

# Priorities *for* New Hampshire's Children 2011

## Categorical Aid Supports Local Education

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### Issue Overview

State categorical aid programs are critically important. These programs fund school construction, reimburse exceptional special education costs, and support vocational educational tuition and transportation. These funds provide the groundwork to ensure a quality education for all children.

### Proposed Solution

There are specific actions we can undertake to protect categorical aid programs, which support local schools in ensuring the right of all children to a quality public education. We propose to:

- monitor legislative efforts aimed at reducing and/or diverting funding from public schools,
- recognize and applaud efforts to keep the current statutory programs in place,
- actively oppose legislation that will have the effect of weakening our state's public education system,
- 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,
- advocate on behalf of the poor and moderate income citizens in our communities
- evaluate possible legislative actions,

### Call to Action

The active participation of NH CAN Partners and other interested parties is essential to a comprehensive and coordinated impact on the legislative process. Together we can evaluate possible solutions, amplify the significance of this debate and maintain a strong commitment to fight for constitutional adequacy and equity for all NH's children. NH CAN Partner organizations NH School Boards Association and the National Education Association-NH will lead this effort with support from other educational organizations such as the American Federation of Teachers-NH.

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## **Find Out More**

The New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA) and the National Education Association, New Hampshire (NEA-NH) are the NH CAN partner for this Priority. For more information regarding this *2011 NH CAN Priority* contact Mark Joyce (NHSAA) at [mark@nhsaa.org](mailto:mark@nhsaa.org) or Rick Trombly (NEA-NH) at [rtrombly@neanh.org](mailto:rtrombly@neanh.org)

***Children's Alliance of New Hampshire*** - Download copies of the complete *Priorities for New Hampshire's Children*, additional fact sheets, and information about the New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN) at the Children's Alliance website, [www.childrennh.org](http://www.childrennh.org). You can also track the progress of all the *Priorities*-related bills.