

# PRIVATIZATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

NHSFFP/RHNN Candidate Training Series  
September 5, 2024



All children deserve a high-quality, rigorous, and student-centered education that prepares them for college, careers, and life.

Reaching Higher NH provides decision makers, leaders, and communities with the research they need to make informed decisions to meet that promise.

**REACHING HIGHER NH**

## Recommendations to Reverse Harm and Strengthen Public Schools

Recommendations to address major concerns and craft meaningful public school approval rules that advance a positive, student-centered vision for our schools.

Reaching Higher NH  
October 2023

**REACHING HIGHER NH**

## Teacher Salary in New Hampshire

District Level Salaries for Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree

Teacher salaries in New Hampshire's public schools varied widely between school districts, based on factors like district size and the property wealth of the community. First-year teachers earned 57% more in the highest-paying district than in the lowest-paying district.

In the 2019 school year, the average salary for all New Hampshire public school teachers was \$59,198, compared to the state's average income of \$53,950 (NH Department of Education, 2020; NH Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). In most districts, teacher salaries are determined by a "step schedule," or a set amount based on level of education and years of teaching experience.

New Hampshire's district and school leaders identify teacher salaries as quality teaching staff (Green, 2019). Teacher pay has been cited as a concern (Miller, 2006). Teacher rating scores for students, and observed student outcomes (Bionfeldt, 2019), particularly in the same district, are positively associated with teacher salaries (Rice, 2010). In the 2019 school year, the average salary for a certified teacher with a Bachelor's degree was \$40,858, a 15% increase from \$35,548 in 2015. Salaries for all teachers in public schools, public academies, and paid maintenance agreements schools, in all grades, regardless of education level or experience. The teacher salaries in this brief do not include New Hampshire charter schools. These numbers have not been adjusted for inflation. NOTE: The NH Department of Education did not have teacher tenure, attrition, or retention data publicly available at the time of publishing.

**Key Takeaways**

- The median starting salary for first-year teachers with a Bachelor's degree was \$37,602 in 2019.
- Salaries for teachers with a Bachelor's degree, with the same amount of teaching experience, differed considerably throughout New Hampshire.
- First-year teachers in the single highest-paying district earned over \$17,000 more than first-year teachers in the single lowest-paying district -- a difference of 57%.
- Fifth-year teachers in four New Hampshire school districts did not make as much as first-year teachers in 44 New Hampshire school districts.
- New Hampshire's school funding formula funds a third-year educator position at \$35,548 per year, plus benefits; however, the average third-year teacher salary in the state is \$40,858 plus benefits in 2019.

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**HB 464 COULD CREATE A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Here's what you need to know

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**REACHING HIGHER NH**

**THE WHOLE PICTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

a project of **REACHING HIGHER NH**

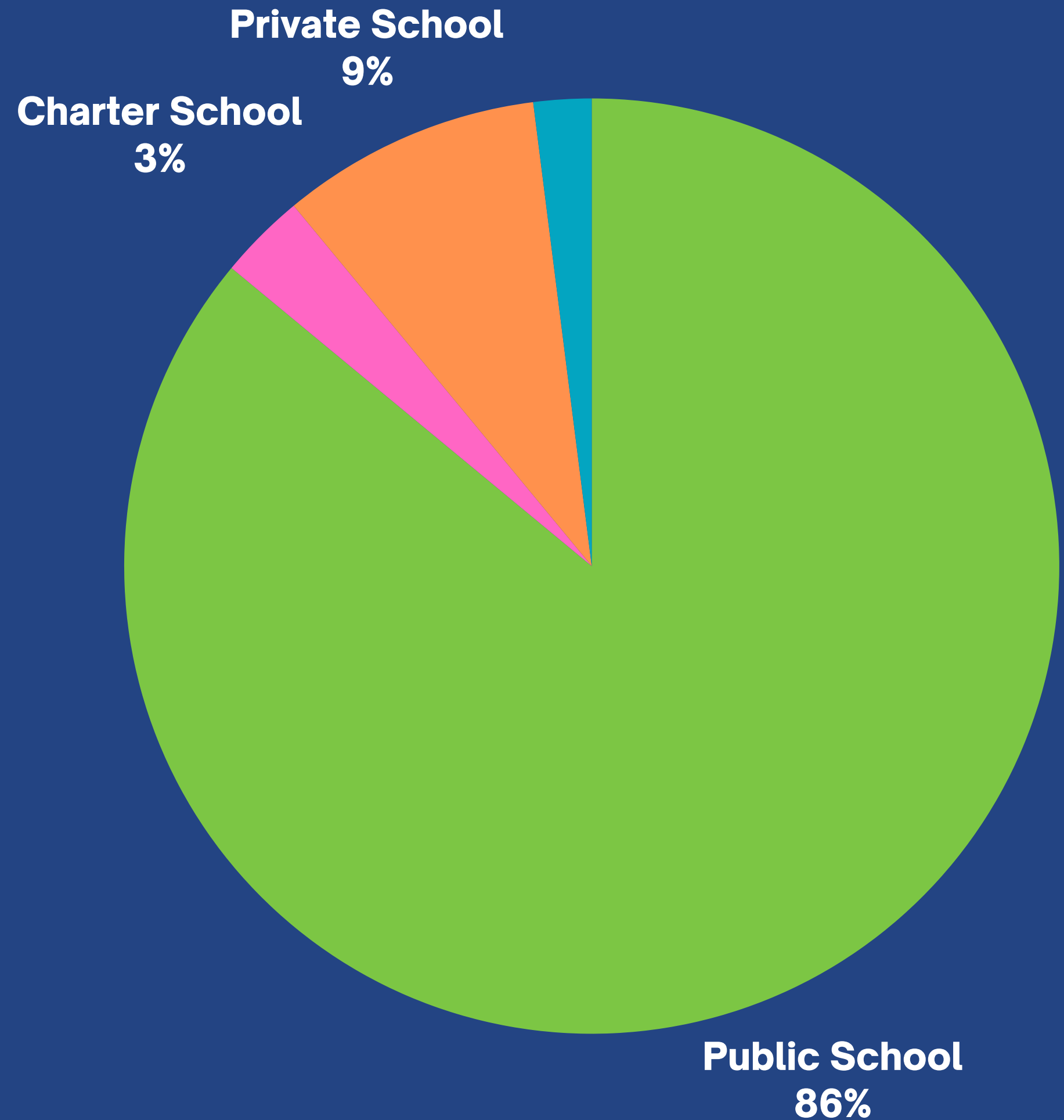
**WEBINAR**

## Looking Ahead: Education Policy in 2024

Wednesday, January 10 | 1-2 p.m.  
Open to the public, registration required

**REACHING HIGHER NH**

**9 in 10  
Granite State  
kids attend a  
public school**



Source: NH Department of Education.



# EDUCATION AS A COMMODITY

- School Vouchers
- Microschools, Pods
- NH's Learn Everywhere program
- Minimum Standards for Public School Approval
- Reworking what it means to be a public school

# INFLUENCE OF NATIONAL TRENDS

## Coalition Partners



NH News

## N.H.'s latest education initiatives draw support from national, local conservative groups

New Hampshire Public Radio | By Sarah Gibson  
Published October 8, 2021 at 10:26 AM EDT



### New Hampshire Bulletin

STATE HOUSE VOTING HEALTH EDUCATION ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT COMMENTARY

#### COMMENTARY

### Commentary: The dark money behind the push for vouchers, 'divisive concepts' legislation



MAURICE T. CUNNINGHAM

FEBRUARY 25, 2022 5:46 AM

### New Hampshire voucher program part of national school choice wave fueled by pandemic

🕒 Friday, January 21, 2022 👤 Nour Habib 📁 Civics, Education, Granite State  
🗣️ News Collaborative 💬 0 Comments

# School Vouchers: About the Program

- Passed by lawmakers in 2021 as part of the state budget as “Education Freedom Accounts,” or EFAs
- Taxpayer-funded accounts for parents to pay for:
  - Private and religious school tuition
  - Homeschooling expenses
  - Transportation
  - Summer camps
  - Higher education
- NH Department of Education **outsources** management and administration of program to the Children’s Scholarship Fund

# School Vouchers: Eligibility

- Eligibility: School-aged resident of New Hampshire with family income of  $\leq 350\%$  of Federal Poverty Guideline at time of application
- Income limit does not apply in subsequent years
- Full-time charter school students & students enrolled in their resident district school are not eligible

Income Eligibility for the 2024-2025 School Year, from the Children's Scholarship Fund	
Household Size	Annual Income Limit
3	\$90,370
4	\$109,200
5	\$128,030
6	\$146,860

# \$45 MILLION+

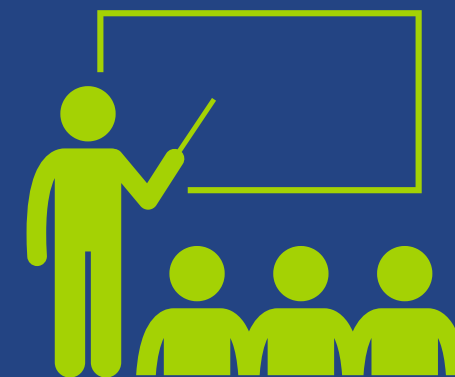
*Every dollar that the state spends on school vouchers is a dollar that isn't available to fund public schools.*



School  
Infrastructure



Extracurricular  
Activities



Teacher  
Salaries



Learning  
Materials



**77%**

**of public funds are  
going to students who  
were already enrolled  
in private schools or  
homeschooled**

# School Vouchers: Student Outcomes

**Extensive, independent research shows that school vouchers cause catastrophic academic harm.**

**Lower test scores in math and reading.**

**Students who transfer back into public schools fare better than students who stay in the voucher program.**



FEATURE

## Report on Qualifying EFA Families Shows Errors in a Quarter of Applications

By GARRY RAYNO, InDepthNH.org August 24, 2024

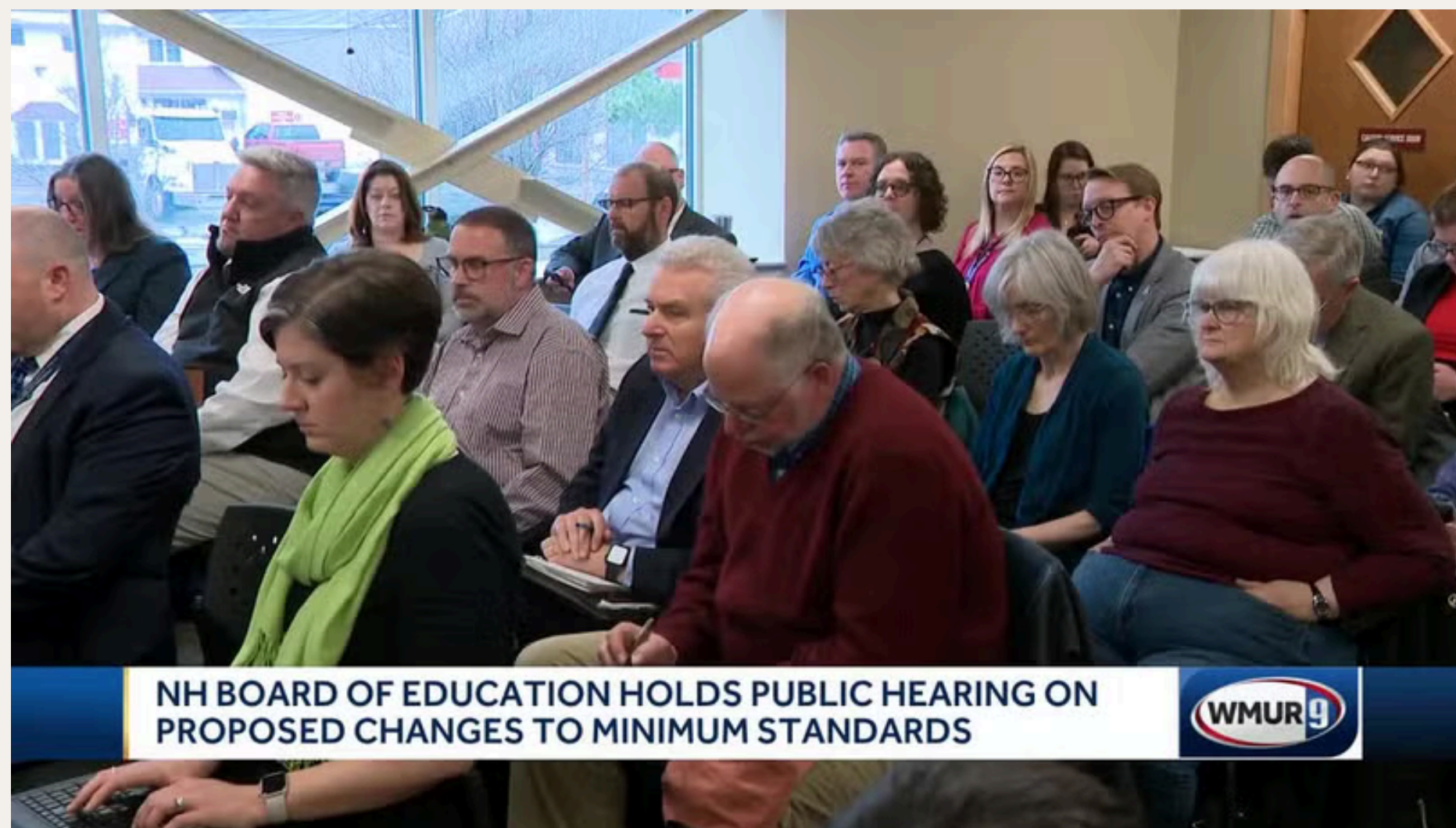
The investigators **found issues in five areas** that required the scholarship fund to file corrective action plans... and **reimbursing the state \$18,163 of the \$103,507** the state found at issue in its compliance review.

# 1 in 4

**Voucher applications had errors and potential fraud in a NHED review**

# Minimum Standards for Public School Approval

The NH Department of Education's proposal could redefine the vision and role of public schools in New Hampshire, and lower standards for public schools.



Over 200 residents submitted public feedback on the rule proposal in April 2024, with the vast majority of the feedback in opposition. PHOTO: WMUR

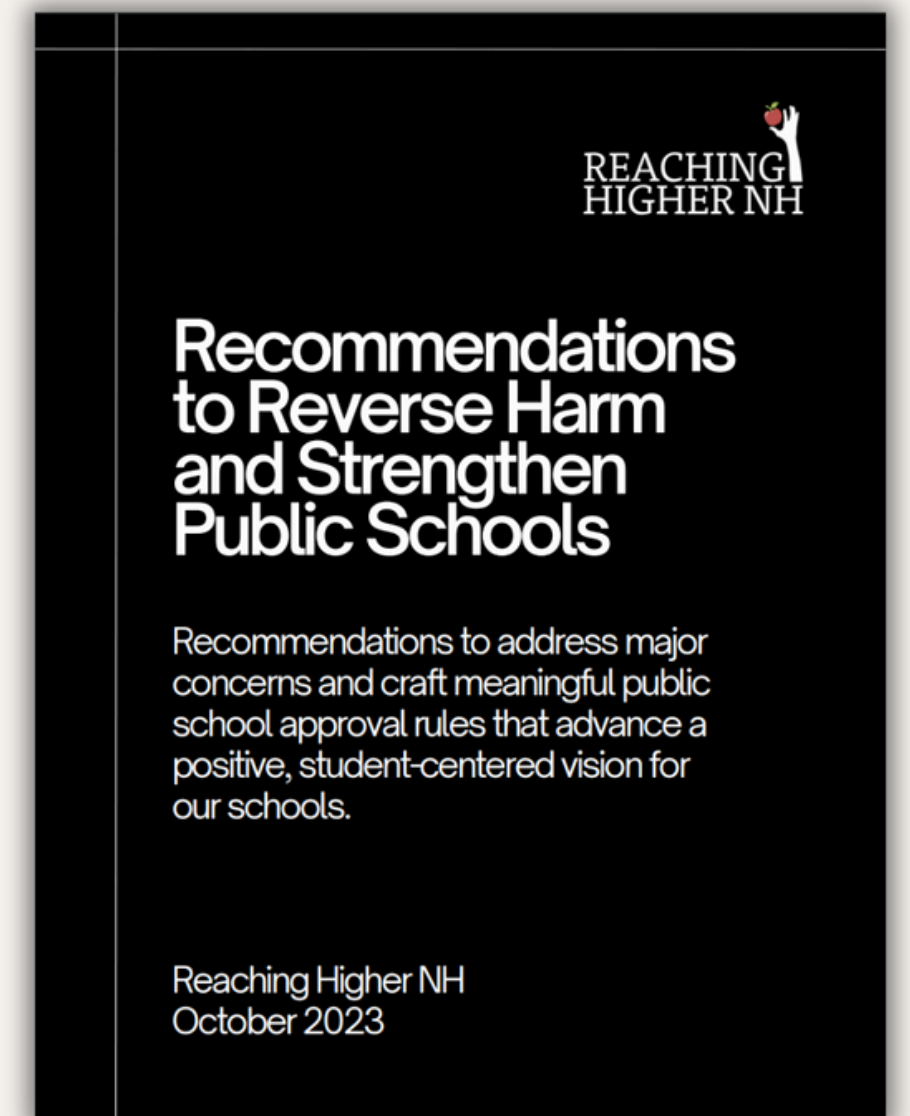
# Potential Outcomes of the Overhaul

**Role of the school would shift from places of teaching & learning to credit approving centers**

- Shift emphasis away from teaching & learning and towards certifying a student's collection of "competency" statements

**Privatization & dismantling of public schools**

- Public schools would have little control over the quality and depth of curriculum and instruction
- Could create a market for external credit-bearing opportunities while removing the school's authority to vet programs





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Education Network (NHEN) Emails

**[bit.ly/NHEducationNetwork](https://bit.ly/NHEducationNetwork)**

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