



Writing a letter to the editor of your local paper is a great way to make your voice heard on an issue you care about. You can use your letter to shed light on an important issue, highlight ways your neighbors can take action, and hold your elected officials accountable to the concerns of their district.

## Facts to Include in Your Letter:

- The State of NH pays, on average, \$4,700 per pupil for an "adequate" education, but communities spend, on average, \$19,300 per pupil.
- This downshifting of costs to municipalities places an unfair burden on property poor towns who must often set higher local property tax rates than their property wealthy neighbors, and still cannot raise sufficient funds.
- An over-reliance on local property taxes creates an unequal system. Right now, communities invest anywhere from \$13,800 to \$38,460 per pupil on education, resulting in differences in test scores and graduation rates. A statewide solution to the school funding problem will level the playing field for all New Hampshire children.
- New Hampshire has the second most regressive school funding system in the country, and the biggest difference in spending between high-poverty and low-poverty districts.



## Tips for Writing Your Letter:

- Have a goal and focus on one topic – you can always write a second letter!
- Use personal stories backed by a few facts
  - Incorporating local or personal stories makes a letter more interesting and relevant to your community
  - Check out our resources on the School Funding and Property Taxes pages of our website for data to support your claims
- Be concise - most newspapers have strict word limits
  - Consider what you want to achieve from your letter: Are you trying to raise awareness of an issue? Persuade an audience? Issue a call to action?
- Be yourself
  - You don't need to sound like a policy expert to get published. Being a smart, engaged, and motivated citizen is incredibly powerful and exactly what others will identify with.