

# Priorities *for* New Hampshire's Children 2012

## Educational Opportunity for All Children

### Issue Overview

Over the past seven years the legislature has fulfilled its constitutional obligation to define, cost, fund and create an accountability system for the delivery of the opportunity for an adequate education. Now, we need to support the continued full funding of constitutional adequacy for all children served in public schools in NH.

During the past legislative session, the Legislature changed the underlying law that supports the calculated amount of adequacy by lowering some of the allocations, adding a reading component, narrowing the allotment and installing a hold harmless for two years. There is a clear prospect that during this session the Legislature will agree on a proposed constitutional amendment (CACR), that will significantly limit the Supreme Court's oversight and vest the sole authority more squarely with the legislature. This amendment will no doubt appear on the November 2012 general election ballot.

### Proposed Solution

Now, we need to support the continued full funding of constitutional adequacy for all children served in public schools in NH.

We will protect all children's right to a quality public education by monitoring legislative efforts aimed at reducing and/or diverting public funds from public schools. We must actively oppose legislation that will have the effect of weakening

our state's constitutional obligation or the public education system. We will support efforts to keep the definition of adequacy at a reasonable level and ensure a high quality education sufficiently funded by the state with reliable revenue sources.

### Call to Action

Educational quality and funding affects all children (almost 200,000) and all taxpayers in New Hampshire. To insure the strength and education of our future generations, we need all NH-CAN Partners' support to maintain educational quality for all children in NH.

- a) Monitor legislative efforts aimed at reducing and/or diverting public funds from public schools.
- b) Recognize and applaud efforts to keep the current statutory programs in place.
- c) Actively oppose legislation that will have the effect of weakening our state's public education system.
- d) Support public engagement and legislation to maintain the constitutional right of all students to a high quality education sufficiently funded by the state with a reliable source of revenue
- e.) Strongly advocate on behalf of the poor and moderate citizens in our communities.
- f.) Evaluate possible legislative actions.



The New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN), a program of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, is a statewide nonpartisan coalition of Partners and Advisors working to improve the well-being of New Hampshire's children. NH CAN partners annually develop a consensus set of *Priorities for New Hampshire's Children* focused on safety and well-being, health and wellness, economic security and education. This agenda for the state's children informs government policy and budget priorities and inspires community action.

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## NHCAN Partners

All NHCAN members

Including:

NH School Administrators Association

NEA-NH

AFT\_NH

AFT-NH, dedicated professionals serving NH individuals and families through collaboration with others, striving to advance NH communities and improve the workplace with integrity and commitment. For more information, contact Laura Hainey at [lhainey@aftnh.org](mailto:lhainey@aftnh.org).

## Non-NHCAN Partners

NH School Boards Association

## Find out More

The *NH School Administrators Association (NHSAA)*, *National Education Association-NH (NEA-NH)* and *American Federation of Teachers-NH (AFT-NH)* are the NH CAN partners for this Priority.

The NHSAA is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation dedicated to providing the best possible public education for the children of New Hampshire. The membership includes superintendents of schools, assistant superintendents, school business officials, special education directors, curriculum coordinators and other system administrators. For more information, contact Mark Joyce at [mjoyce@nhsaa.org](mailto:mjoyce@nhsaa.org).

The NEA-NH strives to strengthen and support public education and to serve our members' professional, political, economic and advocacy needs. For more information, contact Rick Trombley at [rtrombley@neanh.org](mailto:rtrombley@neanh.org).



**Children's Alliance**  
of New Hampshire  
*Raising our Voices for Children*



*NH CAN is a program of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire*

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