

Proposed changes to NH RSA Chapter 193-E Adequate Education

Area of Focus	As proposed in SB 266	Implications
<p>RSA 193-E:1 Policy and Practice</p>	<p>I. It is the policy of the state of New Hampshire that public elementary and secondary education shall provide all students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for successful participation in the social, economic, scientific, technological, and political systems of a free government, now and in the years to come; an education that is consistent with the minimum standards for public school approval criteria for an adequate education defined in this chapter, and the state-established academic standards as set forth in RSA 193-C, and school district or school curriculum.</p>	<p>Removes "minimum standards for public school approval" and "school district or school curriculum" from the definition of the state's responsibility for an adequate education and replaces it with "criteria for an adequate education."</p>
<p>RSA 193-E:1 Policy and Practice</p>	<p>II. Respecting New Hampshire's long tradition of community involvement, it is the purpose of this chapter to ensure that appropriate means are established to provide an adequate education through an integrated system of shared responsibility between state and local government. In this system, the state establishes minimum standards for public school approval the criteria for an adequate education and academic standards for inclusion and delivery of educational services at the local level, and the measurement of the delivery of an adequate education at the local level. School districts then have responsibility and flexibility in implementing diverse educational approaches to instruction and curriculum tailored to meet student needs.</p>	<p>Potentially removes the state's responsibility to establish minimum standards for public school approval that are outside of the core subject areas, and could limit the state from adopting non-content area standards, like testing requirements, school district policies, and class sizes, among others.</p>
<p>RSA 193-E:3-b Criteria for an Adequate Education</p>	<p>I. (a) A school shall demonstrate that it provides the opportunity for an adequate education for the school approval standards set forth in rules adopted by the department of education in the following areas: (e) Arts education, including music and visual arts.</p>	<p>Removes language relative to music and visual arts, and may eliminate these subject areas from being required within New Hampshire public schools.</p>
<p>RSA 193-E:4-I Accountability for the Opportunity for an Adequate Education.</p>	<p>(c) The department shall may conduct site visits at all schools at least once every 5 years to assess the validity of the responses in the input-based school accountability system. The commissioner may require more frequent site visits at schools which have been unable to demonstrate that they provide the opportunity for an adequate education.</p>	<p>Removes the requirement for site visits, which are a critical system of support and an accountability measure that ensures schools provide an adequate education.</p>

Proposed changes to NH RSA Chapter 193-E Adequate Education (continued)

Area of Focus	As proposed in SB 266	Implications
RSA 193-E:3 Criteria for an Adequate Education	The standards shall cover kindergarten through twelfth grade and shall clearly set forth the opportunities to acquire the communication, analytical and research skills and competencies, as well as the substantive knowledge expected to be possessed by students at the various grade levels, including defining the school year and the minimum credit requirement necessary to earn a high school diploma.	Due to definition changes within SB266, the use of "standards" in this section of current law would no longer be clear and could potentially refer to either academic standards or the minimum standards for public school approval.
RSA 193-E:2 Definitions	"School" means a district public, chartered public school, or public academy located [in] New Hampshire or authorized by the New Hampshire state board of education.	Adds a definition of "school" to potentially include schools authorized by the NH State Board of Education, which could fundamentally change what programs and organizations would be eligible to offer public education and receive state funding.

Proposed changes to NH RSA Chapter 193-C Statewide Education Improvement and Assessment Program

Area of Focus	As proposed in SB 266	Implications
RSA 193-C:6 Assessment Required	The department may use the College Board SAT or ACT college readiness assessment to satisfy the high school assessment requirements of this chapter. The department shall select one or more vendors through the statewide contracting process, pursuant to RSA 4:15, to deliver the statewide assessment program.	Replaces references to SAT college readiness tool and gives the NHED the authority to select testing vendors. By removing reference to the College Board SAT, it could put the SAT Test Day program in jeopardy.

Proposed changes to NH RSA Chapter 193-H School Performance and Accountability

Area of Focus	As proposed in SB 266	Implications
RSA 193-H:1 Definitions	II. "Competencies" means student learning targets that represent a level of mastery of key content specific concepts, skills, and knowledge applied within or across content domains. Specific and required types of competencies include district competencies at grade level and course or program competencies required for graduation and graduation competencies.	May undermine NH's implementation of competency-based education.