



State of New Hampshire

GENERAL COURT

CONCORD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 28, 2023

TO: Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the House
Honorable Jeb Bradley, President of the Senate
Honorable Paul C. Smith, House Clerk
Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Senate Clerk
Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor
Michael York, State Librarian

FROM: Representative Rick Ladd, Chairman

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Legislative Oversight Committee for the
Education Improvement and Assessment Program
RSA 193-C:8-a (HB 1236, Chapter 109, Laws of 2022)

Pursuant to RSA 193-C:8-a (HB 1236, Chapter 109, Laws of 2022), enclosed please find the Annual Report of the Legislative Oversight Committee for the Education Improvement and Assessment Program.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to thank those members of the committee who were instrumental in this study. I would also like to acknowledge all those who testified before the committee and assisted the committee in our study.

Enclosures

cc: Members of the Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

Legislative Oversight Committee for the Education Improvement and Assessment Program

RSA 193-C:8-a (HB 1236, Chapter 109, Laws of 2022)

November 28, 2023

Representative Rick Ladd, Chairman
Representative David Luneau

Representative Glenn Cordelli
Representative Oliver Ford

Representative Patricia Cornell
Senator Ruth Ward

Duties of the Legislative Oversight Committee RSA193-C:8-a.

IV. The legislative oversight committee shall:

- (a) Review the development and implementation of the school performance and accountability program...
- (b) Review the provisions of RSA 193-H and submit a report of such review annually to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the governor, and the chairpersons of the house and senate education committees.
- (c) Propose legislation that is needed as a result of the review of the progress and results of the policies implemented under this chapter and under RSA 193-H, including any changes necessitated by federal law.
- (d) Confer with the commissioner and the state board of education to identify operational principles which should guide the work of the department of education in supporting improved school performance and accountability.
- (e) Analyze existing department of education programs and initiatives which support improved school performance and accountability.
- (f) Receive reports from the commissioner regarding the status of public education in New Hampshire, updates on the improvement made by local school districts toward achieving satisfactory progress in statewide student performance
- (g) Review and approve statewide performance targets required under RSA 193-H:2 developed by the department of education and recommended to the legislative oversight committee by the state board of education.
- (h) Receive reports from the state board of education including rules recommended by the . . . relative to statewide performance targets required under RSA 193-H:2 . . . [and] propose legislation to be submitted to establish such statewide performance targets in state statute during the legislative session
- (i) Review the unique pupil identification system established in RSA 193-E:5 and propose legislation needed as a result of the review.
- (j) Review the implementation and results of the program relative to accountability for the opportunity for an adequate education established in RSA 193-E, consult and receive reports on such program, evaluate and review existing and emergent performance-based measurement tools, and propose legislation for improvements to the accountability program, as necessary.
- (k) Receive security breach reports from the department of education pursuant to RSA 189:66, consult with the commissioner of the department of information technology, and propose legislation needed as a result of the review.
- (l) Review and make recommendations relating to academic standards under consideration by the state board of education pursuant to RSA 193-E:2-a, IV(c).

Legislative Oversight Committee – Meeting Dates and Summary of Agenda Items

June 12, 2023

- Ed 306, Preliminary Minimum Standards for Public School Approval
 - Status of public hearings conducted throughout the State

- Civics Education
 - HB 2 (K-12 Civics Program w/ Textbook
 - How to measure ‘Improvement and Assessment’... Locally developed
 - SB 216 discussion and also information provided by DOE Ohio regarding Ohio Social Studies Frameworks. SB 216 REQUIRES:
 - Dedicated teaching time in elementary classrooms
 - ½ year course on Civics Education’ at the Middle School, Gr 6-8
 - ½ year course in Civics at High School, and
 - One year HS course in HY, Govt, and constitutions of NH and US.
 - Includes RSA189:11. a-j. Instruction in National and State History and Government and Civics
 - Discussion involved K-8 Civics Curriculum Framework. The Ohio framework is aligned with NH’s Grades 9-12 statutory framework in RSA189:11.

- Mental Health

March 27, 2023

- Initial Review: Ed 306 Minimum Standards for Public School Approval
- Mathematics: LEA strategies to improve “Math Achievement”

January 10, 2023

- NH Department of Education: Dr. Nate Greene, Presenter
 - Academic Standards
 - Minimum Standards for Public School Approval
- RSA 193-C:5 Areas of Assessment discussion
 - History, Geography, Civics and Economics
 - NH Test Statewide Test Score Results – NHPR Report
- NH State Task on Mathematics Instruction – January 18, 2012
 - Reviewed Recommendations: Pages 17-27
- Ed 306 Rules – Competency Assessments – HS Courses
 - Ensure terminology in proposed Ed 306 rules is aligned with terms and definition found in statute.

September 26, 2022

- Organization Meeting (Chair Elected)
 - Topic discussed for work during the upcoming year:
 - Track growth and achievement cohorts: state, district, individual std in content areas: math, language arts/reading, science (*Based upon discussion at September*

meeting, LSR 23-0062 introduced. Establishing an academic and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education.)

- Alignment of current statewide assessment to curriculum and instruction and sequence of skills and knowledge taught in districts
- Math Learning Communities in Public Secondary Schools – RSA 193-I (Based upon discussion at September meeting, LSR 23-0282 introduced. Relative to Math Learning Communities Program of the Community College System and making an appropriation therefor.)
- Curriculum development process: alignment/instruction/accountability
- Transition from secondary to post-secondary (CCSNH)
- Status of NH Academic Standards (This is a responsibility of the Legislative Oversight Committee. The DOE has a working group reviewing and updating the Minimum Standards for Public School Approval that also link to Academic Standards. This committee will obtain copies of the 'draft report' for review at an upcoming oversight committee meeting.)
- Assessment: Social Studies

Legislative Oversight Committee Summary Report

- The legislative Oversight Committee for Education Improvement and Assessment was re-established with the passage of HB 1236 in 2022.
- Throughout much of this past year, the committee followed the progress of the Preliminary Rules (306) regarding the Minimum Standards for Public School Approval. The process has involved a third party contracted by the NHDOE in which public input has been heard in: Litchfield, Hillsboro, Henniker, New London, Goffstown, Manchester, Concord and with a Joint session of House and Senate Education committee members. The oversight committee recommended to the department that a separate information gathering session be held with the House and Senate Education Committees. During the joint session, the committee was informed that in accordance with RSA 193-E:2-a, no changes regarding the substantive criteria of the opportunity of an adequate education can be made by the state board of education to the Minimum Standards for Public School Approval without General Court approval as follows:
 - IV.(a) The minimum standards for public school approval for the areas identified in paragraph I shall constitute the opportunity for the delivery of an adequate education. The general court shall periodically, but not less frequently than every 10 years, review, revise, and update, as necessary, the minimum standards identified in paragraph I and shall ensure that the high quality of the minimum standards for public school approval in each area of education identified in paragraph I is maintained. Changes made by the board of education to the school approval standards through rulemaking after the effective date of this section shall not be included within the standards that constitute the opportunity for the delivery of an adequate education without prior adoption by the general court. The board of education shall provide written notice to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairs of the house and senate

education committees of any changes to the school approval standards adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A.

- Mental Health: The question was asked during the June 12 meeting, “Is ‘mental health’ a part or element within the subject of ‘Health and Wellness?’” Based upon RSA 193-E:2, and RSA193-E:2-a, as well as Ed 306.40 that requires the local board to provide a school health education program for grades K-12, ‘mental health’ is considered part of the Health and Wellness program. In addition, the state board of education approved the high school ‘mental health’ curriculum and the health academic standards.
- Civics Education, K-12, was discussed by the legislative oversight committee on a number of occasions. HB 2 contains an appropriation of \$1M to “create a textbook and related curriculum specifically designed for NH students and teachers to help them explore the history, heritage and principles of the NH Constitution and the government it established.” The commissioner shall meet with the commission as identified in HB 2 as the chair of the commission determines, and shall publish the book on or before August 1, 2025. Copies of RSA189:11 were provided committee members. Key elements within this statute, elements (a) through (i), were directly obtained from the Ohio Model Curriculum for Social Studies developed by the Ohio Department of Education in June, 2019, following a task force initiated in 2017. The committee further reviewed information released by the NH Dept of Education, in reference to the Nation’s Report Card (NAEP), results of the 8th grade 2022 NAEP US History and Civics Assessment. “NAEP releases for 2022 in US History and Civics results, reveal low confidence in civics knowledge. Lastly, and in regard to this topic, the committee briefly discussed the need to have a current “civics framework” in place in order to guide the development of a future text and curriculum materials. This recommendation has been conveyed to the Civics Commission established in HB 2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roderick M. Ladd, Jr.

Rep Rick Ladd, Chairman

Legislative Oversight Committee for Education Improvement and Assessment