

Hi there,

The long-awaited rulings in the [ConVal and Rand school funding lawsuits](#) came down last week, and while we're still working to unpack all of the details and what they mean for New Hampshire, we are confident in saying that these are big wins for students and taxpayers.

If you want to learn more about these decisions and what they mean for school funding in New Hampshire, [please join us for a webinar on December 12 to hear from the lawyers who argued these cases](#). They'll break down these rulings and talk about what might come next in the courtroom.

These exciting decisions affirm what the courts have been saying for 30 years, ever since the first *Claremont* decision, that the State has a constitutional responsibility to provide every student with an adequate education and must fund that education with fair taxes.

While this is an exciting development, it does not mean school funding has been solved. The State is likely to appeal both decisions to the NH Supreme Court, and that process could take more than a year before we have the final decisions in these cases.

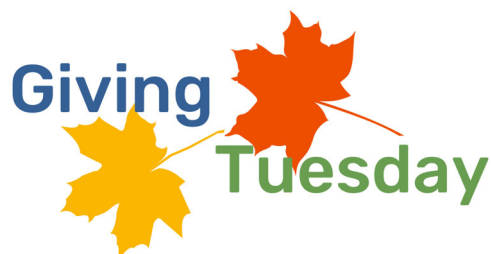
But there are things you can do, starting today and through the legislative session, to help turn these positive rulings into concrete legislative change. Bills were filed even before these rulings were issued that would codify the changes the plaintiffs were seeking. And now that there is a positive court ruling to support these changes, we will be asking you to help advocate to get those bills passed into law when the time comes.

[Right now, you can use our advocacy tool to email your legislators with just 1 click to inform them about these decisions and urge them to take action on them this session.](#)

The legislature can act without the ruling of the NH Supreme Court to fulfil these clear mandates. The foot dragging and delaying of these necessary changes doesn't need to continue. With your help, we can turn these positive rulings into the changes that have been promised for the past 30 years, but gone unfulfilled.

[Email Your Legislators](#)

[Register for the Webinar](#)



Today is Giving Tuesday, and [we hope you will be able to support our work](#) toward fair school funding for New Hampshire's students and taxpayers.

Like other non-profits, we rely on the support of individual donors like you to advance our mission. With the legislative session right around the corner we'll be advocating on important legislation, promoting the new court rulings, and continuing our events program to grow grassroots support for change.

[Please consider adding your support to our work, and be part of the movement for a fair school funding solution for everyone in New Hampshire.](#)

Support Our Work



Upcoming Events

On top of the [webinar on the decisions in the school funding lawsuits](#), we have two in person presentations booked for next week!

First, we are very excited to be doing a presentation right in **Concord on Tuesday, December 5 at 6pm** at **Red River Theaters!**

And on the Thursday of that week, **December 7, join us at 6pm** at **John Stark High School in Weare!**

We also have a lot in the works for the new year, including a presentation in Manchester on January 17! [Click here to register and get email reminders about that event.](#)

Register for Concord

Register for SAU 24

12/5
SCHOOL FUNDING & PROPERTY TAXES
CONCORD
JOIN NHSFFP FOR A SPECIAL SCHOOL FUNDING PRESENTATION AT RED RIVER THEATERS
TUESDAY, DEC 5TH 6PM
NH SCHOOL Funding Fairness Project
RED RIVER THEATRES

SCHOOL FUNDING & PROPERTY TAXES
SAU 24
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 6PM.
JOHN STARK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
618 NORTH STARK HIGHWAY
WEARE
JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WIDE REACHING IMPACTS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM.
REGISTER AT [FAIRFUNDINGNH.ORG /EVENTS](http://FAIRFUNDINGNH.ORG/EVENTS)
HOSTED BY
SAU 24 SCHOOL BOARD
SUPERINTENDENT JACKIE COE
NH SCHOOL Funding Fairness Project



More on Last Week's Rulings

There's a lot to talk about with these new rulings. They present concrete solutions for enforcing the NH Constitution while still allowing for the legislature to have the final say on school funding. Let's dig into them a little bit more.

In [*ConVal*](#), the court ruled that while it is ultimately up to the legislature to determine the cost of base adequacy it **"can be no less than \$7,356.01 per pupil per year and the true cost is likely much higher than that."** This floor for base adequacy is a recognition that the legislature has not acted to sufficiently address its constitutional funding requirement since *Claremont*, and the court is enforcing that precedential ruling by including it in this decision.

The increase in base adequacy from \$4,100 in current law to \$7,356.01 will represent a roughly \$537 million increase in State funding for education. What is important to remember is that money is already being raised by local property tax payers. **This is not an order calling for an increase in education funding, but a redistribution of where that funding comes from**, which could relieve the burden on local property tax payers.

In [*Rand*](#), the court ruled that the practices of municipalities retaining excess SWEPT revenues or setting negative local education tax rates to offset the payment of SWEPT are both unconstitutional because they allow for different rates to be paid by property owners in different communities. Per the Court's order, those practices must end beginning with the next municipal budget cycle in the spring.

Under current law, there was a projected \$26 million in excess SWEPT revenues that would be retained. That money will now be remitted to the State, and while the court did not give specific instructions on how those funds must be used, it made clear they must be used to support the State's duty to provide an adequate education.

It's also important to remember that this ruling in *Rand* was only on the SWEPT questions of the case, and there are still outstanding matters, including on differentiated aid, that have yet to be argued in court that will be impacted by the rulings issued last week.

Register for the Webinar with the School Funding Lawyers



School Funding News Roundup

These are some of the non-lawsuit related stories we've had our eye on this month:

Boston Globe: ["Report: New N.H. education rules lower standards, usher in privatization"](#)

The ongoing process to revise the Ed306s, the minimum standards for public school approval, has continued to see pushback from educators and advocates opposed to changes that would make it much easier for schools to be "unbundled" and their services transferred to private companies.

NH Bulletin: "[Republican lawmakers balk at Medicaid Direct Certification program, citing cost and privacy](#)"

A legislative committee studying the possibility of automatically enrolling all students who are eligible for Medicaid in free and reduced lunch programs, for which they are also eligible, did not endorse the idea. They cited the additional adequacy cost associated with more FRL eligible students being reported by school districts as a reason to not implement the program. The estimated \$95 million adequacy increase could be paid for with revenue from the soon to be repealed Interests and Dividends tax.

Boston Globe: "[N.H. public school enrollment continued to decline in 2023](#)"

These demographic trends have continued for the past two decades, presenting serious challenges for districts, since our state operates on a student-based funding model.



The support of generous donors like you is critical to our success. Please consider becoming a part of the fair funding movement and contributing to our efforts.

Donate

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New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project
64 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
United States

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