



Ensure Consistent Educational Funding for All Children

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Issue Overview

NH court rulings on all children's right to the opportunity for an adequate education called for the state to support this educational opportunity by defining it, costing it, funding it for all children and ensuring it is delivered. The legislature fulfilled this moral and constitutional obligation over the past few years as it adopted legislation that defined, costed, funded and created an accountability system for the delivery of the opportunity for a constitutionally adequate education.

Now, we need to focus on protecting all children's right to a quality public education and support the continued full funding of constitutional adequacy for all children served in public school education. We must:

- oppose any constitutional amendment that seeks to limit the right of any child to receive a constitutionally adequate education
- support the full funding of the definition of adequacy
- support a funding system that delivers those resources to all children in a sustainable fashion

This issue impacts all public school children in NH, now and in the future; about 200,000 children in grades K-12 in 2009.

Proposed Solution

There are specific actions we can undertake to protect all children's right to a quality public education. We propose to:

- monitor legislative efforts aimed at reducing and/or diverting public funds from public schools
- recognize and applaud efforts to keep the definition of adequacy at a reasonable level and ensure a high quality education for all children regardless of town of residency
- 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
- strongly 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 and all interested parties is essential to allow a more comprehensive and coordinated effort to impact the legislative process. Together we can evaluate possible solutions, extend the awareness of 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 organization, AFT-NH, will lend support to this effort, and support can also be expected from educational organizations outside of NH CAN, such as the NH School Boards Association and NEA-NH.