

Education Policy 101

Thursday, August 15, 2024

REACHING
HIGHER NH





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

1 Minimum Standards Update

**2 Profile of
New Hampshire Students and Schools**

3 Overview of Policy Changes

4 What's Ahead for New Hampshire

5 Q&A: Drop Questions in Chat

MINIMUM STANDARDS UPDATE



Minimum Standards for Public School Approval

The foundational rules for all public schools in New Hampshire

Determine what makes a public school, a public school

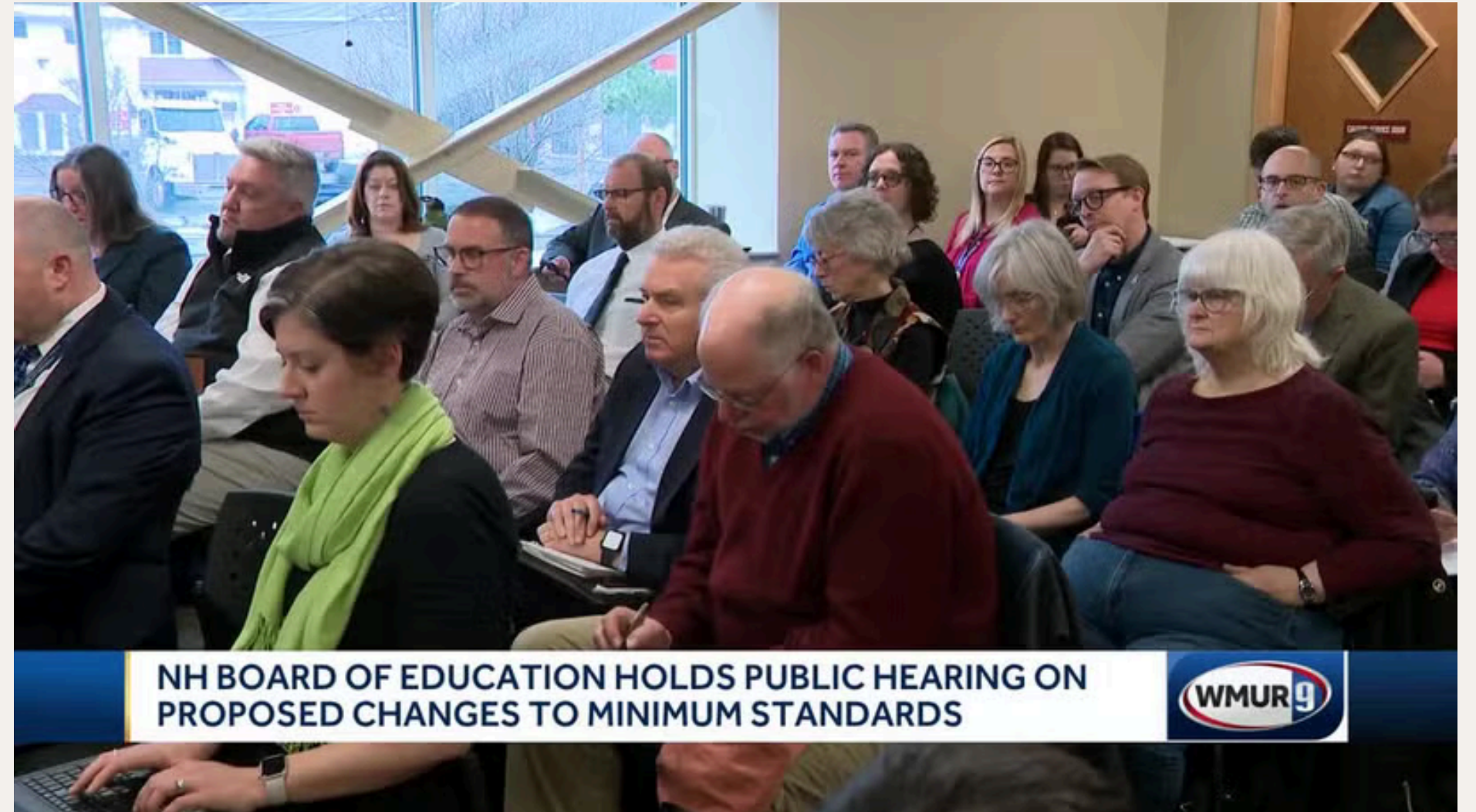
- One of the most important ways that the state can ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, are receiving a baseline education.

Broad scope

- Policy requirements, culture and climate, instructional resources, assessment, staff qualifications, food and nutrition services, and more

NHED's Overhaul of the Minimum Standards

The NH Department of Education's proposal could redefine the vision and role of public schools in New Hampshire, and lower standards for public schools.



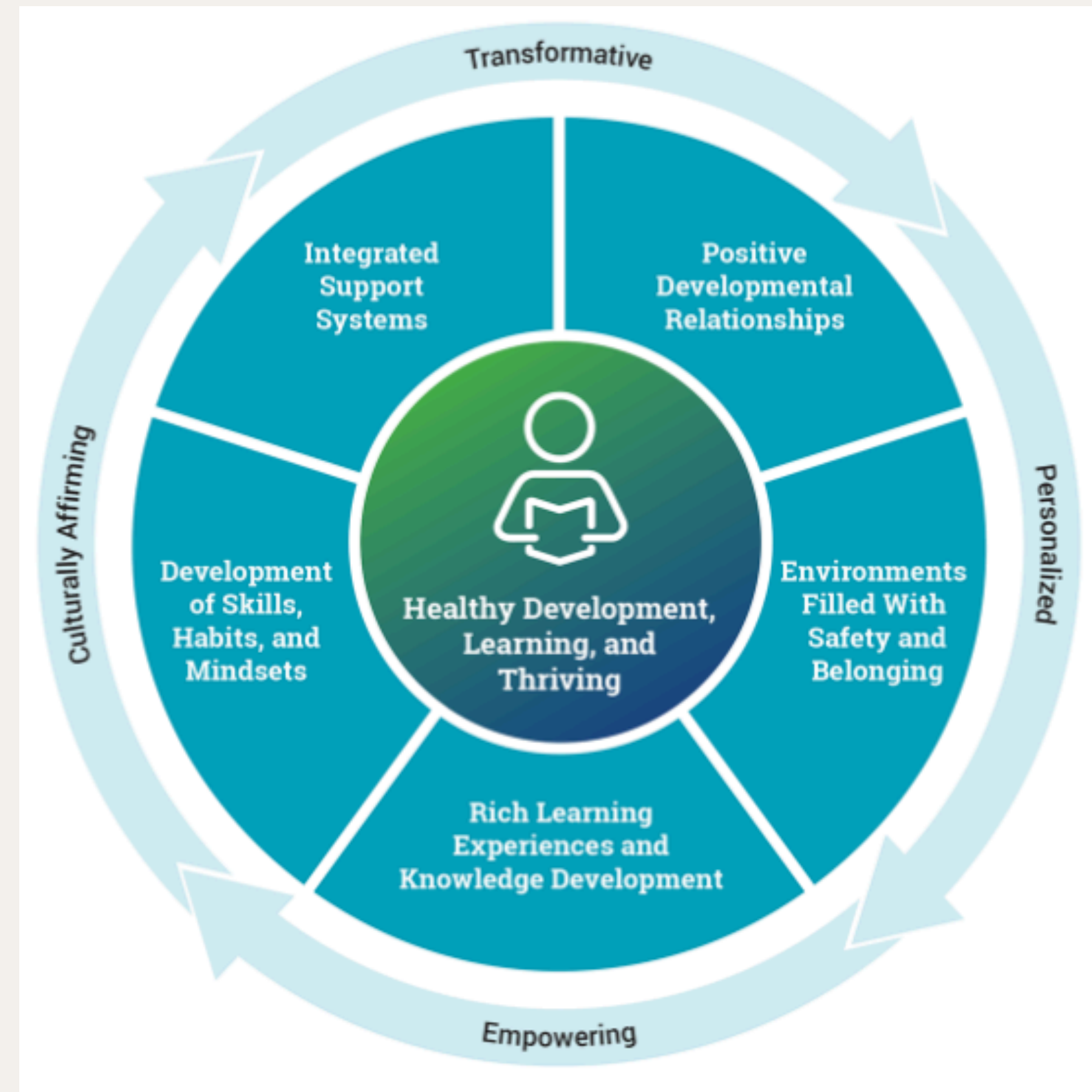
Over 200 residents submitted public feedback on the rule proposal in April 2024, with the vast majority of the feedback in opposition. PHOTO: WMUR

NHED's Overhaul

- Weakening requirements for curriculum and programs
- Replacing “courses” with “learning opportunities”
- Eliminating class size requirements
- Alternative programs
- Removing requirements to meet instructional needs of students
- Lowering expectations of student learning

NHED's Overhaul

Does this align with what we know about a high-quality education?



From "Whole Child Education," published by the Learning Policy Institute. Read more at <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/topic/whole-child-education>

NHED's Overhaul

Potential outcomes

“You either support the democracy that the founding fathers established or you don't. If you do, you must support public education by certified personnel. If you don't, you are asking.. to establish a different country with a different future than by far the majority of Americans and NH citizens want.”

Role of the school would shift from places of teaching & learning to credit approving centers

- Shift emphasis away from teaching & learning and towards certifying a student's collection of “competency” statements
- Reliance on “competency” statements and reliance of developing programs based on state standards, most of which are expired and out of date

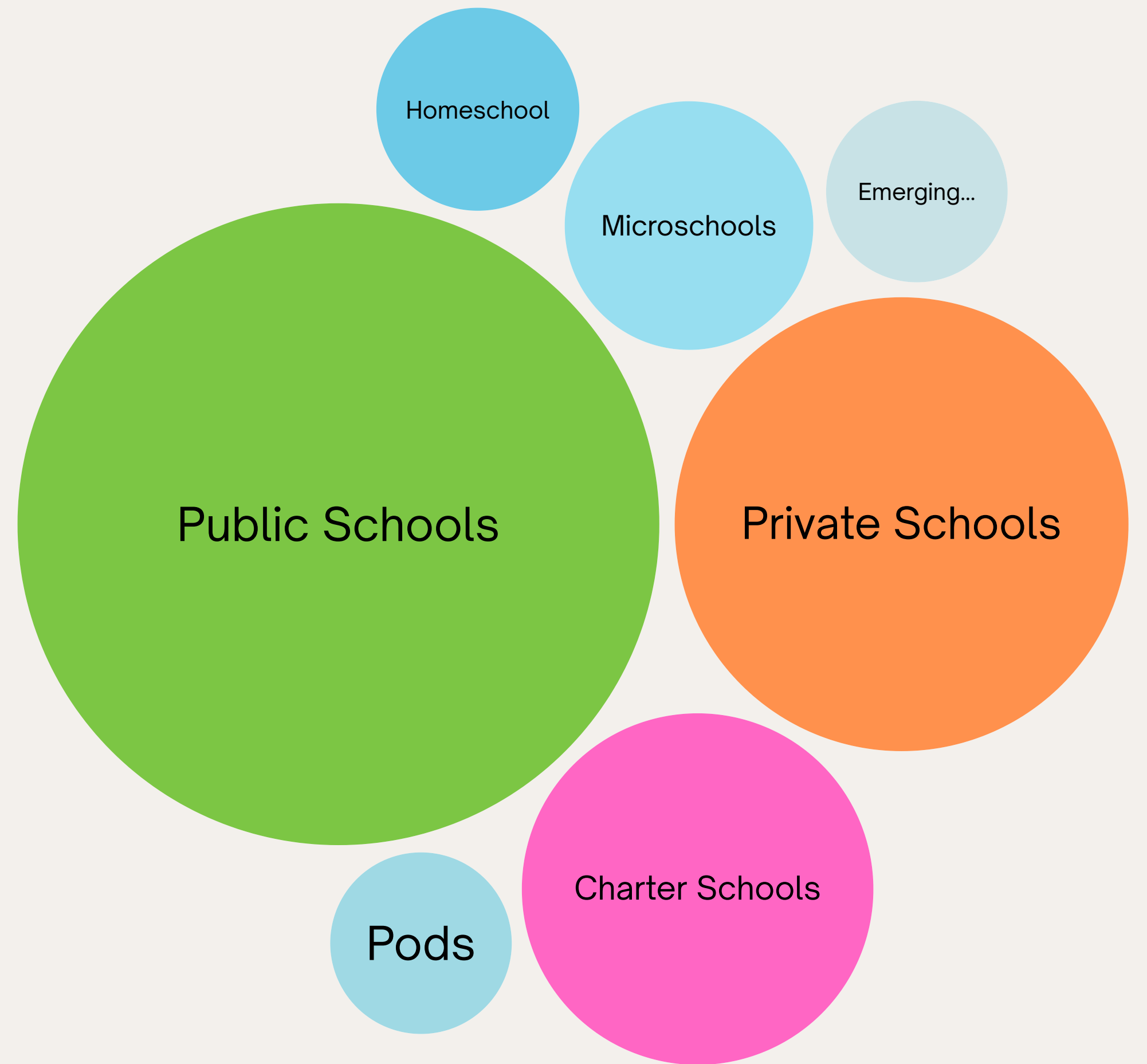
Privatization & dismantling of public schools

- Public schools would have little control over the quality and depth of curriculum and instruction
- Could create a market for external credit-bearing opportunities while removing the school's authority to vet programs



PROFILE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE STUDENTS

The Educational Landscape in New Hampshire

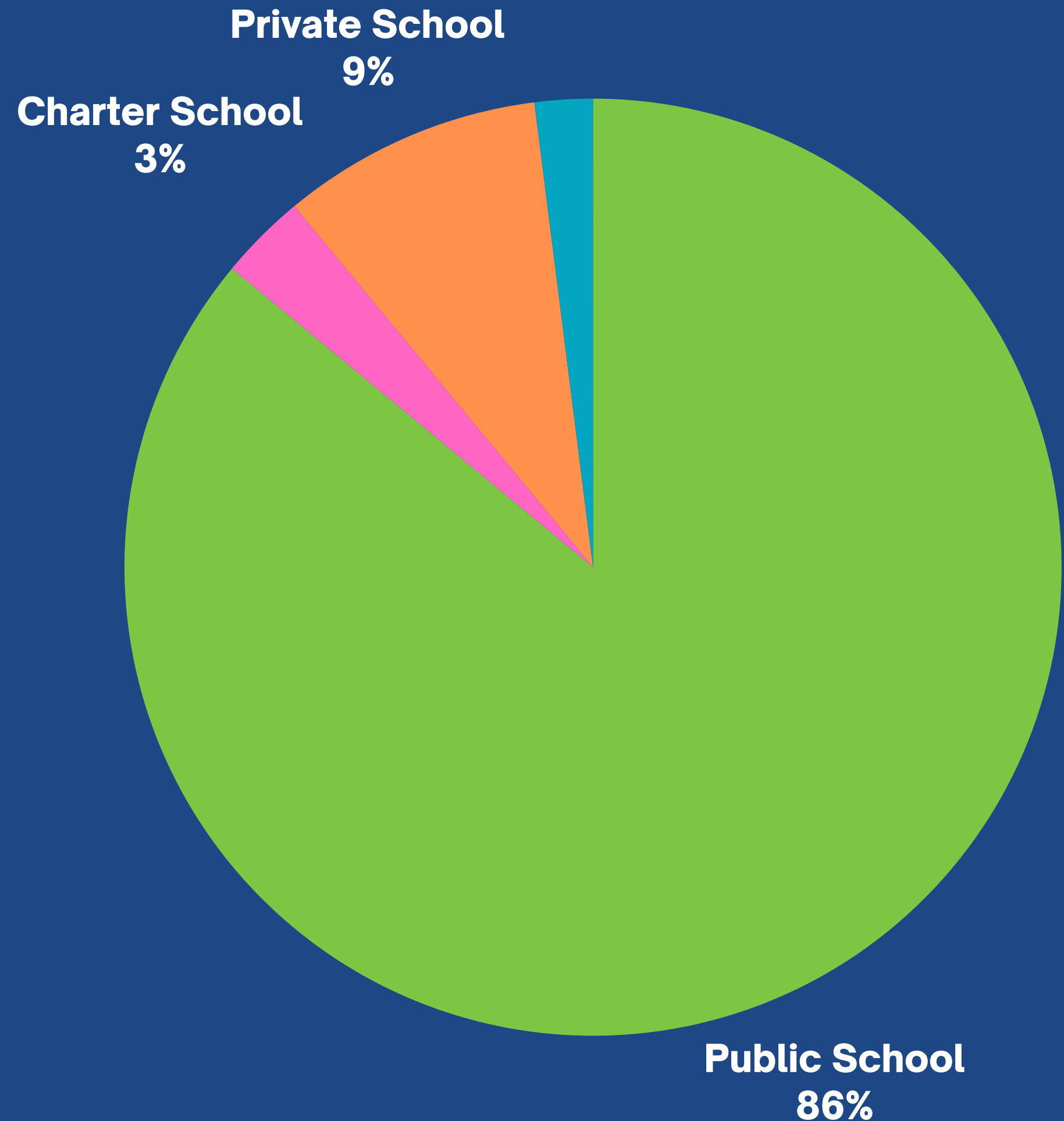


9 in 10 Granite State kids attend a public school

451 District-Operated Public Schools
10 preschool / 293 elementary / 70 middle / 79 high

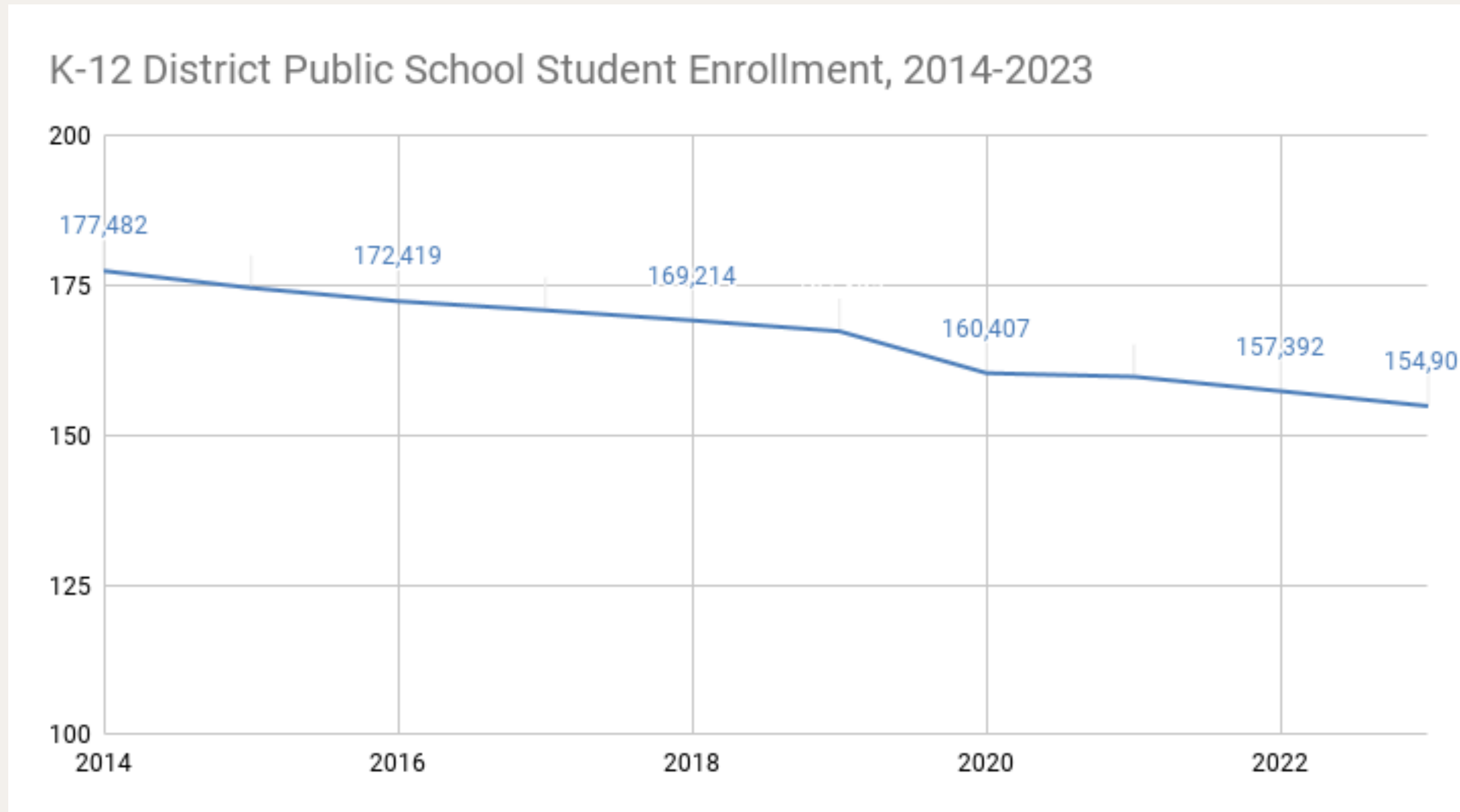
31 Public Charter Schools

132 Private Schools



Source: NH Department of Education.

The number of students is declining...



...But their needs are increasing



30%

A light green circular graphic containing a white house icon. The percentage '30%' is written in large green font over the house icon.

increase in the percentage of students
participating in school meals
between 2013 (20%) and 2024 (26%)



25%

A light green circular graphic containing a white house icon. The percentage '25%' is written in large green font over the house icon.

increase in the percentage of students
receiving special education services
between 2013 (16%) and 2024 (20%)



50%

A light green circular graphic containing a white house icon. The percentage '50%' is written in large green font over the house icon.

increase in the percentage of students
receiving ELL services
between 2013 (2%) and 2024 (3%)

Our students are more diverse than ever before

10.6% ↓

number of residents under
18 in New Hampshire
between 2010 and 2020

48% ↑

number of residents of color
under 18 in New Hampshire
between 2010 and 2020

School Funding in New Hampshire*

\$1.07 BN including SWEPT



- \$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

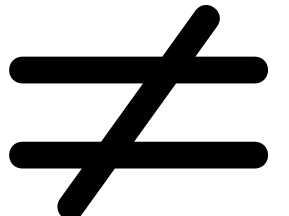
\$6,768

*Average per student expenditure
by the State of NH Including SWEPT*

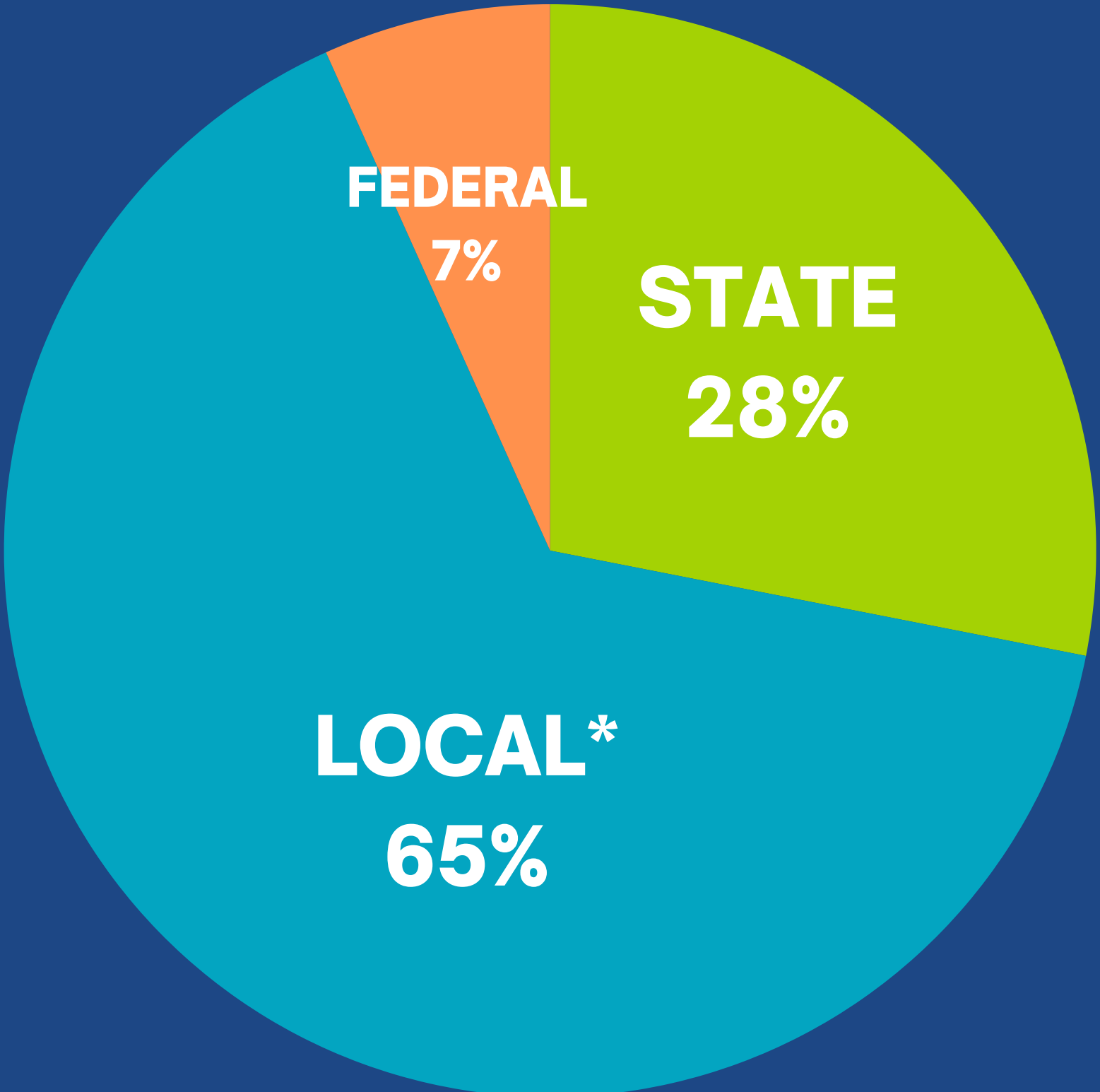
Expenses vary**

- Operating Expenses for Public Schools
- Tuition
- Transportation
- Capital Items
- Interest on debt
- Facility Construction & Acquisition
- Summer School
- Non-Public Programs
- Adult Education & Community Programs
- Allocation to Charter Schools/Other Agencies

\$14,190 in Auburn***



\$41,753 in New Castle***



*FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Total Expenditures for ESE
** FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Cost per Pupil by District
*** FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Estimated Expenditures of School Districts

Mind the gap: Educational experiences for students vary widely among NH students

Access to adequate resources, funding varies unequal from town to town

January 12, 2022 by Meg McIntyre-Granite State News Collaborative



'I feel like I could have done more... West H

STATE HOUSE VOTING HEALTH EDUCATION ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT COMMENTARY

EDUCATION STATE HOUSE

New education funding lawsuit focuses on town-to-town inequality of property taxes

BY: ETHAN DEWITT - JULY 14, 2022 5:48 AM



NEW HAMPSHIRE UNDERFUNDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY OVER

\$500 MILLION EVERY YEAR

ACCORDING TO COURT RULINGS

...s dead last in the nation for state education



A ConVal School District bus. (Benji Rosen/ Monadnock Ledger-Transcript) Benji Rosen

By EILEEN O'GRADY
Monitor staff

Published: 4/29/2021 4:39:56 PM

3 plaintiffs sue NH over local taxpayers

By PATRICK ADRIAN
Valley News Correspondent

Opinion

Viewpoint: A tug-of-war over students and taxes

BY JANINE LESSER
For the Ledger-Transcript

Published: 1/6/2022 9:26:23 AM
Modified: 1/6/2022 9:25:47 AM

The state is creating a two-tiered education system

School voucher system

Unlimited funds

No accountability or transparency

Negative effects on student
outcomes

Public education system

For communities, by communities

Inequitably & inadequately
funded

Held to minimum standards
by the state

Adequate, sustainable, and responsible school funding is critical to ensuring all students receive a high-quality education.

- ✓ Substantial improvements in math & reading achievement
- ✓ Reductions in grade repetition
- ✓ Reductions in suspensions and expulsions
- ✓ Increased likelihood of high school graduation & being college-ready



OVERVIEW OF POLICY CHANGES

Since 2021, lawmakers have radically reshaped public education

- Persistently underfunded public schools
 - Funding formulas
 - Tax caps
- School vouchers & privatization attempts
 - “Education Freedom Accounts”
- **(Re)Defining public education**
 - Curriculum & Assessment
 - School Climate & Inclusivity
 - Divisive concepts
 - Book bans
 - Mandatory disclosure
 - The Teaching Profession
 - “Teacher loyalty”
 - NHED investigative power

SB 383: School Budget Caps



PER-STUDENT COST

ENROLLMENT

INFLATION FACTOR

TOTAL BUDGET

- 2024: Lawmakers pass Senate Bill (SB) 383, which would allow school district voters to adopt a budget cap
- Voters will be able to adopt the budget cap provision with a $\frac{3}{5}$ supermajority vote at a town meeting, voting day, or special meeting.

SB 383: School Budget Caps

BUDGET CAP DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR:

State Grants

Special
Education

Contractual
Obligations

Warrant
Articles

Federal
Funding

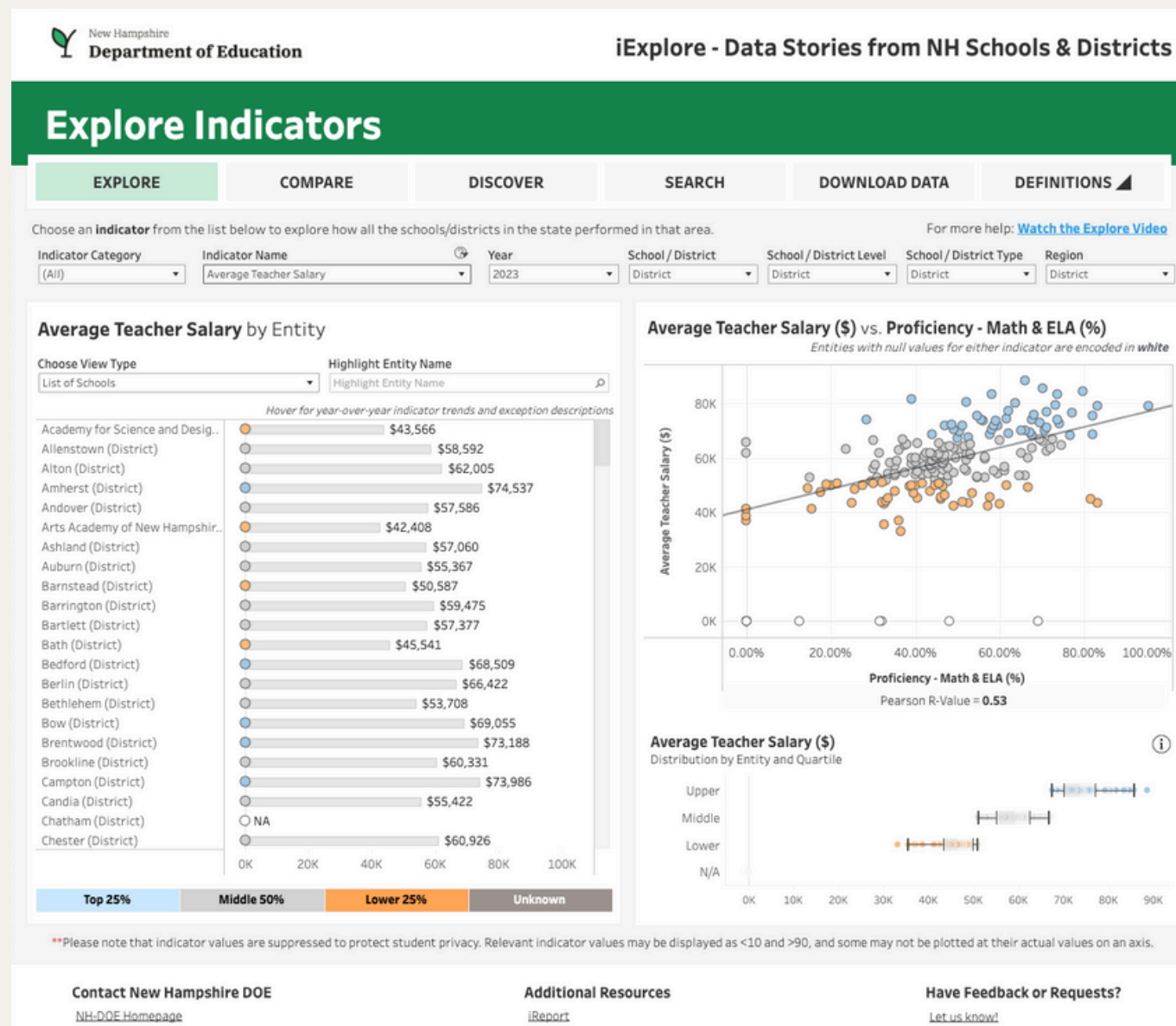
Philanthropic
Grants

Bill (SB)
district

budget
vote
special

meeting.

HB 1265: Mandatory Reporting of Expenditures



- Would require school districts to publish:
 - Average cost per pupil over 10 years
 - Average teacher salary over 10 years
 - Administrator salaries (annual total)
 - Salaries of 4 highest paid school administrators
- Takes effect July 1, 2025

Curriculum and Assessment

- Continued effort to redefine and dilute statutory requirements for public schools
 - HB 1671 (2022)
 - HB 1691 (2024)
- Effort to redefine public schools through administrative rules (ED 306s).

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

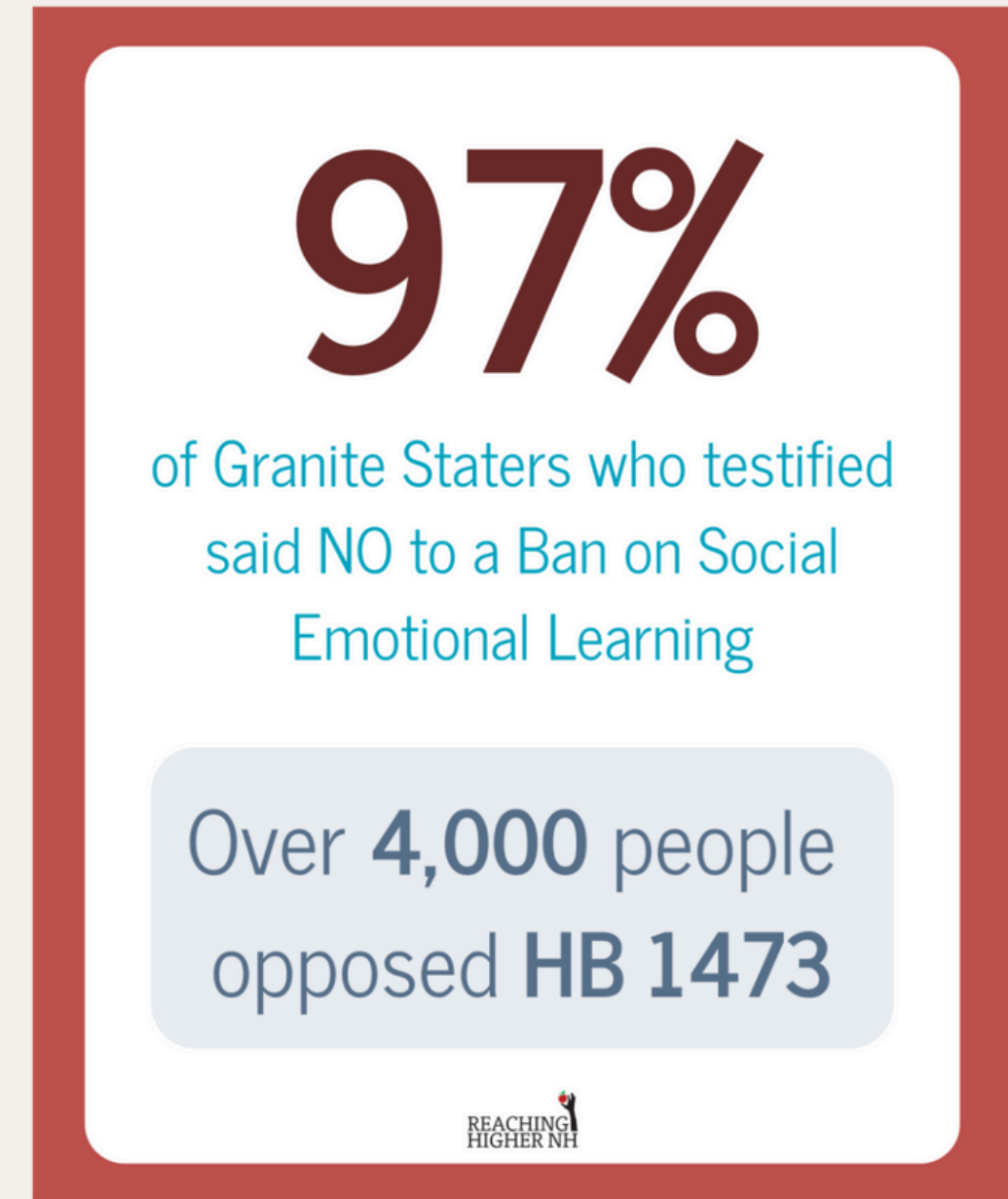


"WITH ATTENTION TO" THE FOLLOWING CORE KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

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

School Climate & Inclusivity

- Governor Sununu recently signed several anti-LGBTQIA+ bills into law (HB 619, HB 1205, and HB 1312)
- Other bills that would prohibit inclusivity:
 - SB 341: Mandatory disclosure
 - HB 1353: NHED subpoena
 - HB 1473: Banning social-emotional learning in public schools
- Efforts to repeal harmful legislation failed



The Teaching Profession

- 2022: Legislative study committee finds that statewide teacher shortage driven by inadequate pay, challenging working conditions, & statewide climate
- Lawmakers have proposed bills relative to part-time teachers, loan forgiveness, and induction programs to attract and retain high-quality educators




Emerging Topics: AI in the Classroom

USABLE KNOWLEDGE

Embracing Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom

Generative AI tools can reflect our failure of imagination and that is when the real learning starts

POSTED July 20, 2023 BY Elizabeth M. Ross

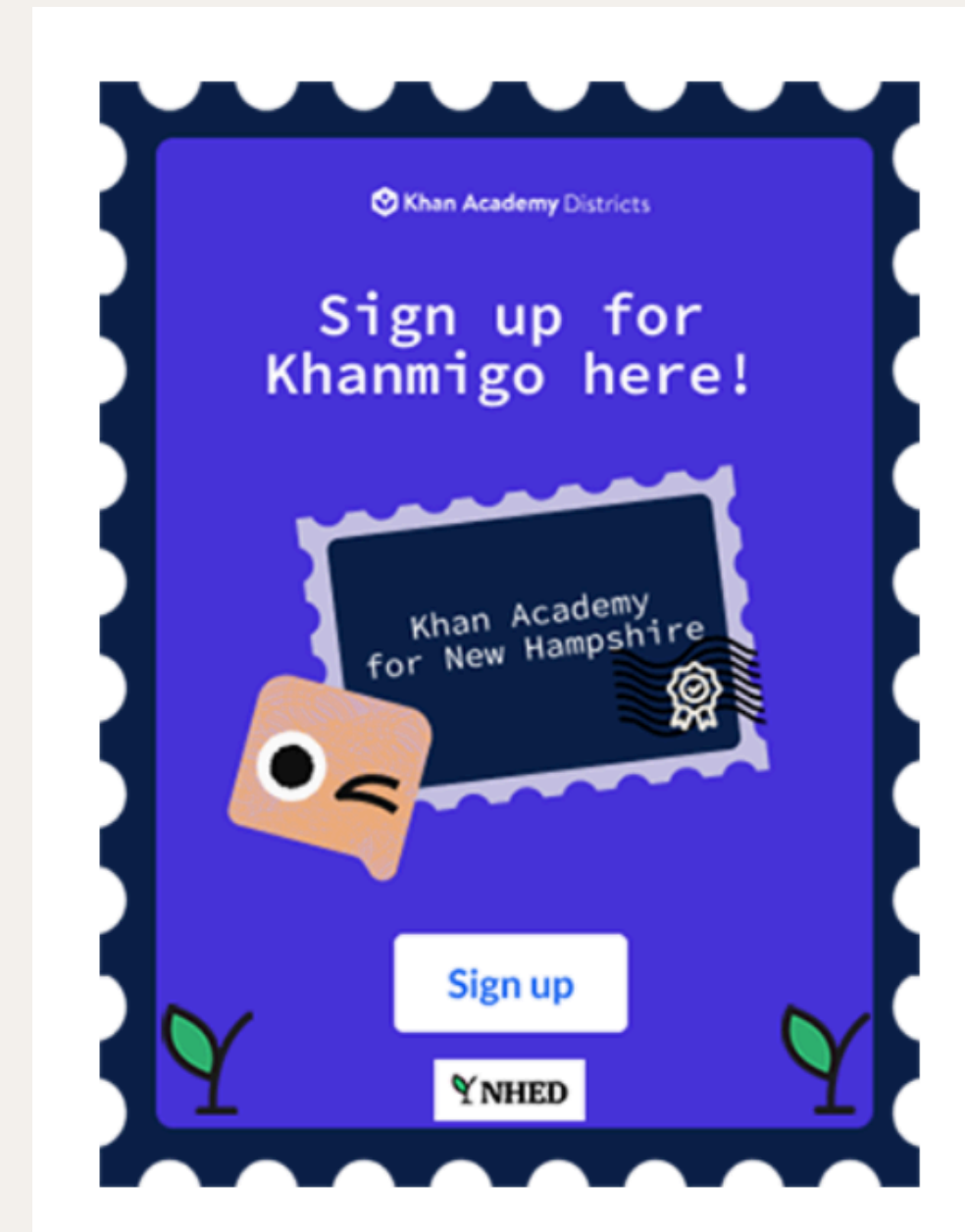


HOME ABOUT US GET INVOLVED SERVICES RESOURCE LIBRARY NEWSROOM DONATE

Home > News > NHED moves to bring AI into classrooms across New Hampshire as part...

NHED moves to bring AI into classrooms across New Hampshire as part of a pilot program

May 24, 2024



Emerging Topics: Local Control

NH EDUCATION

How a school-choice request in N.H. led to questions about state board's authority

The state attorney general's office asserts that seven political appointees have legal authority to force a locally elected school board to pay tuition to a private religious school.

A judge seems skeptical

By [Steven Porter](#) Globe Staff, Updated August 14, 2024, 6:00 a.m.



- State asserts that “the state board has **“complete authority”** to act when disputes arise between individuals and school districts unless state law offers a specific command to the contrary. That, he added, means the state board has the discretion to **direct public schools to approve tuition agreements with private schools** on an appeal-by-appeal basis.”

Emerging Topics: ESSER Fiscal Cliff

EDUCATION

Four years after COVID-19 pandemic, many students still losing ground

■ The test score gaps between today's students and their pre-pandemic counterparts are growing wider.

By **Laura Meckler and
Lauren Lumpkin**
The Washington Post

For a time, it appeared as if academic recovery from COVID was underway.

Now, new research shows that many students are actually sinking even deeper.

The research is based on tests from last winter and spring 2024, four years after schools abruptly went on-

line — and comes just as billions of dollars in federal COVID relief money for schools runs out.

"At the end of 2021-22, we optimistically concluded that the worst was behind us and that recovery had begun," concluded a paper recently released by NWEA, a testing company that works in more than

9,000 U.S. school systems. "Unfortunately, data from the past two school years no longer supports this conclusion."

The test score gaps between today's students and their pre-pandemic counterparts are growing wider, the group found, and are worse than "what we had previously deemed as the

low point."

Together, data from three large testing companies paint a more pessimistic and troubling picture than prior reports and raise questions about how school districts, which face a fall deadline to spend the last of the \$190 billion in federal COVID relief money, will help large numbers of stu-

dents who are still behind.

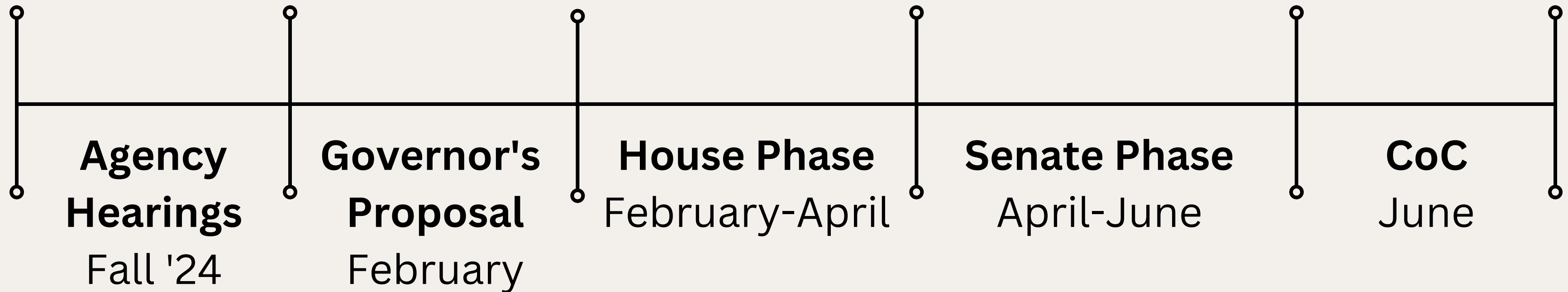
"We're a long way from pre-pandemic levels of student achievement," said Dan Goldhaber, an education researcher at the American Institutes for Research and the University of Washington, who was not involved in any of the new

► See **Students**, Page A8

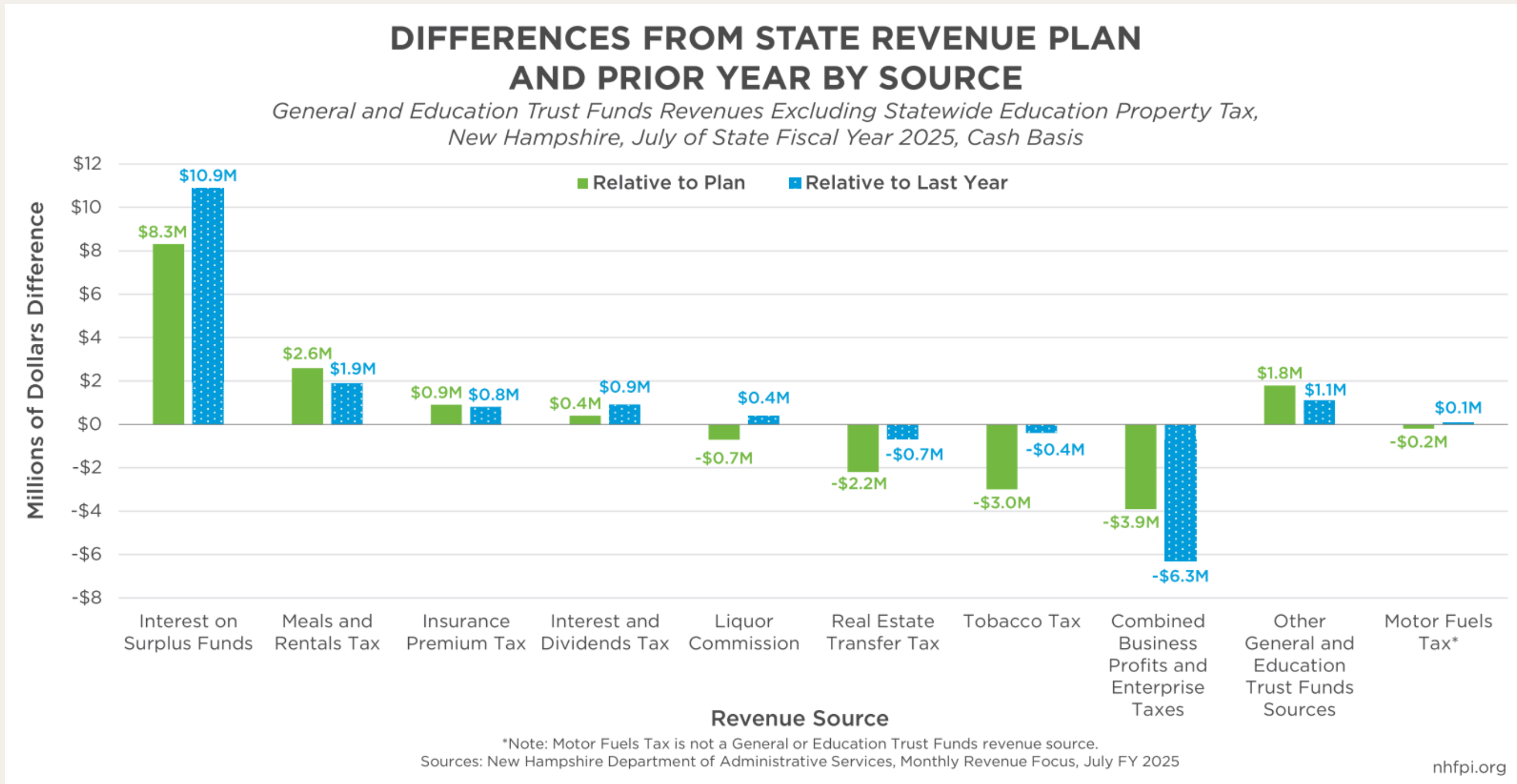


WHAT'S AHEAD FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

It's a Budget Year!



Looking Ahead to 2025 and Beyond



What we can expect in 2025

- School funding
- School vouchers
- School meals
- The Teaching Profession
- “Culture war” issues
- Book bans
- Bills affecting LGBTQ+ students, families, and teachers
- Gutting of requirements of an adequate education
- Reading and math instruction
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Classroom



There continues to be unprecedented engagement from Granite Staters in supporting public schools.

Public Schools are Essential

Families are the foundation of the NH public education system.

Public schools should have the resources they need.

NH is a place for excellence in teaching and learning.

High-quality, public education should be available to every Granite State student.



www.ReachingHigherNH.org



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