

Hi there,

Last week was a pretty good one for the fight for fair school funding for New Hampshire's students and tax payers.

On Tuesday, the [Rockingham County Superior Court issued rulings](#) in the [ConVal](#) and [Rand](#) lawsuits denying motions seeking to overturn the original decisions in those cases and delay the enforcement of those orders. The court stood by its decisions to protect the constitutional rights of students by [setting a \\$7,356.01 floor for base adequacy](#), and did not back down on its ruling that [retaining excess SWEPT and using negative local tax rates to avoid paying SWEPT are unconstitutional practices](#) that must stop. Now that these decisions have come down, the State has already signaled its intention appeal these cases to the NH Supreme Court.

Just two days later, with the affirmed *ConVal* and *Rand* decisions as a back drop, [the full NH House of Representatives voted on three fair funding bills](#). Thanks to all of you who got in touch with the special funding subcommittee, two of these bills came to the floor with big bipartisan support from the House Education Committee.

HB 1583, increasing targeted aid by \$64 million starting next school year and raising base adequacy to \$4,404 starting in 2025, was approved by a 228-150 vote. HB 1656, adding an additional \$35 million to differentiated aid for students receiving special education services, passed on a voice vote. Both of these bills now head to the House Finance Committee, [you can urge them to support them with one click here!](#)

But not every fair funding bill passed. HB 1686, which would have brought the State in line with the *Rand* ruling by ending excess SWEPT retention and negative local tax rates, was tabled by a 193-181 vote. Because that day was the deadline for the House to act on all bills going to a second committee, it died on the table when the House adjourned at the end of the day.

Despite that set back, **this was a very positive week on our path toward a more equitable school funding solution for all Granite Staters, and makes it clear what's on the horizon.** We'll let you know in the coming weeks how you can get involved with the public hearings in the House Finance Committee to keep pushing fair funding legislation forward. Your help has gotten these bills this far, and your continued support will help keep them moving closer towards becoming law.



Upcoming Events

We have two School Funding & Property Taxes presentations lined up for next week, and we hope you'll be able to join us!

On Tuesday, **March 5, we are presenting in Hampton!** This event was rescheduled due to snow, but is still taking place at Hampton Academy at 6pm with our hosts, SAU 90 and SAU 21.

And then later that week, on Thursday, **March 7, we'll be up at Haverhill Cooperative Middle School!** Join us and our hosts, SAU 23, at 6pm for our presentation and to hear from special guest speakers. Dr. Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, superintendent of the ConVal school district and an expert witness in the *ConVal*/lawsuit, and Rep. Jonah Wheeler, who filed HB 1583 that we wrote about above, will be there to talk about what they are doing to work toward a school funding solution.

Tell us you're coming to Hampton

Register to join us in Haverhill

SCHOOL FUNDING & PROPERTY TAXES SAU 90 & 21
HAMPTON, NORTH HAMPTON, SOUTH HAMPTON, HAMPTON FALLS, SEABROOK
TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH. 6PM
HAMPTON ACADEMY CAFETERIA
29 ACADEMY AVE. HAMPTON, 03842

NEW DATE DUE TO SNOW

JOIN NHSFFP, SAU 90, SAU 21 & THE HAMPTON SCHOOL BOARD TO LEARN HOW NH'S SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL CREATES INEQUITIES FOR STUDENTS AND TAXPAYERS ALL OVER THE STATE, & HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TOWARD AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

PROPERTY TAXES TOO HIGH? IT'S THE STATE'S FAULT.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

JOIN SAU 23 AND THE NH SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS PROJECT
THURSDAY MARCH 7TH @ 6PM
HAVERHILL COOP MIDDLE SCHOOL

W/ SPECIAL GUEST
DR. KIMBERLY RIZZO
SAUNDERS + REP. JONAH
WHEELER

2023 NH SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR, & EXPERT WITNESS IN CONVAL V. STATE OF NH

REGISTER: [FAIRFUNDINGNH.ORG/EVENTS](https://fairfundingnh.org/events)

SPONSOR OF KEY SCHOOL FUNDING LEGISLATION



Tell House Finance to Support School Funding!

With the passage of House Bills 1583 and 1656 last week, they are now moving to House Finance for another round of public hearings and debate. These bills were worked on by a special subcommittee and received broad bipartisan support, all because of action from people like you! There may not be a public hearing, so make sure to reach out to House Finance and urge them to support these critical bills.

These bills direct more money to communities with lower Equalized Value Per Pupil, districts with higher numbers of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch, and provides additional funding for special education services. It is critical that the House Finance Committee members hear from people all over the state to support these bipartisan school funding bills.

Email House Finance with One Click!



School Funding News Roundup

These are some stories we've had our eye on this month:

Claremont Eagle Times: "[Frustrations, not solutions, at school board meeting](#)"

We've seen a lot of stories like this over the course of February. Our school funding system makes it incredibly difficult for communities around the state to balance the needs of their students with the family budgets of their taxpayers. But the biggest factor that makes it so difficult is the State's continued downshifting of the costs of education onto local property tax payers.

Granite State News Collaborative: "[NH Dept. of Ed with its own revisions to state minimum standards](#)"

This is a great piece to get up to speed on what's been happening with the revision process for the ED306s, the minimum standards for public school approval in the State. Public education advocates have had serious concerns with the revision process thus far, and some of the proposed changes that have been made public along the way. These changes will have far reaching effects on our schools and on school funding.

NH Bulletin: "[Sports betting raised \\$100 million for education in its first four years](#)"

The NH Lottery celebrated \$100 million to the Education Trust Fund since the introduction of sports betting in the state four years ago. That is certainly a lot of additional revenue for our schools, but to put it in perspective, last year NH schools spent \$3.8 billion to educate their students.



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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