements as well as ELO experiences for high school credit.</p>	<p>The State Board of Education approves credits towards graduation. The home district must accept those credits.</p>

⁸In accordance with Minimum Standards for Public School Approval, every district shall offer ELOs for students and designate a school staff to facilitate.

<p>How is the program funded? Does it impact a school's funding?</p>	<p>Under current law, all districts are required to have an ELO policy approved by a local school board.</p> <p>However, that state is not required to fund ELO programs, thus there are a wide variety of ways that schools offer ELO experiences given their local resources.</p> <p>School district administrators include key ELO programming expenses in their operating budgets to make ELOs accessible to all students. Expenses include supplies, technology, and transportation.</p>	<p>Learn Everywhere programs do not impact funding schools receive. There is no impact on funding formulas or requirement for school to create any new programs or administrative supports.</p> <p>However, Learn Everywhere invites applications from for-profit programs. For-profit programs will likely require program expenses to be covered by students and families. Examples offered by the Department include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● private gymnastics lessons, ● Boys and Girls Club after-school programs; and, ● Private art classes. <p>Oftentimes, these programs have related expenses (enrollment fees, materials and supplies, etc.).</p>
<p>What are the requirements for school staff and community partners in administering these experiences?</p>	<p>All ELO learning experiences require that a certified educator at the student's school take part in the ELO design plan development, progress monitoring and assessment⁹.</p> <p>Additional ELO partners work with the student throughout their learning experience. These partners offer a rich source of knowledge and experience. They can include: ELO Coordinators, Mentor Teachers, Community Mentors, and Parents/Guardians.</p>	<p>Learn Everywhere does not require certified teachers.</p>

⁹ Minimum Standards for Public School Approval, ED 306.27

<p>How do students with disabilities participate in this program?</p>	<p>ELO opportunities are available and accessed by all students, including students with disabilities.¹⁰ ELOs have been studied by two independent agencies and have been determined to be equitable for each and every student in NH and have proven student outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Results from a Two-Year Study of the Effects of Extended Learning Opportunities on Student Outcomes in New Hampshire”, Research for Action, 2016. • Experiences in Practice: Extended Learning Opportunities at Hinsdale High School, National Center for Learning Disabilities, 2017. <p>ELOs provide experiential learning opportunities for students with disabilities that empower them to leverage their strengths while meeting the academic competencies that students may struggle with in a traditional classroom setting.</p> <p>The following process applies for students with disabilities. The ELO Coordinator organizes a team to bring the student, family members, and special education staff together to identify the learning goals and career areas for development of a community experience. ELO Coordinators have information on Community Partners and Mentors that will ensure the person and environment is the “best fit” for the student’s needs, learning style, interests and abilities. ELO Coordinators and other ELO partners interview Community Partners/Mentors to assess compatibility and indicators for success. Moreover, all IDEA safeguards are in place and monitored by the school.</p>	<p>“Like many other aspects of Learn Everywhere, supports for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will follow the existing practice. Presently, when services or special education programs are called out in an IEP to support a student’s learning, schools often contract with outside service providers. Authorized Learn Everywhere programs will function in the exact same manner. When an IEP team and parents believe that participation in a Learn Everywhere program is the right course of action for a student, and it is written into the IEP, Learn Everywhere program participants will coordinate with the school to accommodate appropriate services in support of the student. The same approach would apply for students with 504 plans.”</p>
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¹⁰ A two-year study prepared by [Research for Action in 2016](#) found that of over 2,700 students with disabilities participated in ELO experiences (or 15.62% of the study sample).

<p>What protections are in place for student safety?</p>	<p>There are numerous safety guardrails in place for students participating in ELOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All learning experiences have been authorized and approved by the NH Department of Labor through a rigorous process with pre-screening for safety and program approval. ● All local districts carry work-based learning liability coverage through district managed insurance carriers including Healthtrust and PRIMEX. ● Districts often run additional background checks on any mentor that will come in contact with the student during the ELO experience. 	<p>“Learn Everywhere has established two basic controls in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background checks are required for instructional staff. Instructional staff are prohibited from serving if they have violated or are pending disposition for a RSA 189:13-a V violation. Programs must develop a background check policy and provide that to participating families. ● Facilities must meet federal and state health and safety requirements that apply if there were not an Learn Everywhere program.”
<p>How does accountability work? How do we know that students are learning what they need to know?</p>	<p>The ELO Design plan is based on unique content area competencies which students explore through the common components of quality ELOs. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Essential question ● Connections with ELO Partners/mentors ● Communication plan ● Timeline/benchmarks ● Rigorous assessment plan ● Credit bearing competencies <p>Through these common components, students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they demonstrate through their particular ELO.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn Everywhere applicants are required to submit details about their plan for assessing students on the knowledge they demonstrate. While the FAQ provides this detail, nowhere in the proposed Ed 1400 rules are applicants asked to include competency level information in the program approval process. Without this information the SBOE is unable to hold programs accountable to state adopted academic standards and model competencies. How can we ensure students are proficient in graduation competencies without the presence of the competencies within the rules. ● “One of the really great aspects of Learn Everywhere is how seamlessly it fits into and supports the existing public school system. Existing state and federal accountability systems are all still in place. Students are still required to take state and federal accountability assessments.”
<p>How does local control factor in?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each school district develops ELO Policies that define their ELO programming including: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Learn Everywhere does not create a state level high school diploma. The issuance of a diploma is the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose ○ Roles and Responsibilities ○ Application Process ○ Evaluation Criteria ○ Appeal Process ○ Program Integrity 	<p>domain of the local school district. The determination of credit requirements for graduation is a responsibility of the local school board. The SBOE has authorized the minimum standards required for a high school diploma. Learn Everywhere is simply a program sanctioned by the SBOE for students to earn credits that count toward meeting those minimum standards that the SBOE has established leading to graduation. Local school boards will still be required to establish local graduation requirements that meet or exceed the minimum standards.”</p>
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