



Maintain Categorical Educational Aid Programs that Support Children, Schools and Taxpayers

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Issue Overview

In addition to supporting the cost of the constitutionally defined right of all NH children to the opportunity for an adequate education, there are state categorical aid programs that are critically important. These programs fund school construction, reimbursement of extraordinary special education costs, and vocational education tuition and transportation. These categorical aid programs support children and schools, partially compensate taxpayers for required educational spending and provide more comprehensive state support of basic educational opportunity. We must oppose any state law change that seeks to limit the current statutory aid programs for building aid, categorical special education aid and vocation tuition and transportation. We must support a funding system that delivers those resources to all children in a sustainable fashion.

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

Proposed Solution

We propose actions to focus the Legislature and Governor on the state's moral and statutory obligation to continue to fund critically important categorical aid programs and fully fund the obligated costs of those programs. Specific proposed actions include:

- monitor legislative efforts aimed at reducing and/or diverting public funds 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
- 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 Partners and all interested parties is essential. All children statewide are affected, and this support would 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 equity for all children. NH CAN Partner, AFT-NH will be an active supporter, and educational organizations outside of NH CAN, including NEA-NH and NH School Boards Association, will lend support.