

other educational options (home schooling, private schools and academies, including religiously affiliated schools) that parents believe will better serve their children.

Should the NH legislature allocate public funding for “adequacy” for the following education choices?

A. Home schooling	Yes	No	No Consensus
B. Private schools/academies	Yes	No	No Consensus
C. Religious affiliated schools	Yes	No	No Consensus

6. What conditions if any must be applied to private or religious affiliated schools if they are to be considered for receiving public moneys?

A. Nondiscrimination policies?	Yes	No	No Consensus
B. Recognized accreditation?	Yes	No	No Consensus
C. Teacher qualifications?	Yes	No	No Consensus
D. Administer standardized assessments recognized by the Dept. of Education?	Yes	No	No Consensus
E. Share assessment results with the NH Dept. of Education?	Yes	No	No Consensus

7. Accountability for educational outcomes is a responsibility of the state per the Claremont decisions [*“We hold that accountability is an essential component of the state’s duty...” 147 N.H 499, 500 (2002)*] If parents choose home schooling or a private school, how should the state meet its constitutional responsibility for accountability? *(open ended question)*

8. If New Hampshire schools or the legislature wish to try innovative approaches, should they be held to a specific time frame to demonstrate results? *Yes No No Consensus*
To whom should results be reported? *(open ended question)*

Appendix – References

For question 4: (copied from the state statutes: RSAs)

193-E:2-a Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education. –

I. Beginning in the school year 2008-2009, the specific criteria and substantive educational program that deliver the opportunity for an adequate education shall be defined and identified as the school approval standards in the following areas:

- (a) English/language arts and reading.
- (b) Mathematics.
- (c) Science.
- (d) Social studies.
- (e) Arts education.
- (f) World languages.
- (g) Health education.
- (h) Physical education.
- (i) Technology education, and information and communication technologies.

II. The standards shall cover kindergarten through twelfth grade and shall clearly set forth the opportunities to acquire the communication, analytical and research skills and competencies, as well as the substantive knowledge expected to be possessed by students at the various grade levels, including the credit requirement necessary to earn a high school diploma.

For question 4: New Hampshire's funding of public schools 2017-2018:

HB356 (passed in spring 2017) created a 2-year study of NH's definition of educational "adequacy" and the formula in use since the Claremont decisions determining the state's financial commitment to education. That study committee is meeting: It is chaired by Rep. Umberger and includes Reps. Cordelli, Grenier, Ladd, Leischman, Myler, Weyler, and Sen. Birdsell.

The state's current financial commitment to each public school district is as follows:

Base aid per pupil (gr 1-12) in average daily membership	\$3,636
<i>Differentiated aid in addition to above:</i>	
per pupil requiring special education	\$1,956
per pupil qualifying for free/reduced lunch	\$1,818
per pupil, English Language Learners	\$ 711
per 3 rd grader reading below level, not also in a category above	\$ 711
Kindergarten students currently count for ½ base aid	\$1,818
(in 2019 that will increase by \$1,100 per K pupil, funded by Keno proceeds)	

The state's financial aid to charter schools currently is as follows:

Base aid per pupil (gr 1-12) in average daily membership	\$6,922
Base aid per Kindergarten pupil	\$5,104
VLACS (online school)	\$5,714
<i>Differentiated aid in addition to above:</i>	
per pupil requiring special education	\$1,956
per pupil qualifying for free/reduced lunch	\$1,818
per pupil, English Language Learners	\$ 711
per 3 rd grader reading below level, not also in a category above	\$ 711

In computing the cost of "adequacy" the state includes \$700 per pupil for transportation.

The state also awards "**Stabilization Grants**" to some school districts, with a declining pot of money annually that will be empty in 25 years. For 2016-17 the state's stabilization grant fund will award \$144 million. The goal of the grants seems to be two-fold (maybe more): to help districts with rapidly declining populations and enrollment adjust gradually to a lower tax base, and to help the poorest towns with low property tax bases.

(Any errors in the above information is the fault of the League member who tried to piece this together from several sources. She apologizes for any unintentional errors and welcomes corrections.) LT

For question 4:

The SWEPT (State Wide Education Property Tax) will raise at least \$363 million for FY2018. It is part of each town's property tax bill, calculated to equalize evaluation. It goes directly to the local school district.

For question 5:

from April 2016 Graphiq Visualization: State ranking based on performance on assessment test scores using data from the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), also known as the "Nation's Report Card." The NAEP is America's "largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in select subjects".... results are for states from the 2015 reading and math assessments for Grades 4 and 8.... States are ranked based on the average percent of students who scored proficient or above on math and reading tests for the two grades. The math

assessment measures students' knowledge and skill in mathematics and their ability to apply their knowledge in problem-solving situations. The reading assessment measures students' reading comprehension by asking them to read grade-appropriate materials and answer questions based on what they have read.

New Hampshire ranked #2 nationally [fyi Massachusetts ranked #1, all 50% or slightly higher]

NH rankings: Average percent of students at or above “proficient”: 47 percent

Percent of students at or above proficient in:

- Grade 4 Math: 51 percent
- Grade 4 Reading: 46 percent
- Grade 8 Math: 46 percent
- Grade 8 Reading: 45 percent

For Question 5: Costs per pupil... *From a presentation by Dr. Mark Joyce to LWVNH on 11/4/2017:*

The cost per pupil in the US averages \$11,824.

The New England states plus New York and New Jersey are all among the top 13 states nation-wide in cost per pupil.

New Hampshire is 10th from the top in per pupil costs.

For Question 5: *From an October 2017 presentation by John Tobin, Esq., to the NH study committee charged with studying possible changes to the adequacy definition and state funding formula.*

Average per pupil spending in NH school districts: The wide disparities between communities, both in per pupil costs and in equalized valuation per pupil, illustrate the property tax burden in these representative examples of pairs of like communities (each pair has comparable student enrollment levels).

<i>District</i>	<i>Equalized Val. Per Pupil *</i>	<i>Total State & Local Ed. Tax Rate per \$1,000 valuation</i>	<i>Per Pupil Spending</i>
Berlin	\$298,075	\$16.40	\$15,319
Gilford	\$1,674,717	\$10.60	\$17,608
Claremont	\$398,920	\$24.20	\$15,952
Lebanon	\$1,446,935	\$15.50	\$22,144
Pittsfield	\$463,649	\$18.00	\$14,723
Rye	\$3,311,717	\$ 6.20	\$19,535

**Equalized Valuation Per Pupil is the total value of the taxable property in the school district divided by the number of students.*

From the same handout:

Per pupil costs are difficult to compare because some districts are K-8 only, others are K-12. That said, **the average cost per pupil in NH in 2015-16 was approximately \$15,351.** High school costs only slightly more than elementary school, and middle school slightly less than either.

The average NH Equalized Valuation Per Pupil in 2015-16 was \$939,000.