



**LOOKING AHEAD TO
2024:
EDUCATION POLICY
TRENDS**



All children deserve a high-quality, rigorous, and student-centered education that prepares them for college, careers, and life.

Reaching Higher NH provides decision makers, leaders, and communities with the research they need to make informed decisions to meet that promise.

GOVERNOR



CHRIS SUNUNU (R-NEWFIELDS)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**JOSEPH KENNEY
DISTRICT 1**



**CINDE WARMINGTON
DISTRICT 2**



**JANET STEVENS
DISTRICT 3**



**TED GATSAS
DISTRICT 4**



**DAVE WHEELER
DISTRICT 5**

STATE SENATE

14 Republicans / 10
Democrats

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

198 Republicans / 195
Democrats / 3 Independents
4 vacancies

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

10 Republicans / 10 Democrats

Chair: Rick Ladd

Vice Chair: Glenn Cordelli

Clerk: Oliver Ford

Peggy Balboni • Mike Belcher • Corinne
Cascadden • Patricia Cornell • Hope
Damon • Margaret Drye • Arthur Ellison •
Muriel Hall • Alicia Lekas • David Luneau •
Valerie McDonnell • Mel Myler • Kristin
Noble • Katy Peternel • Arlene Quaratiello •
Linda Tanner • Stephen Woodcock

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

3 Republicans / 2 Democrats

Chair: Ruth Ward

Vice Chair: Carrie Gendreau

Donovan Fenton • Timothy Lang •
Suzanne Prentiss

Since 2021, lawmakers have radically reshaped public education

- Persistently underfunded public schools
- School vouchers
- Divisive concepts
- Book bans
- Mandatory disclosure
- Tax caps
- “Teacher loyalty”
- NHED investigative power

National forces have been active in New Hampshire

NH News

N.H.'s latest education initiatives draw support from national, local conservative groups

New Hampshire Public Radio | By Sarah Gibson
Published October 8, 2021 at 10:26 AM EDT



New Hampshire Bulletin

STATE HOUSE VOTING HEALTH EDUCATION ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Commentary: The dark money behind the push for vouchers, 'divisive concepts' legislation



MAURICE T. CUNNINGHAM

FEBRUARY 25, 2022 5:46 AM

New Hampshire voucher program part of national school choice wave fueled by pandemic

🕒 Friday, January 21, 2022 👤 Nour Habib 📁 Civics, Education, Granite State
News Collaborative 💬 0 Comments

National forces have been active in New Hampshire

FLORIDA

Florida Senate sends school voucher bill to governor's desk

by: [Trevor Sochocki](#)
Posted: Nov 8, 2023 / 06:30 PM EST
Updated: Nov 8, 2023 / 09:28 PM EST

AZMIRROR

ELECTIONS LAW & GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION EDUCATION BENSON'S CORNER

EDUCATION LAW & GOVERNMENT

AZ school voucher enrollment exceeds budget estimate

Voucher critics say the program is on track to blow up the state budget, but Republicans say there is nothing wrong

BY: GLORIA REBECCA GOMEZ - OCTOBER 11, 2023 4:52 PM



MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

CANNABIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT ELECTIONS HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

EDUCATION

Controversial PragerU videos gain educational foothold in a handful of states

The growing movement worries many researchers and scholars, who say the videos share misinformation

BY: ELAINE POVICH - NOVEMBER 3, 2023 8:53 AM



Florida Lawmakers Want to Reduce Regulations in Public Schools

NOVEMBER 10, 2023 | [FLAGLERLIVE](#) | — 11 COMMENTS

Court finds school funding formula unconstitutional

ConVal suit centers on dispute over state's 'unequivocal legal duty' to fund education

First week of case includes testimony on districts' budgets

April 17, 2023 by Michael Kitch

Judge rules New Hampshire not adequately funding public education

Ruling calls for state to nearly double per-pupil funding

Share



Updated: 10:36 PM EST Nov 20, 2023

Court finds school funding formula unconstitutional, orders at least \$500 million more for public schools

November 21, 2023



Key themes of 2024 legislation

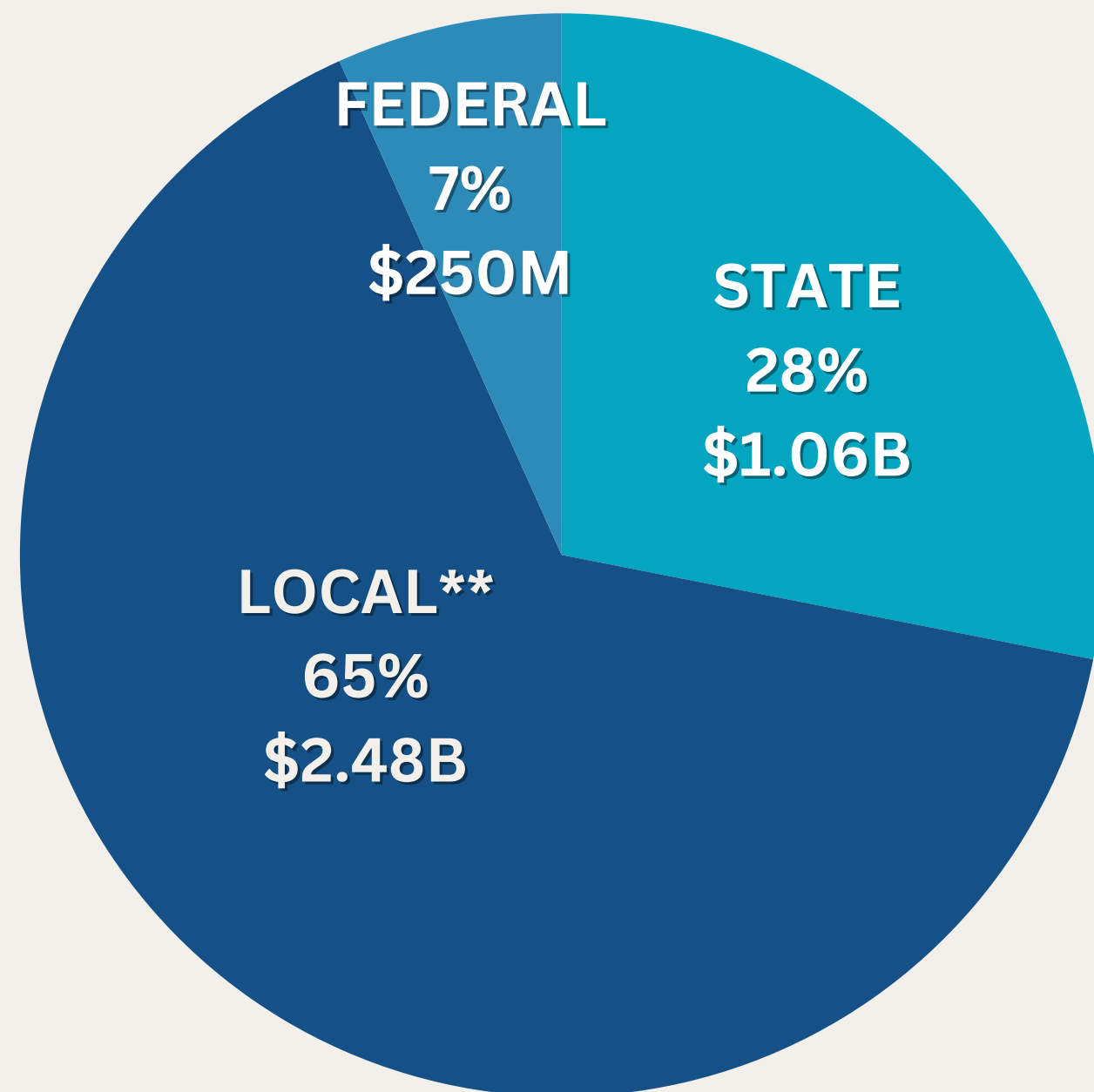
- Public school funding
- **(Re)Defining public education**
- Privatization & vouchers
- Curriculum & Assessment
- Teaching Profession
- School Climate
- School Building Aid
- Other

School Funding

- Increasing state funding for public & charter schools (ConVal Lawsuit)
- Collecting SWEPT (Rand Lawsuit)
- Increasing state funding for special education
- Eliminating/Limiting Education Trust Fund surpluses
- Instituting local tax caps
- High-stakes testing: tying state funding to student proficiency scores

School funding in NH by the numbers*

current formula



- \$4,100 per student in **base adequacy**
 - \$2,300 for students navigating poverty
 - \$2,100 for students receiving special education services
 - \$800 for students receiving ELL services
- \$179M in targeted funding
- \$50M in hold harmless funding

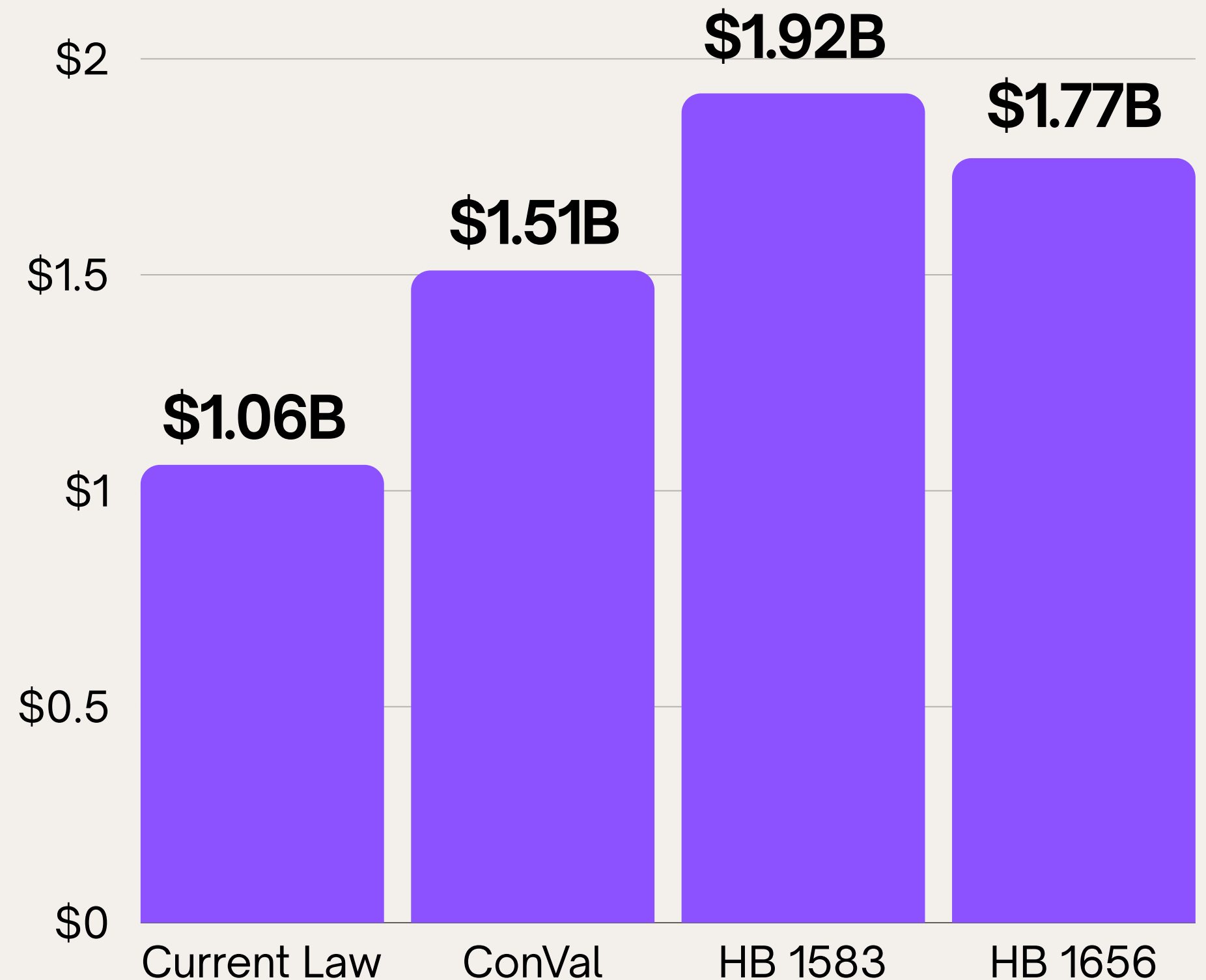
*FY2024 data from the NH Department of Education Municipal Summary of Adequacy Aid

**FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Total Expenditures for ESE

Increasing state funding for public schools

HB 1583, increasing base adequacy	HB 1586, instituting a new school funding formula	HB 1656, increasing special education funding
Increases base adequacy to \$10K per student	Targets state funding based on need, minimum contribution for local property taxes	Increases special education funding to \$27K per eligible student

Increasing state funding for public schools*



*Estimates based on FY2024 data from the NH Department of Education Municipal Summary of Adequacy Aid

Education Trust Fund Surplus

HB 1560

Requires ETF surplus to be returned to the
GENERAL FUND
at the end of each fiscal year



HB 1570

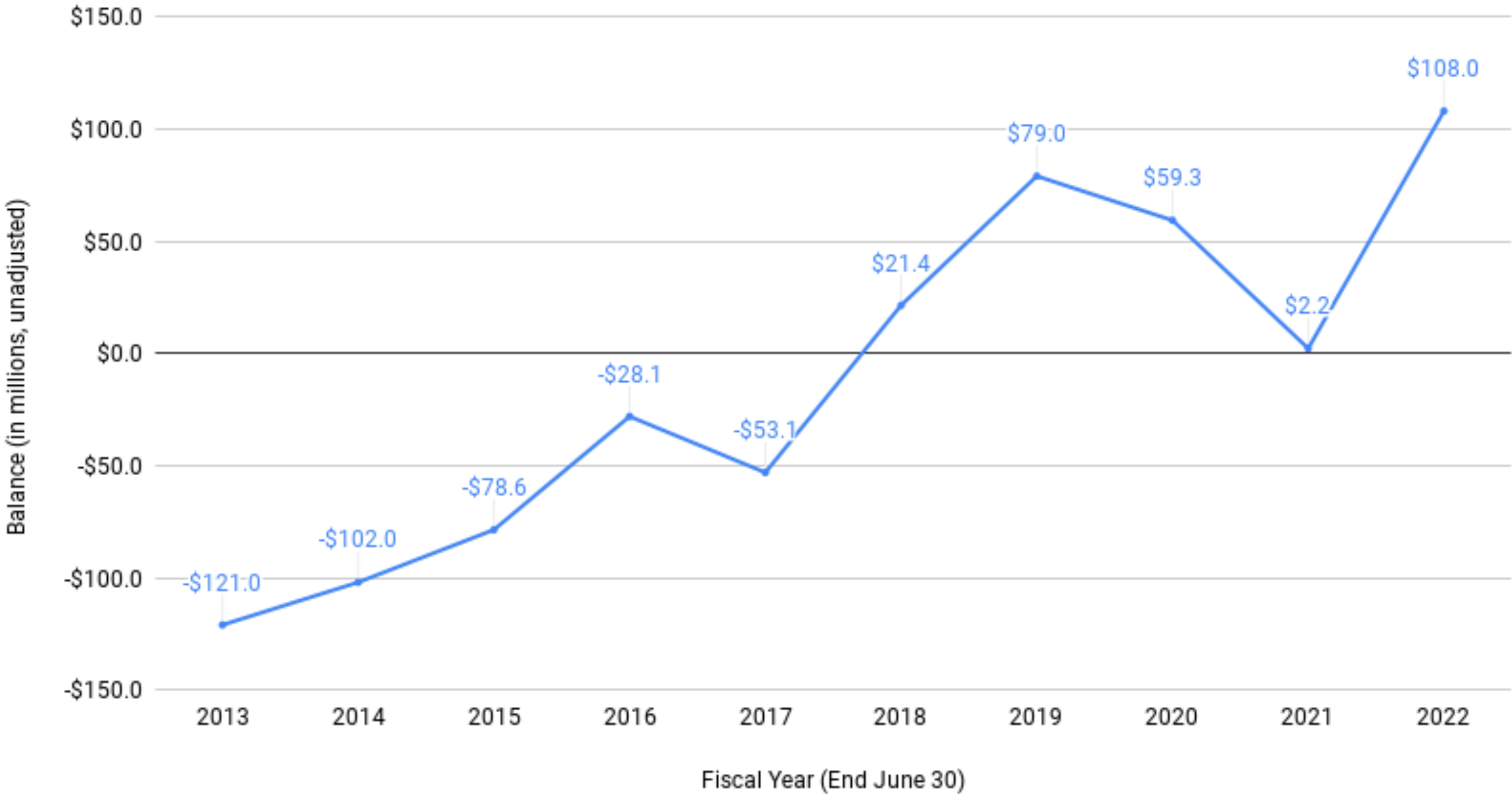
Uses ETF surplus to fund
SCHOOL BUILDING AID
initiatives

SB 552

Uses ETF surplus to fund
TEACHER RECRUITMENT
initiatives



Education Trust Fund Balance, 2013-2022



High-stakes testing

- HB 1675 would tie state funding directly to student proficiency scores
 - School districts would receive \$0 state funding for students in Grades 3-8 who did not score proficient on the statewide assessment
 - Unclear how school funding would work for K-2 and high school

“The analysis finds that a **20 percent increase** in per pupil funding for underperforming schools **reduced the number of below-average students** in mathematics, English, social studies, and science by 19.7 percent, 17.0 percent, 16.1 percent, and 18.1 percent compared with the control-side means.”

Hosun Sohn et al, Education Finance & Policy, January 2023

(Re)Defining Education

- HB 1691: Changes language in the substantive educational content of an adequate education
- HB 1397: Requires local districts (or the NHED) to create assessments for each course
- HB 1402: Establishes a testing exception for high school

(Re)Defining Education

**STATUTORY
REQUIREMENTS
FOR AN
ADEQUATE
EDUCATION**

=

\$4,100
PER STUDENT

HOUSE BILL 1671

HB 1671 makes widespread changes to the core knowledge domains that are required in public schools.



INCLUDED IN CORE KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Math
English Language Arts
Science
Social Studies



REMOVED FROM CORE KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Art
Health
World Languages
Physical Education
Engineering
Computer Science
Digital Literacy



HOUSE BILL 1691

HB 1691 makes widespread changes to the core knowledge domains that are required in public schools.



CORE KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS THAT ARE "EMPHASIZED"

Math
English Language Arts
Science
Social Studies



"WITH ATTENTION TO" THE FOLLOWING CORE KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Art
Health
World Languages
Physical Education
Engineering
Personal Finance Literacy
Computer Science



Privatization & Vouchers

- 6 bills to expand eligibility: all would create universal eligibility, in workaround ways
 - HB 1561: Categorical eligibility
 - HB 1665: 500% of income threshold
 - HB 1677: Did not qualify in previous year
 - HB 1634: Pure universal eligibility
 - SB 442: Denied school reassignment request

Privatization & Vouchers

- HB 1652, establishing a locally-funded school voucher program
 - Funded from local school budgets
 - Eligible students: current public & charter school students, K, or homeschooled
 - 2x base adequacy (\$8,200/student) + differentiated aid
 - No less than what student received in 1st year
 - Warrant article: 3/5 vote

Privatization & Vouchers

- Voucher accountability
 - HB 1592: Prohibits use in religious schooling
 - HB 1594 & SB 525: Annual means test
 - HB 1512: Budgeted amounts
 - HB 1610: State assessments
 - HB 1128: NH-based administrative organization
 - HB 1654: Annual compliance review
 - HB 1038: Background checks

Curriculum & Assessment

- HB 1419: Prohibits obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools
- HB 1185: Establishes K-12 sexual education instruction standards
- HB 1312: Requires 2-week parental notification of teaching about sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression
- SB 523: Prohibits obscene or harmful materials in public school libraries

Curriculum & Assessment

- HB 1643: Requires school boards to post all instructional materials and lesson plans prominently on district website
- HB 1160: Requires local school boards to adopt assessments not included in statewide assessment
- HB 1692: Makes the SAT performance a graduation requirement
- SB 378: Creates an accountability task force appointed by NHED Commissioner

Strengthening & Diversifying the Teaching Profession

- SB 217: Creates an incentive program for teachers who work in rural and underserved areas (*retained from last session*)
- HB 623: Creates a loan forgiveness program (*retained from last session*)
- HB 1608: Creates an induction program for new teachers
- SB 521: Changes definition of “master teacher”

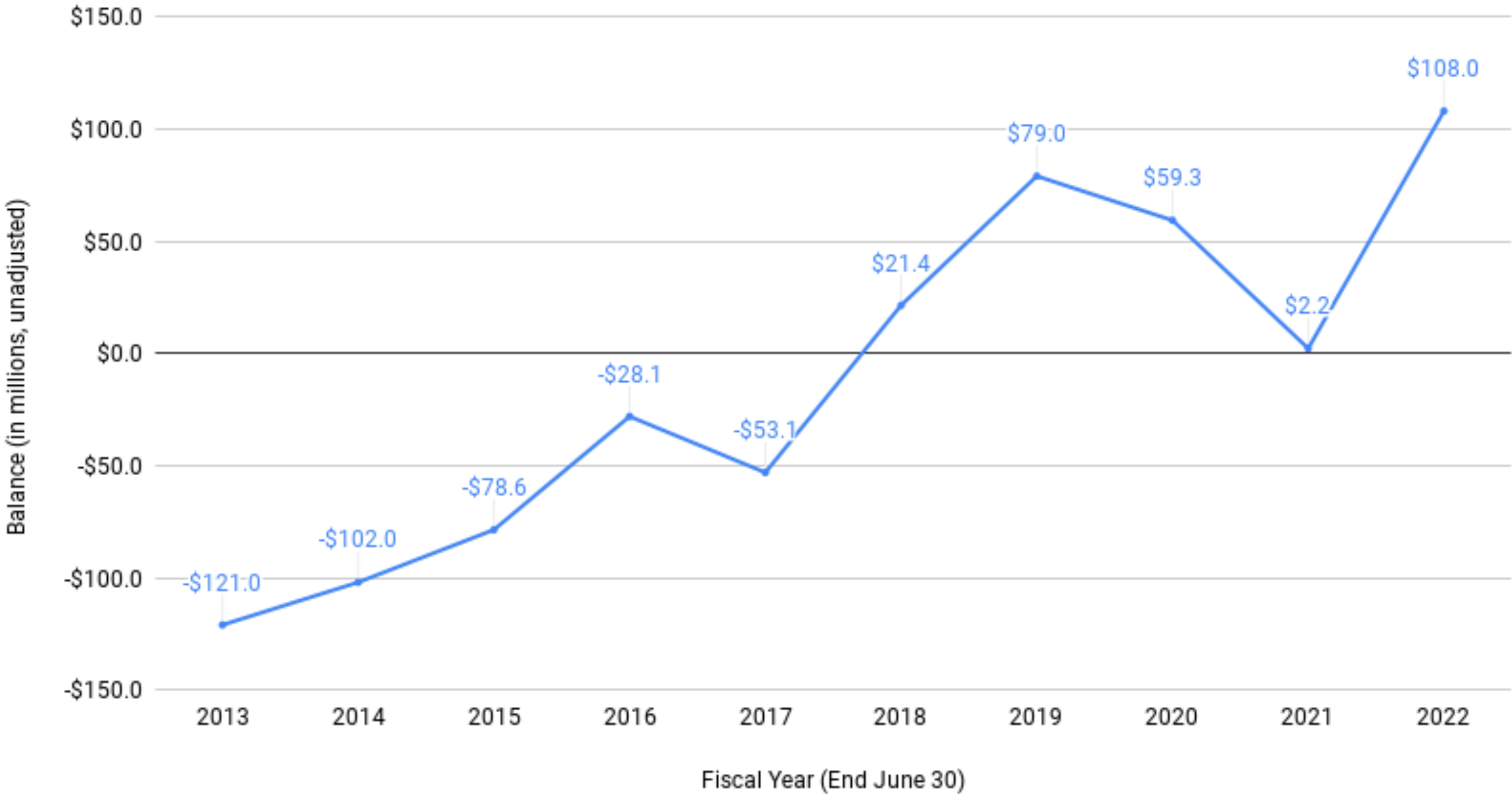
School Climate & Inclusivity

- SB 341: Mandatory disclosure
- HB 1353: Allows the Commissioner to issue subpoenas
- HB 1206: Prohibits educators from asserting or advocating for theories or ideologies
- HB 1473: Bans social-emotional learning in public schools
- HB 1162: Repeals divisive concepts law

School Building Aid

SB 443	HB 1570	SB 342
<p>Increases to \$60M per year</p> <p>\$5M+ for projects started during moratorium</p>	<p>\$75M in Year 1</p> <p>80% of ETF Surplus each year thereafter</p>	<p>Phases out current formula</p> <p>Replaces with a CAP Fund</p> <p>~\$156 per student in ADM-A</p>

Education Trust Fund Balance, 2013-2022



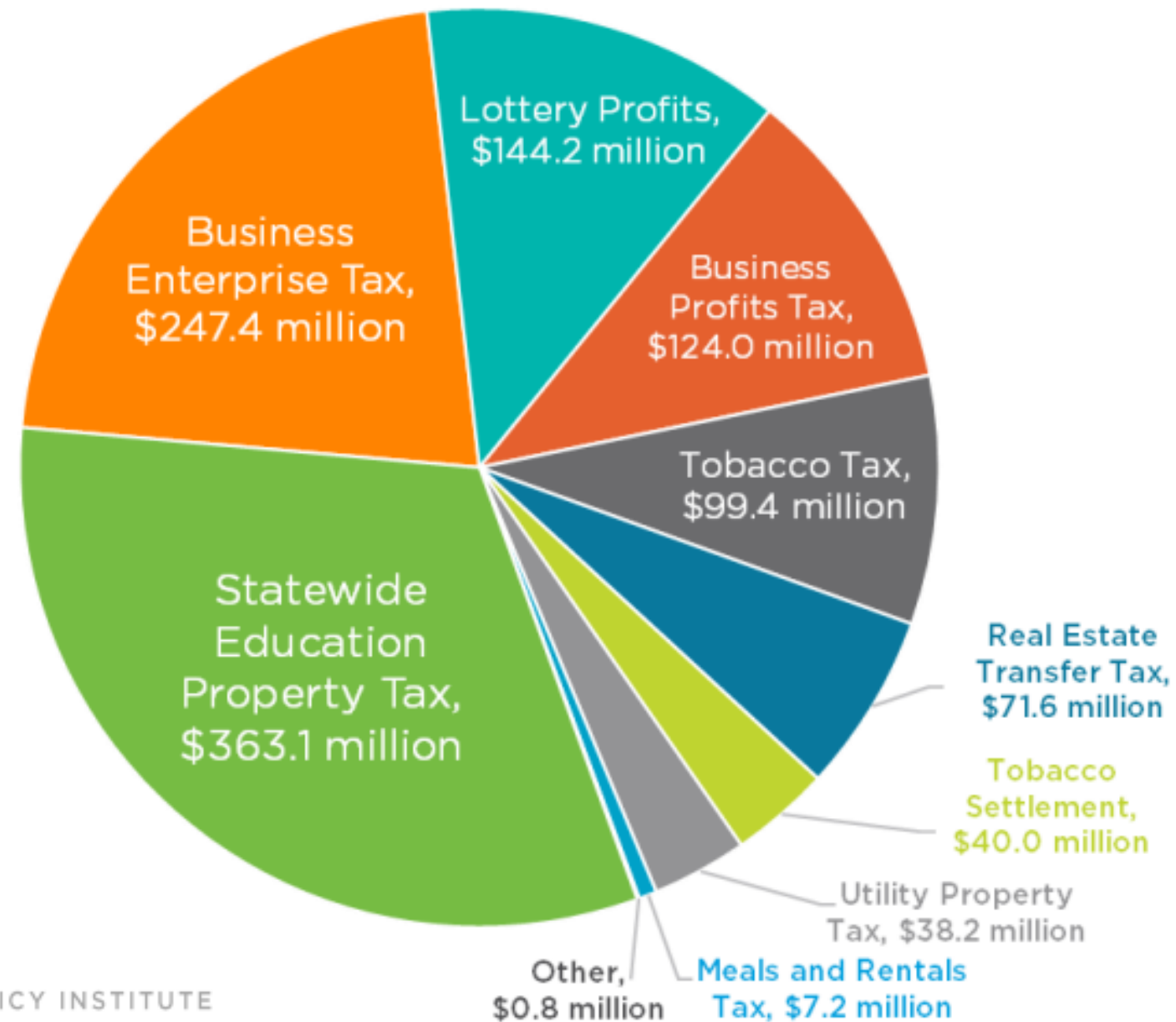
Other Bills of Interest

- HB 1422, cutting the BPT/BET and phasing out the communications services tax
- HB 1437: Increases members NH State Board of Education membership to 11.
- HB 1084: Requires that the Education Commissioner have experience & credential in education
- HB 1450, establishing a commission on higher ed consolidation
- HB 1534, tuition credits for community service

FUNDING THE EDUCATION TRUST FUND

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S EDUCATION TRUST FUND STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021 REVENUE SOURCES

Source: New Hampshire Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, State Fiscal Year 2021



How to participate



IN PERSON
(usually Legislative Office
Building)

Step 1. Personal Information
All fields required

First

Last

Town

State
New Hampshire

Email Address

Step 2. Select Date of the Hearing

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	

Step 3. Select Bill
* Required fields

Select the Committee *

Choose the Bill *

I am: * Select an Option Below -->

Do Not Represent: * Myself

WRITTEN
(using the online portal)

Things to remember

- Past years, the House Education Committee & Senate Education Committee tend to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Meetings are live-streamed on YouTube
- February 26-March 1: BREAK
- April 6: CROSSOVER
- June 11: Committees of Conference form
- June 13: Last day to vote on Committee of Conference reports

**SIGN UP FOR
OUR EMAIL &
NETWORK**





Reaching Higher NH

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