

Federal Government:

Early in our nation's history lawmakers passed the 10th Amendment to the Constitution basically making education a function of the states. Beginning in the 60's the federal government began to issue educational policy and it has increased since then. Federal laws with the most impact on education include equal access to education and safeguarding student and teacher equal rights. The federal government also influences education by allocating funds to applicant school districts that follow certain federal guidelines. The Secretary of Education heads the US Dept. of Education, which is responsible for educational research, title programs and accountability.

States:

The states are primarily responsible for the maintenance and operation of the public schools as per their own constitutions wherein all children can receive an education. States are also involved in the establishment, selection and regulation of curriculum, teaching methods, and instructional materials. Besides oversight, they also bear a financial support obligation. In NH, the state constitution in Article 83 declares "it shall be the duty of the legislators and magistrates...to cherish [public education]. "Cherish" has been interpreted by the courts to mean support an "adequate education." Local taxpayers appropriate and raise the funds needed beyond "adequacy" to run the local school districts.

Governor:

Governors serve as each state's chief executive officer. They are responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the state executive branch. They advance and pursue new and revised policies and programs including educational and budgetary issues. They carry out those responsibilities with the support and assistance of state departments and agency heads, i.e. the Department of Education and the Commissioner, many of whom are appointed by the Governor. In NH, those appointments must be approved by the Executive Council.

State Department of Education:

The State Department of Education provides educational leadership and services which promote equal educational opportunities, accountability, and quality practices and programs that enable resident students to become fully productive members of society. The Commissioner presides over the Dept. of Education and acts as its CEO. The Commissioner establishes procedures to provide SAU's with services to promote excellence and resources through state and federal programs for all students. The Commissioner plans and applies for federal and state grants, promotes educational research, and oversees audit and financial monitoring functions.

State Board of Education:

The State Board of Education is a policy making organization that provides oversight and support to the Commissioner and the State Department of Education. It does so by

advocating for public education and along with the Department of Education, implements the statutes passed by the legislature. The board adopts minimum standards and determines required assessments. Seven members are appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Executive Council, for a term of 5 years. Five members represent one of each executive council districts; two are at-large. They serve without pay; meet monthly. Members cannot be technical educators or professionally engaged in school work.

State Legislature:

The State Legislature has the right and responsibility to promulgate education laws and regulations which support Educational Adequacy. It seeks to provide the necessary avenues including financial aid to enable all students the opportunity for equal access to quality educational opportunity and outcome in any and all state public schools.

Local Boards of Education:

Local School Boards are also policy making organizations that provide oversight of SAUs (School Administrative Units). They, in concert with the SAU administrative staff (Superintendent, et al.) adopt policies and procedures to recruit and evaluate professional and nonprofessional staff; adopt curriculum and standards based on the minimums established by the state board of education; approve purchases of supplies and services; operate public board meetings; provide student transportation; prepare an annual budget; develop educational goals, long-range plans and identify measurable and attainable objectives. Exercise all powers and perform all duties vested in and imposed on the School Board by law or rules of the State Board. The Board acts as a body of the whole, as individual members have no absolute authority to act alone. Members are elected by voters in the towns of each school district. The Superintendent in each SAU acts as the CEO.

Resources:

<http://education.findlaw.com/>

National Governors Association <https://www.nga.org/cms/home>

New Hampshire School Administrators Association <https://www.nhsaa.org/>

New Hampshire General Court <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>

New Hampshire Department of Education <https://www.education.nh.gov/>

New Hampshire State Board of Education

https://www.education.nh.gov/state_board/index.htm

New Hampshire School Boards Association <http://www.nhsba.org/>

To find your own school district's Board of Education webpage, google the "*name of your town NH*" and then "school district".