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"CALL" FOR NHSBA RESOLUTIONS

To: All School Board Chairs
All Superintendents

From: Theodore Comstock, Executive Director

Date: August 25, 2014

Note: This mailing is being distributed to Superintendents and School Board Chairs only. It is also available via the NHSBA web site <http://www.nhsba.org>. Please duplicate and disseminate to other members of the school board.

Does your school board have a resolution NHSBA should consider?

The successes that we realize in the Legislature are due to the participation of our membership throughout the year. It begins with the collection of proposed resolutions in the fall for eventual consideration at our annual Delegate Assembly in January. Proposed resolutions are submitted to the NHSBA Board of Directors for review and recommendations. These suggestions then go to the Delegate Assembly for final action.

NHSBA's positions on major education legislative and regulatory matters are directed by the Official Resolutions adopted by our Delegate Assembly each year. The process of adopting resolutions is a major part of our Delegate Assembly (scheduled for January 10, 2015) and represents one of the most critical activities of our Association.

The purpose of this Memorandum is two-fold. First, this is the "official call" for resolution proposals from our member school boards. All member boards are encouraged to submit proposals for consideration by the Delegate Assembly. Resolution proposals can cover any education topic viewed as appropriate by the school board and are generally stated as:

NHSBA supports ... or NHSBA opposes...

The resolution can be directed toward the State Legislature, Congress, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education or others as you deem appropriate. Resolutions must be proposed by majority vote of a member school board, but not by an individual member(s) of a school board, non-member school boards, or any school district or SAU staff member.

Executive Director
Dr. Theodore E. Comstock
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NH School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301

Please be as clear and concise with the wording of your resolution so the intent, as well as the requested action, is understandable. The attached form, using appropriate format, should be used to present the resolution, as well as a brief rationale or explanation of the purpose of the resolution.

All proposed resolutions must be returned to NHSBA by October 24, 2014 for review by the NHSBA Board of Directors. The proposals, including the Board of Directors' recommendation for action on each proposal, will be redistributed in total to all member districts for review at least 30 days prior to the Delegate Assembly. This will allow ample time for boards to discuss all proposed resolutions and give direction to your board's delegate to the Delegate Assembly on how to vote on a given proposal.

Remember, proposed resolutions must be received in the NHSBA office no later than October 24, 2014.

The second purpose of this Memorandum is to provide you with a copy of the NHSBA current set of Resolutions as adopted by the 2014 Delegate Assembly (see attached) and the 2014 NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual. We encourage you to review the enclosed materials to see whether the subject matter of a resolution that you contemplate submitting is already covered by existing resolutions. This will save you time, and you can then be assured that your idea for a new resolution has already been addressed by actions of previous delegate assemblies. The subject matter (e.g. funding, governance, etc.) of the enclosed resolutions is categorized for your easy reference.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions about this process, or on any proposed resolution you may be considering. NHSBA staff is always ready to help your board get the issues of importance to you on NHSBA's agenda. Don't hesitate to call us.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this activity to the direction of NHSBA in the year ahead. I hope you consider this a very high priority.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



New Hampshire School Boards Association

N H S B A
NEW HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION
Incorporated 1946

**Proposed
Resolution
for Consideration
by the
2015 NHSBA
Delegate Assembly**

Please duplicate this form to allow for submission of each proposed Resolution on a separate form.

Deadline for Submission to NHSBA: October 24, 2014

The _____ School Board submits the following proposed Resolution for Consideration at the 2015 NHSBA Delegate Assembly:

RATIONALE: (Please limit your rationale statement to the space provided, single-spaced, typewritten. This is a required part of the process of submitting a Resolution for consideration by the 2015 NHSBA Delegate Assembly. This rationale statement will be presented to the Assembly with the proposed Resolution and the recommendation of the NHSBA Board of Directors.)

Signature of School Board Chair

Date

Please remember that proposed Resolutions must be submitted by a majority vote of the local member School Board, not by individual members of the School Board or members of the school district staff.

For additional information, please contact:
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New Hampshire School Boards Association

Resolutions for 2014

Adopted by the 2014 NHSBA Delegate Assembly – January 11, 2014

Education Funding:

1. NHSBA supports the state funding of a percentage of adequacy aid for home education students who attend public schools in New Hampshire. The funding percentage should be prorated based on the percentage of the day that home education students are attending classes in public schools. (2014)

Local Control and School District Autonomy:

2. NHSBA supports state and federal legislation that affirms the responsibility for education resides with the states, which have delegated to local school boards the power and authority to adopt policies, establish priorities, and provide accountability to direct the operation of the schools, including the school system's mission and goals, organization, budget, program, curriculum and services, all essential to the daily operation of schools, consistent with state laws and regulations. (2014)
3. NHSBA supports local boards and their responsibility for establishing the structure, accountability, advocacy and delivery of instruction within their local district. This includes statutory changes that affirm this managerial policy confided exclusively to public employers. Specifically, governing bodies have the right to determine standards for evaluation, compensation, selection, layoff and retention, discipline, assignment and transfer, and other traditionally accepted managerial rights so as to continue public control of governmental functions. (2013)
4. NHSBA supports legislative affirmation of the management right associated with teacher evaluation that is an integral component of the requirement that school boards adopt a teacher evaluation policy. Further, NHSBA supports involving teachers and principals by allowing a reasonable opportunity to comment on draft school board evaluation policy, understanding that the school board has the sole prerogative to adopt a local policy it deems appropriate. (2014)

Accountability:

5. NHSBA supports legislation to amend the State Common Core Testing that will begin in the school year 2014-2015 to allow special education students be tested at their grade level ability rather than their placement of their current school grade. (2013)

*New Hampshire
School Boards Association*

*Policies, Resolutions
and
Statements of Belief
Manual*

January 2014

By Procedure Adopted Unanimously at Delegate Assembly, November 4, 2006
And Following Action of the January 11, 2014 Delegate Assembly

New Hampshire School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park – Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301
603/228-2061 • www.nhsba.org

Overview of Action Taken at the 2006 Delegate Assembly

The resolutions contained herein have been adopted for three consecutive years by a vote of the Delegate Assembly. Such resolutions become a continuing commitment of the Association and part of this document, *Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual*. This practice is based on the proposal adopted unanimously at the 2006 Delegate Assembly on November 4, 2006:

Whereas **NHSBA** takes consistent positions on certain issues that repeatedly come before the Delegate Assembly as re-adopted resolutions, and
Whereas these issues deserve special recognition for their continued importance as long-standing positions,
Be it therefore resolved that any resolution adopted for at least three continuous years be moved to the **NHSBA** Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual.

**RESOLUTIONS QUALIFYING FOR INCLUSION IN THE
POLICIES, RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF BELIEF MANUAL**

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Perennial Resolutions of the New Hampshire School Boards Association

I - School Choice

- I:A• NHSBA supports the utilization of public education funds solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (1991)

- I:B• NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. Specifically, NHSBA opposes the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools. Rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms, NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public schools and meet current funding obligations and promises, benefiting the vast majority of America's children who are educated daily in our public schools. (2005)

II - Education Funding

- II:A• NHSBA proposes that the state fully fund all state education aid formulas before the funding of any other state obligation. (1994)

- II:B• NHSBA supports reducing the threshold for determining the local share of a catastrophic aid special education placement to 2 times the state average elementary and secondary costs of general education. (1998)

- II:C• NHSBA supports the appropriation of at least \$50 million each fiscal year to fully fund, per RSA 198:15-a, IV, the state's Building Aid Program. This program has effectively created local and state partnerships in financing school building improvements that benefit all students of New Hampshire, and which should be considered a significant part of fulfilling the State's constitutional duty to provide an adequate education to all children. (*First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014*)

- II:D• NHSBA supports a continual review of all costs associated with providing the opportunity for an adequate education, including costs associated with facilities, and increasing the state commitment to reflect actual costs incurred. Any additional revenue raised by the state to meet this obligation shall be dedicated solely for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. (*First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014*)

II:E• NHSBA proposes that the state develop an equitable and sustainable tax plan dedicated solely to education for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. (2002)

II:F• NHSBA opposes the dramatic and unpredictable changes in educational funding each year – often with solid information only coming to the school districts after the balloting or school district meetings are done.

The **NHSBA** opposes any new educational funding legislation, passed and enacted by the Legislature, which takes effect any earlier than the next biennium. School boards cannot be expected to work with legislation passed after the budget cycle for the following year is completed. (2005)

II:G• *Replaced by Resolution II:D in 2014.*

II:H• NHSBA supports a required kindergarten program as part of a comprehensive K-12 curriculum offering, with concurrent state kindergarten funding. (*First Adopted in 2003 – Revised in 2014*)

II:I• *Replaced by Resolution II:N in 2014.*

II:J• The **NHSBA** opposes any constitutional amendment that vacates the spirit and intent of the Claremont and Londonderry lawsuits and attempts in any way to limit or redirect funding in a manner that is contrary to the New Hampshire Supreme Court's ruling and present interpretation of the New Hampshire Constitution. (2008)

II:K• NHSBA opposes transfer of the responsibility to provide and fund a free and appropriate education (FAPE) for special education students from resident districts to attending districts when a non-resident student is placed in a district by a parent. (2008)

II:L• *Replaced by Resolution II:C in 2014.*

II:M• NHSBA opposes the recent change in statute that decreases the state share of local employer retirement costs. **NHSBA** calls for the immediate return of the state share of local employer retirement costs for teachers, police and fire to 35% for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, as well as maintaining this commitment

in the future. (2010)

II:N• NHSBA opposes legislation that would directly or indirectly divert state costs or responsibilities to local school districts, including unfunded state aid programs (e.g. catastrophic aid and building aid), and the state share of retirement contributions. (2011)

II:O• Should the special education mandates of the state of New Hampshire exceed the federal special education requirements, then the state of NH should fully fund those mandates that exceed federal requirements to the local school districts. (2009)

II:P• NHSBA supports amending New Hampshire's special education statute so that only the state legislature, not the state board of education via rulemaking or any other process, decides when it is appropriate for state law to exceed federal law. (2010)

III - Health Care Funding

III:A• NHSBA supports a statewide effort to work with legislative bodies to address the spiraling costs associated with health care benefits borne by the school districts in New Hampshire. (2005)

IV – Charter Schools

IV:A• NHSBA proposes that for any charter school authorized by the State Board of Education, state aid entitlements under RSA 198:42 should be paid directly to the charter school from state funds which are separate from local district grants. (2006)

IV:B• NHSBA proposes that the State Department of Education develop evaluation and accountability criteria for the state's charter schools to ensure their financial stability as well as sound educational objectives. (2006)

V - Local Control and School District Autonomy

V:A• NHSBA supports legislation to lower the mandated 2/3-majority vote for passing a bond article to 60% for all school districts. (1997)

- V:B**• NHSBA supports the continued ability for Cooperative School Districts to adopt apportionment formulas based on locally determined factors. (2000)
- V:C**• *Deleted in 2014.*
- V:D**• NHSBA supports amending current law to allow school districts to establish a non-lapsing contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses. (2001)
- V:E**• NHSBA supports legislation that allows local governing bodies to indicate their recommendation on any warrant article, in addition to those recommendation requirements already specified in the municipal budget law, RSA 32. (2006)
- V:F**• The NHSBA supports the NH Legislature amending the “SB 2” process to allow a legislative body to specifically vote by a supermajority of 60% on a Warrant Article to create and fund a program that would then continue beyond the single year and its costs would be included as part of the following years default budget. (2008)
- V:G**• NHSBA opposes any change in statute implementing an “Evergreen Clause” in all negotiated contracts. Evergreen clauses mandate the continuation of any pay plan after the expiration of a contract when a successor agreement has not been reached. Any such provision exceeds previous standards and usurps local control, significantly tipping the balance of negotiations. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)
- V:H**• NHSBA opposes any mandated teacher salary schedule requiring all districts in the state to pay salaries based on a common state schedule. (2009)
- V:I**• NHSBA supports local control provided in NH statutes and rules that allow local school districts the authority to make their own decisions in defining a school calendar that complies with both the spirit and the letter of the law. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)
- V:J**• NHSBA supports new legislation or administrative rules that impose penalties against school district employees who breach their employment contracts. (2011)
- V:K**• NHSBA opposes any branch of New Hampshire government adopting or supporting curriculum standards that usurp state’s rights and de-emphasize

and limit local control of curriculum and local school board oversight. (2011)

V:L • NHSBA supports legislation to allow local school districts to retain a percentage of their year-end unreserved fund balance in the same manner as local municipal governments. (2011)

VI - School Safety

VI:A • NHSBA supports legislation which excludes public schools from being designated as neutral ground for visitation purposes for children of parents undergoing a divorce procedure by legal or other administrative orders. (1998)

VI:B • NHSBA supports efforts to enact legislation which would require notification to school districts of restraining orders related to a student's behavior. (1999)

VI:C • NHSBA supports legislative action to remove the unfunded mandated provisions of RSA 193-F, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention. The imposition of these new mandates and their related financial costs, without additional state funding, violates the New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Article 28-a. (2011)

VII - Accountability

VII:A • NHSBA believes that all components of state testing (English Language Arts, Writing Prompt, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) should continue to be given annually at the end of the school year with appropriate and immediate steps being taken to ensure that these test results are received by school districts no later than the following July 1. Valid data to assess school performance relies on measuring individual student progress: NH should adopt gain score or value-added measures as the principal means for determining AYP. If NH does not adopt gains-score or value-added measures as the principal means for determining AYP, then annual testing should take place at the beginning of the school year so that information may be used instructionally during the year. (1998)

VII:B • NHSBA supports the inclusion of only students who have enrolled in a district continuously for the previous school year in the numbers calculated for AYP as defined by NCLB. (2005)

VII:C • NHSBA supports a review of NH's accountability and performance measures as well as standards established for the NH state assessment program. (2009)

VIII - State Board of Education

VIII:A • NHSBA calls on the State Board of Education to continuously monitor all teacher training programs at New Hampshire colleges and universities to assure that such institutions are offering quality and relevant training programs preparing individuals for careers as teachers and/or administrators in New Hampshire's public schools. (*First adopted in 1998 – Revised in 2014*)

VIII:B • NHSBA proposes that the Department of Education develop and maintain a database of available grants and other funding mechanisms to assist local school districts in their grant writing efforts and funding of locally determined programs. (2002)

VIII:C • NHSBA urges the State Board of Education to conduct a statewide study of the "traditional" school calendar utilized by most public school districts in New Hampshire and to issue a summary report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations. (2003)

VIII:D • NHSBA urges the NH State Board of Education to adopt Standards of NH School Approval which emphasize qualitative standards rather than quantitative standards. (2003)

VIII:E • *Replaced by Resolution II:H in 2014.*

VIII:F • NHSBA supports the development and implementation of poverty indicators for Title I eligibility, which best reflect the current distribution of children from low income families in the public schools across the State and maximizes the number of districts eligible for Title I funds. (2003)

VIII:G • NHSBA supports the concept and duties of the State Board of Education as established in RSA 21-N:10-11. In its capacity to review all programs, advise on goals and hear appeals, the State Board of Education should have the authority to appoint the Commissioner of Education as well as confirm the Deputy Commissioner and division directors nominated by the Commissioner of Education. (2005)

VIII:H • **NHSBA** opposes the changes in student assessment at the state level which are resulting in fewer content and skill areas tested, especially the loss of the writing assessment. Basing assessment decisions on availability of funding rather than on what is best for the students of New Hampshire is not something that **NHSBA** can support. (2005)

VIII:I • **NHSBA** supports a compulsory attendance age of eighteen (18), along with flexibility to utilize alternative options that allow students to continue a program of study to complete their high school education. (*First adopted in 2006 – Revised in 2014*)

VIII:J • **NHSBA** supports a Department of Education funded study on the impact on performance of extended learning opportunities and those extended learning opportunities' relationship to the funding formula. (2009)

IX - Federal Legislation

IDEA

IX:A • **NHSBA** urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds to pay 40% of the cost of implementing IDEA, and to fully fund any additional requirements in the area of special education and to provide financial impact statements. (1990)

IX:B • Since its original enactment in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has played a pivotal role to assure that students with disabilities receive the services they need for their success. **NHSBA** supports and applauds the efforts and goals encompassed by IDEA's mission.

As our Congress considers the reauthorization of IDEA, **NHSBA** believes attention should be directed at components of the program that are moving away from the original mission of educating children to a mission that involves a wider range of functions. **NHSBA** believes that for special education to achieve its potential in today's environment, several areas should receive attention. **NHSBA** proposes that federal reauthorization of IDEA address these specific priority concerns in the following areas:

- federal funding - Congress should fully fund the federal share of IDEA as a mandatory program;

- teacher recruitment and retention - federal law should create and encourage incentives for new teachers seeking special education certification;
- administration and paperwork - federal law should ease the current complex paper trail aimed at documenting compliance as well as allowing greater flexibility in the IEP process;
- due-process hearings - federal law should provide for adequate notice of issues and good-faith mediation
- related services - federal law should identify the financial role of other governmental units rather than fix all costs for related services on the narrow portion of the tax base that just serves education;
- private placements - federal law should focus on whether a substantive deprivation of educational opportunities exists in the public setting before consideration of private placement;
- safe learning environment - federal law should allow local school district personnel the flexibility and discretion to make appropriate discipline determinations that are in the best interests of all students when it comes to disciplining children with disabilities;
- over identification - federal law should clarify the definition of those disabilities that can result in over identification. (2002)

No Child Left Behind

IX:C• The New Hampshire School Boards Association (**NHSBA**) supports and applauds the stated objectives of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. While welcoming the interest of the federal government in joining school boards in the effort to improve public education, **NHSBA** objects to several key provisions in NCLB that are unworkable, too costly and inconsistent with effective efforts to raise student achievement. Specifically, **NHSBA** supports amendments to NCLB and revisions to Department of Education regulations that will provide full funding as well as flexibility in order to address the barriers facing local educational agencies (LEAs) in the successful and effective implementation of NCLB, including:

- provide federal funding consistent with the levels authorized for education programs and the expanded information systems that are needed;
- permit alternative methodology for determining AYP targets and progress for students with disabilities, and for students with limited English proficiency;
- authorize alternative assessments for students with limited English proficiency and for students with disabilities beyond that of "significant cognitive disability", and provide flexibility to states as to the number of students whose alternative assessments may be counted for AYP purposes;

- allow students with disabilities to take tests at their actual reading level and then include their scores for calculation with the corresponding grade level;
- provide states more flexibility in measuring AYP in smaller districts with small subgroups. In calculating AYP, students identified in more than one group may be represented in the count for each group as an equal fraction totaling one student, ensuring that a small number of students are not over-represented.
- provide states flexibility to adopt gain score or value-added measures for determining AYP;
- provide for waivers and extensions for LEAs in meeting the qualification requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals;
- when public funds under Title II, Part A are provided by LEAs to private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel for educational services on an equitable basis and in a timely manner, those private schools should be held to the same accountability standards that apply to public schools;
- ensure that the current law and subsequent revisions recognize that education is primarily a state and local responsibility.

If the Congress and the Department of Education do not make the proposed revisions to NCLB and its regulations, then Congress should suspend implementation of the relevant aspects of the law until the changes are made. (2003-2009)

X – Public Pension System

X:A • NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent, and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will strengthen NHRS's solvency, including legislation to change how an employee's average final compensation is determined. NHSBA supports a calculation using an average of the highest five years for all employees retiring after July 1, 2016. NHSBA further supports legislation requiring that all NHRS rate increases, above those attributable to the \$2.4 billion unfunded liability agreed to by public employers in 2007, be shared equally between employees and employers. (2011)