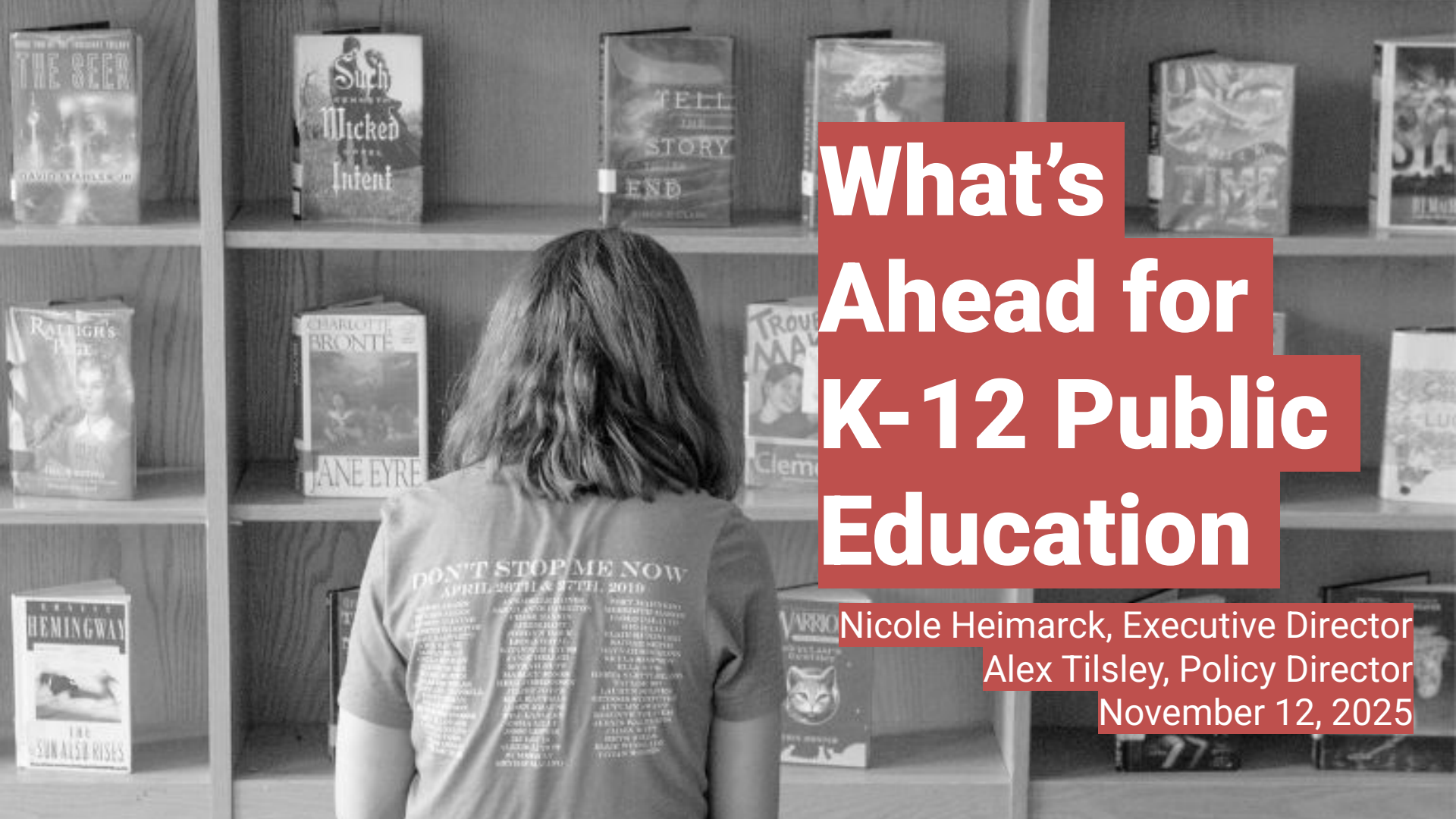




What's Ahead for K-12 Public Education

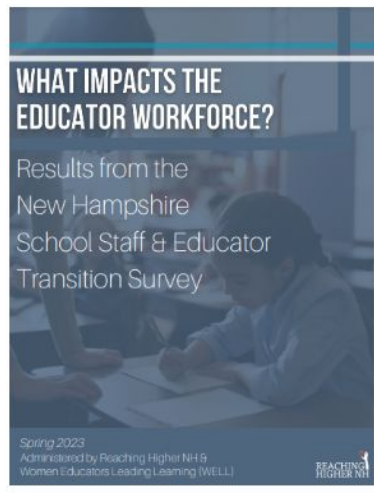
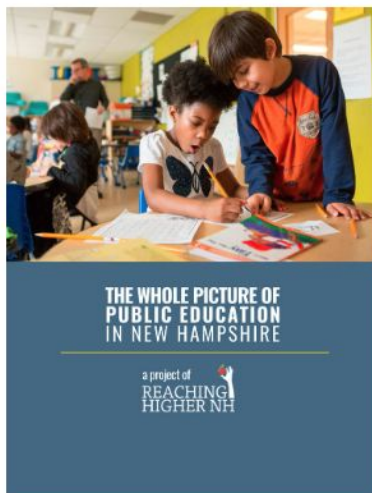
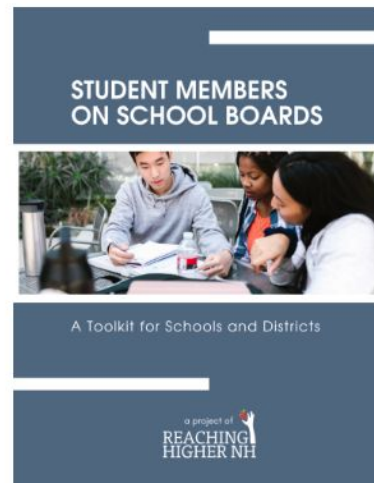
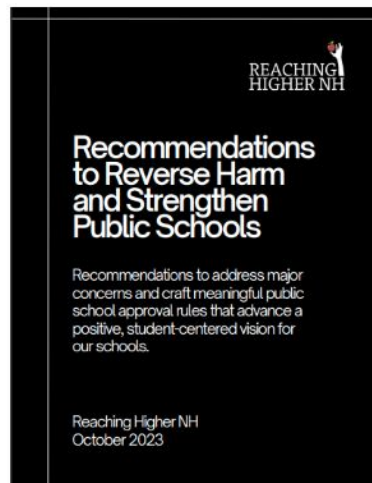
Nicole Heimarck, Executive Director
Alex Tilsley, Policy Director
November 12, 2025



Granite Staters share a deeply-held conviction that public education is one of our state's most precious assets.

We believe:

- Strong public schools benefit students/families/communities/the state
- Public Schools bring value beyond education
- Public schools are critical to thriving communities and local economies
- Public schools provide the tools that help all students reach their full potential

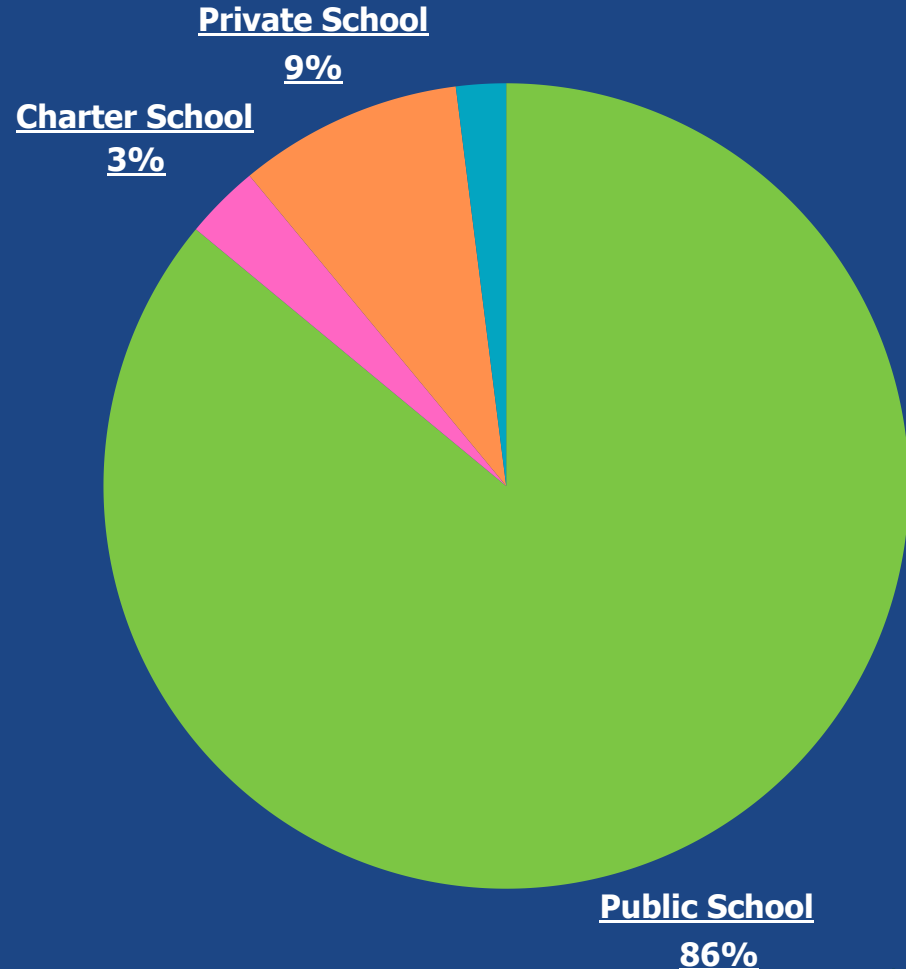


9 in 10 Granite State kids attend a public school

451 District-Operated Public Schools
10 preschool / 293 elementary / 70 middle / 79 high

31 Public Charter
Schools

132 Private Schools



Source: NH Department of Education

...But their needs are increasing



30%

increase in the percentage of students
qualifying for school meals
between 2013 (20%) and 2024 (26%)



25%

increase in the percentage of students
receiving special education services
between 2013 (16%) and 2024 (20%)



50%

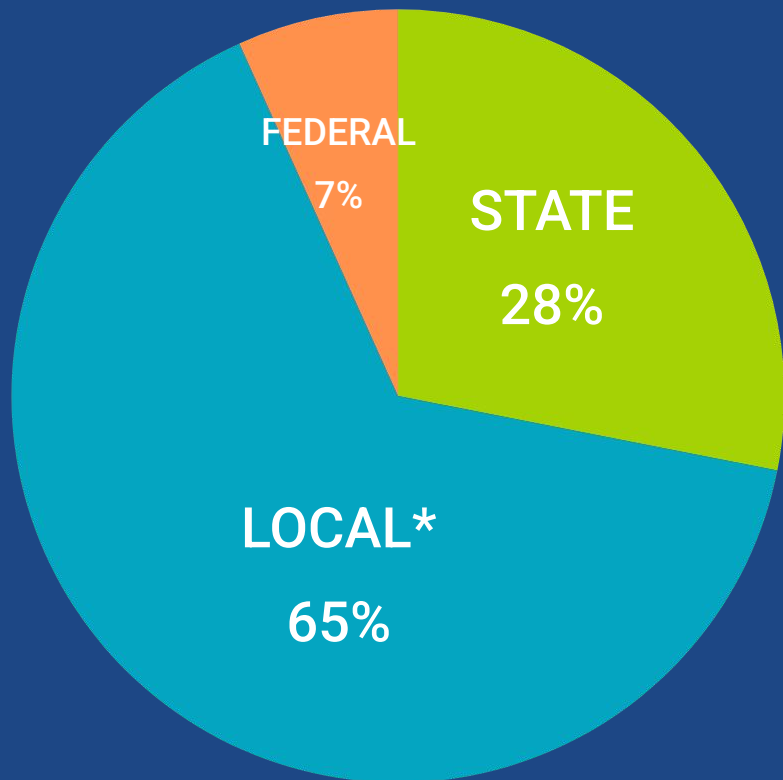
increase in the percentage of students
receiving ELL services
between 2013 (2%) and 2024 (3%)



Core Issues Facing Public Education

Adequate, sustainable, and responsible school funding is critical to ensuring all students receive a high-quality education.

- ✓ Substantial improvements in math & reading achievement
- ✓ Reductions in grade repetition
- ✓ Reductions in suspensions and expulsions
- ✓ Increased likelihood of high school graduation & being college-ready



Expenses vary

- Operating Expenses for Public Schools
- Tuition
- Transportation
- Capital Items
- Interest on debt
- Facility Construction & Acquisition
- Summer School
- Non-Public Programs
- Adult Education & Community Programs
- Allocation to Charter Schools/Other Agencies

\$14,190 in Auburn

≠

\$41,753 in New Castle

*FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Total Expenditures for ESE

** FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Cost per Pupil by District

*** FY2023 data from the NH Department of Education Estimated Expenditures of School Districts

Mind the gap: Educational experiences for students vary widely among NH students

Access to adequate resources, funding varies unequal from town to town

January 12, 2022 by Meg McIntyre-Granite State News Collaborative



1 feel like I could have done it
West H

3 plaintiffs sue NH over underfunding of public schools

By **PATRICK ADRIAN**
Valley News Correspondent

Opinion

Viewpoint: A tug-of-war over students and taxes

By **JANINE LESSER**

For the Ledger-Transcript

Published: 1/6/2022 9:26:23 AM

Modified: 1/6/2022 9:25:47 AM

New education funding lawsuit focuses on town-to-town inequality of property taxes

By **ETHAN DEWITT** - JULY 16, 2022 5:48 AM



N.H. ranks dead last in the nation for state education funding



A ConVal School District bus. (Benji Rosen/ Monadnock Ledger-Transcript) Benji Rosen

By **EILEEN O'GRADY**
Monitor staff

Published: 4/29/2021 4:39:56 PM

Threats to local funding



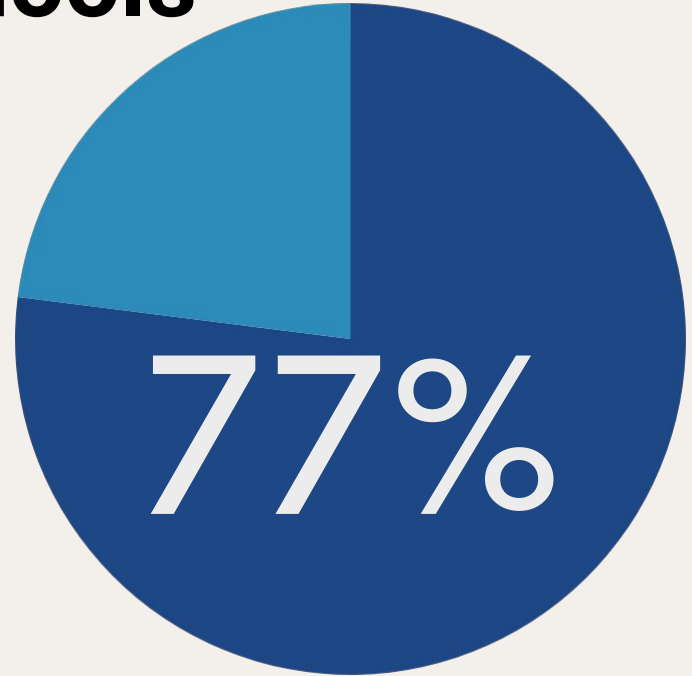
- Budget caps
- Posting of proficiency scores and budgets
- Continual downshifting to local budgets and taxpayers
- Increasing uncertainty



"Title II-A funding is a ***lifeline*** for our professional development efforts. With a very limited annual budget, and as a property-poor town, we work hard to keep local costs down. These federal funds allow our educators to continue learning and growing in ways that ***directly benefit our students***. If this funding is cut, ***we will be forced to ask our taxpayers to cover the difference***—placing additional strain on a community that is already doing more with less." – District Superintendent

School vouchers divert state funding from public schools

- 77% of students who receive a school voucher were already attending a private school or home school
- This year, the school voucher program diverted more than \$50 million in state funds from public schools
- Every dollar that the state spends on school vouchers is a dollar that isn't available to fund public schools, from school buildings, to teacher salaries, to materials for students



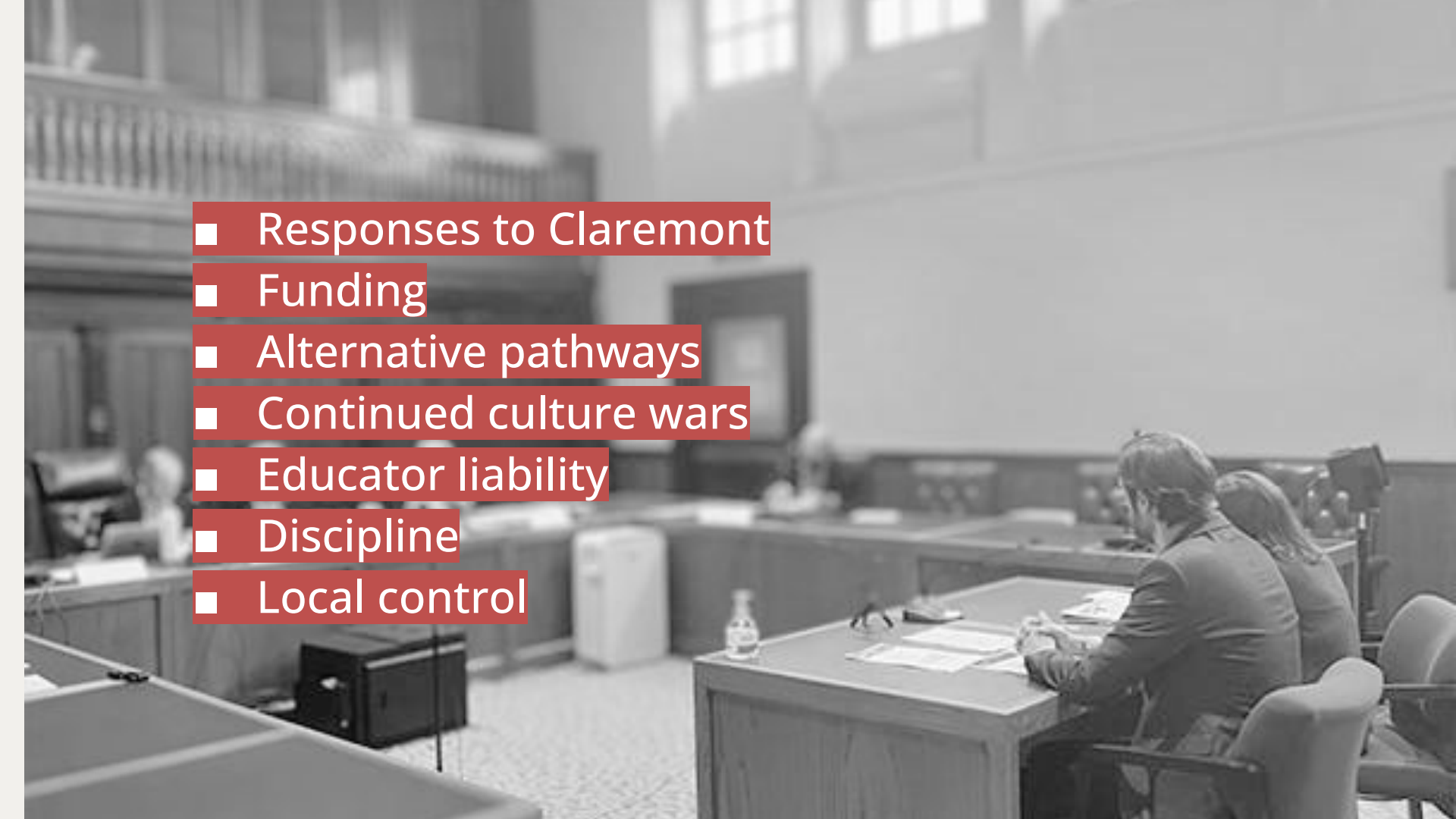
"Culture wars"

- Book bans
- Bathroom bills
- "DEI" bans
- Increased liability for educators

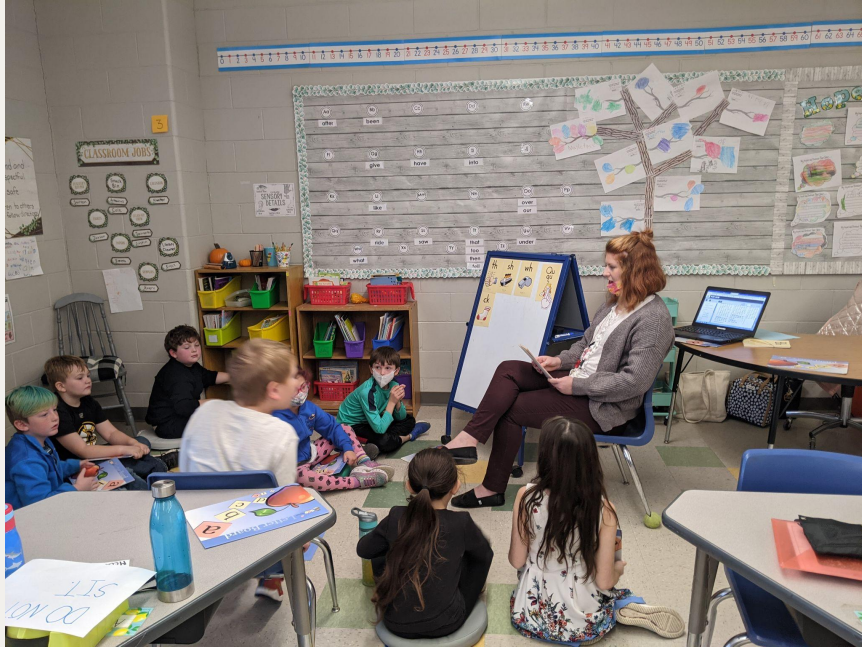




What to Expect in 2026

- 
- Responses to Claremont
 - Funding
 - Alternative pathways
 - Continued culture wars
 - Educator liability
 - Discipline
 - Local control

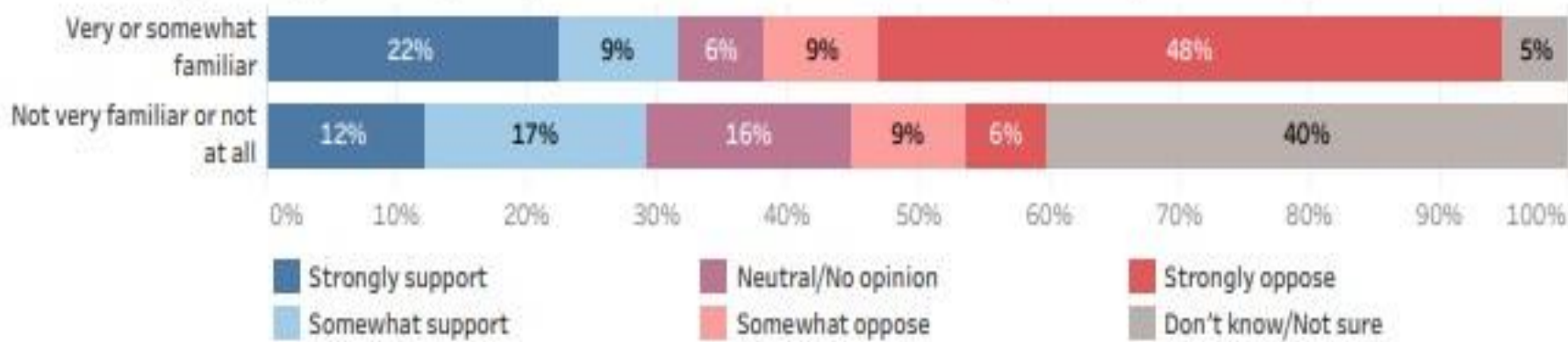
Funding



- Revenue bills
- Spending caps
- Special ed funding

Vouchers

Support or Oppose Making All Eligible for Education Freedom Accounts - by Familiarity with EFAs - April 2025



Dismantling public education



- Open enrollment
- Charter conversions
- SAU consolidation
- Challenging local control



Beyond the legislature



Gilford School District Portrait of a Learner



Collaborate

- Demonstrate ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams
- Exercise flexibility and willingness to accomplish a common goal
- Assume shared responsibility for collaborative work



Innovate

- Use a wide range of idea creation techniques to identify and address a problem or task
- Elaborate, refine, analyze and evaluate ideas in order to improve and make creative efforts
- Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work and understand the real world limits to adopting new ideas
- Act on creative ideas to make meaningful contributions



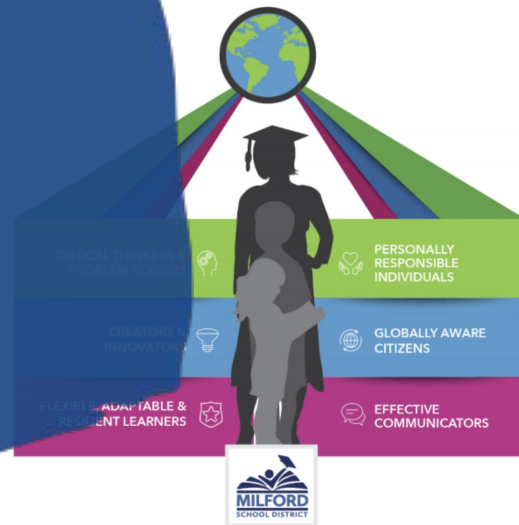
Self-Direct

- Set goals with success criteria



What makes a high quality public education?

Portrait of a Graduate





REACHING HIGHER NH

www.ReachingHigherNH.org



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