

Education Funding Roll Call Votes from the 2025 Session

Lawmakers Representing: Rindge	John Hunt (CHE14- Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Harrisville, Rindge, Jaffrey)	Jim Qualley (CHE18- Dublin, Rindge, Jaffrey)	Rita Mattson (CHE18- Dublin, Rindge, Jaffrey)	Kevin Avard (District 12)
SB 295 - immediate universal voucher eligibility regardless of family income with soft "cap" on enrollment.	Support	Support	Support	Support
HB 115 - two year phase in for universal voucher eligibility regardless of family income.	Support	Support	Support	NA (House Vote Only)
HB2 #1449h: An Amendment to <i>remove statewide mandated</i> budget caps on local school districts from the budget.	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	NA (House Vote Only)
HB 2 Amendment #1561h: Medicaid direct certification to reduce paperwork and increase school funding for eligible communities.	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	NA (House Vote Only)
HB 2 Amendment #1525h: Amendment to increase public school funding to struggling communities instead of universal voucher eligibility.	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	NA (House Vote Only)
HB 2 Amendment #1543h: An amendment to replace the budget's voucher expansion with restorations to essential safety-net programs that were cut.	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	NA (House Vote Only)

If the vote is in this color, it was a pro-public schools position	If the vote is in this color, it was not a pro-public schools position
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SB 295 made vouchers (EFAs) universal immediately by removing income limits and added a 10,000-student cap that automatically grows by 25% whenever applications reach 90% of the cap. It set application priorities—renewals/siblings first, then students with disabilities, then students at or below 350% FPL—and requires at least two public deadlines. **Result: this bill was eventually signed into law.**

HB 115 proposed a slower path to the same destination: it phased to universal by raising eligibility to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2025–26 and eliminating the cap in 2026–27, and did not include SB 295's cap/priority framework. Independent estimates put universal eligibility at around \$100M/year in state costs. **Result: passed, but not signed because SB 295 was.**

Bottom line: whether all at once (SB 295) or in phases (HB 115), both expand a wasteful parallel system that diverts dollars from our public schools and forces trade-offs—bigger classes, fewer resources, and less local investment—rather than funding what benefits the whole community.

HB2 Budget Cap Removal Amendment #1449h: During the budget process in House Finance, language that was modeled after HB 675 was added in. This language would have created a mandated, statewide spending cap on every public school in the state. The cap was set to increase at such a small margin each year that in most districts it would have forced cuts to programs that are not mandated by state and federal law such as arts, music, sports, extracurriculars, field trips, AP classes, etc. Additionally, it would have completely removed local control by not letting local school boards, districts, and voters make decisions about their local public schools. **Result: the amendment passed with a 206-165 bipartisan vote which removed this harmful language .**

HB 2 Medicaid Direct Certification Amendment #1561h: This amendment would have automatically certified income-eligible students for free or reduced-price school meals (FRPL) by securely matching Medicaid eligibility with school records—removing the need for a separate paper application. Because New Hampshire's school-funding formula provides additional aid based on FRPL counts, more accurate certification—estimated at about 10,000 currently eligible but uncounted students—would have ensured districts receive the aid they're owed under existing law, without changing who qualifies. **Result: defeated in the House by 1 vote.**

HB 2 Increased School Funding Instead of Vouchers Amendment #1525h: Would have removed the proposed voucher expansion and increased Fiscal Capacity Disparity Aid (FCDA)—the existing program that sends more state aid to districts with higher property-tax burdens and lower community incomes. In short, it keeps state dollars in public classrooms through a formula that targets need, rather than diverting funds to expand vouchers. **Result: defeated in the House.**

HB 2 Amendment #1543h: This amendment replaced the budget's voucher expansion with restorations to essential safety-net programs: Medicaid, the Office of the Child Advocate, the Human Rights Commission, and the WIC nutrition program. It kept limited state dollars targeted to family health, child protection, civil rights enforcement, and nutrition, rather than expanding a parallel voucher system. **Result: defeated in the House.**