



New Hampshire Senate NEWS RELEASE

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Senate committee hears bill supporting school choice *SB130 gives parents power to choose best path for their child's education*

CONCORD, NH -- The Education Committee today heard testimony on legislation (SB130) establishing the creation of Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) giving New Hampshire parents the opportunity for greater choice and enhanced opportunities regarding their children's education.

"There is broad support for school choice in New Hampshire," said Majority Leader and SB130 prime sponsor Sen. Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro), "And if the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that not all children learn the same so there is a real need for more flexibility when it comes to schooling -- it's simply not one size fits all. Education Freedom Accounts put the power to choose the best educational path for children in their parents' hands. Taxpayers will also see savings as schools adapt and become more competitive by improving their educational services."

Under SB130, the state would transfer an average amount per pupil of \$4,600 to Education Freedom Accounts administered by qualified scholarship organizations. Students who attend New Hampshire public schools, including charters, and nonpublic schools, would qualify for an EFA. Scholarship organizations administering EFA funds are already regulated under existing statute and overseen by the State Board of Education.

Parents of an EFA student could use funds to pay for several different types of education-related expenses, including tuition and fees at a private school or charter school, non-public on-line learning programs, textbooks and tutoring services.

The Department of Education estimates that between 0.01% to 2.43% of eligible students would participate in EFAs over the first ten years of the program, and that local school districts would be able to lower expenditures for each departing student over three years. It estimates total savings to taxpayers of \$0.4 million in Year 1, \$10.3-\$10.4m in Year 2, and \$38.8m in Year 3.

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