



Photo by Allison Shelley/T

# Crossover 2026:

## Facts, Potential Impacts and Implications

Nicole Heimarck,  
Executive Director



# WELCOME!

Here is what to expect today:

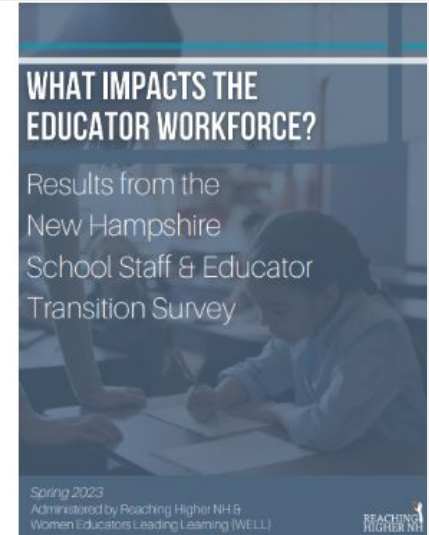
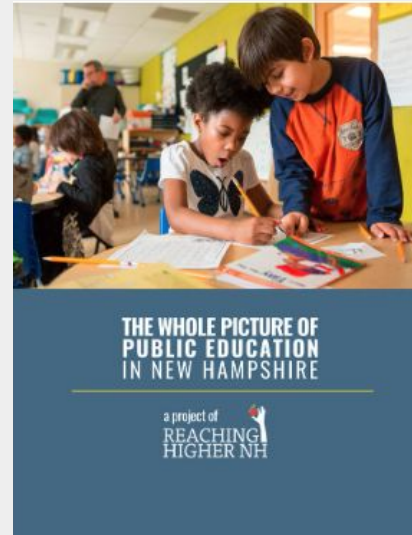
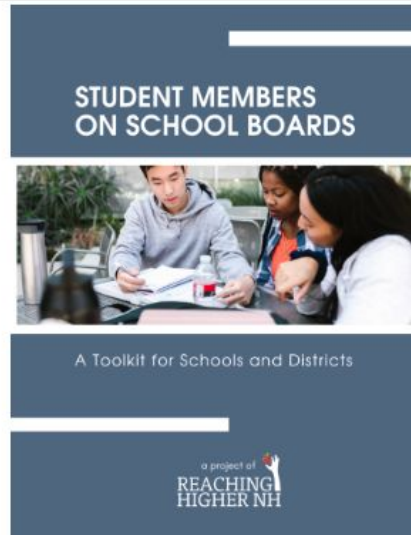
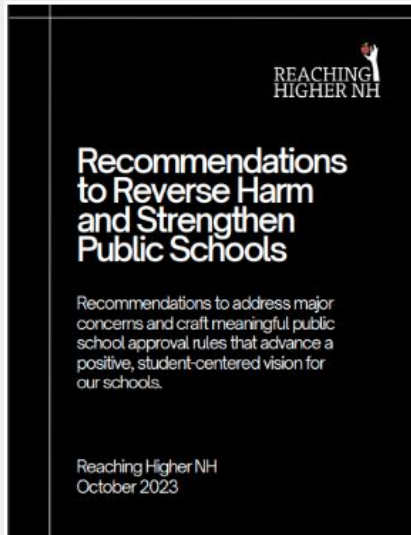
- An Overview of Key Themes
- A Summary of Key Bills
- Exploration of Impacts & Implications
- A Slightly Deeper Dive: Open Enrollment
- Questions & Answers



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**

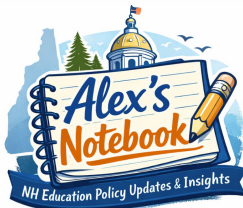




Receive regular email updates throughout the legislative session.



billy



Go behind the scenes of the Statehouse to understand trends.



Shining a spotlight on the work being done in our public schools and why it matters.



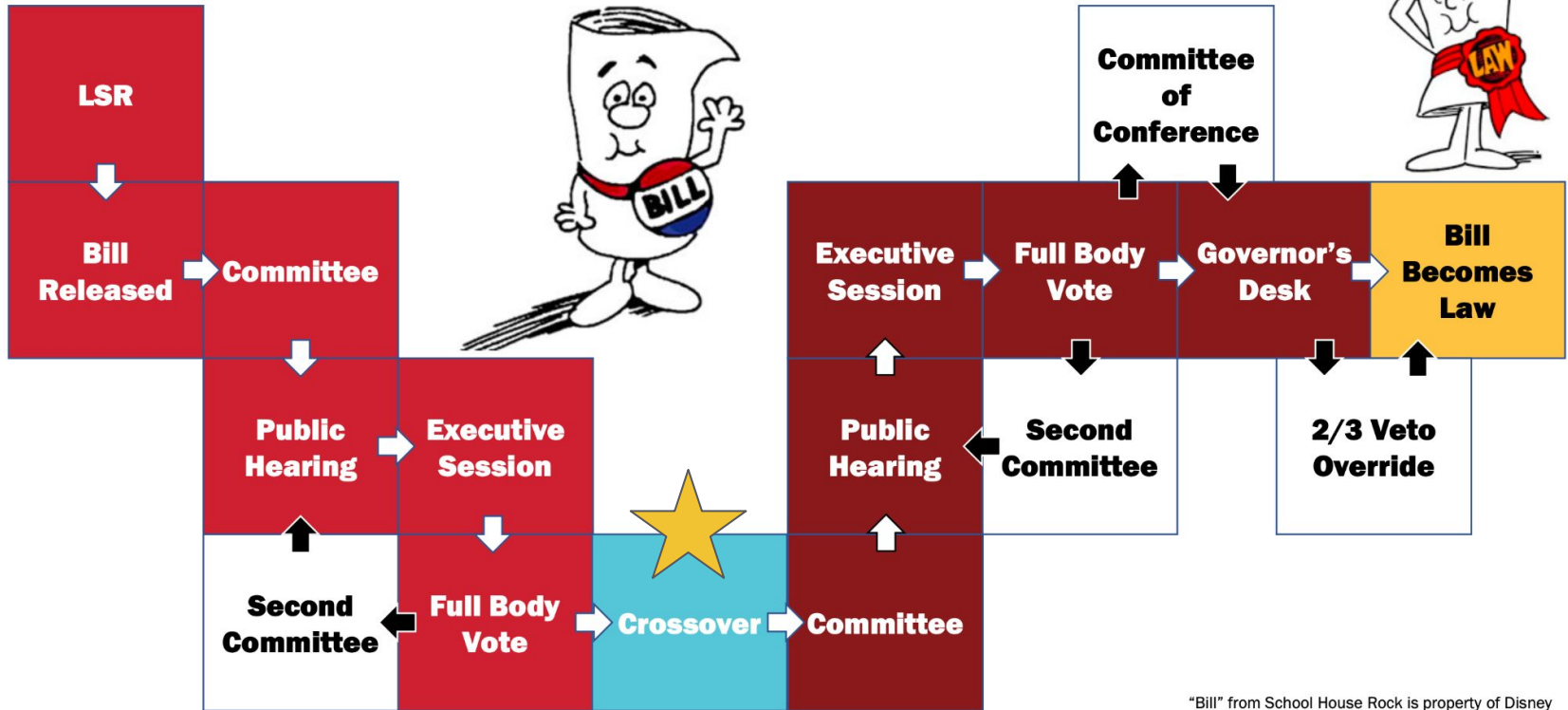
Turn complexity into clarity with webinars and events.



Collecting local stories and elevating local voice to inform state level policy.

# What is Crossover?

new**utures**»» How a Bill Becomes a Law



# Key Themes

1. Continued expansion of **alternative education** pathways
2. Continued **refusal to fund** public education adequately
3. **Increasing requirements** for public schools, with no additional requirements or accountability for vouchers or other pathways
4. **Unwillingness to listen** to public opinion

# The 2026 Legislative Session

**FUNDING**

**VOUCHERS**

**LOCAL  
CONTROL**

**OPEN  
ENROLLMENT**

**TEACHING &  
LEARNING**

## Bill Spotlight:

1

[HB 1815](#): relative to education financing.

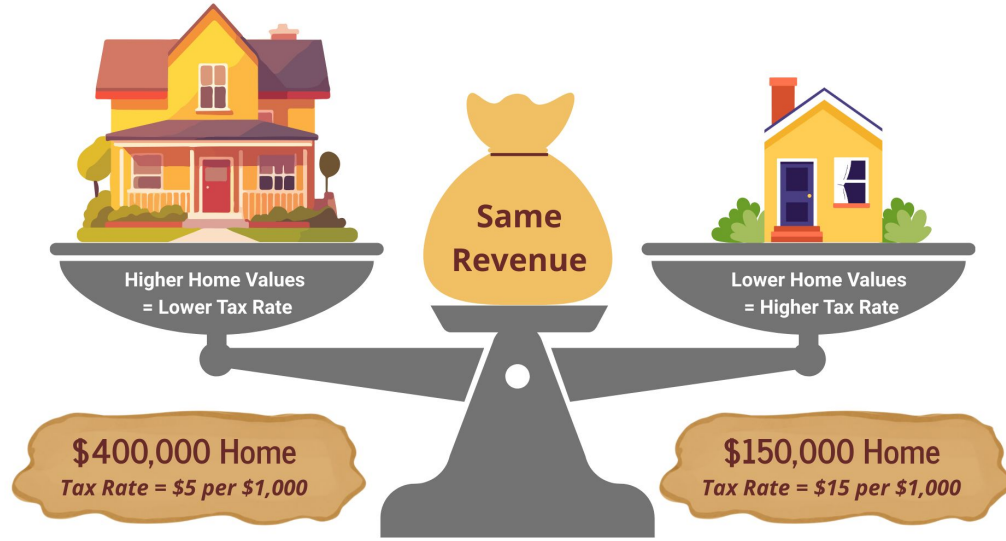
2

[HB 1563](#): relative to the special ed formula

3

[HB 656](#): relative to the authority of local school districts to accept federal grants

# FUNDING



- Bills that attempted to meet the standards outlined in the NH State Supreme Court ruling in the ConVal case were Inexpedient to Legislate in the Senate.
- Bills to rethink SWEPT or revenue generation did not advance.

# IMPACT & IMPLICATIONS

- The Legislature is not increasing K-12 funding this session and has publicly signaled disagreement with the court ruling. Instead, additional funding may be diverted to alternative pathways.
- Funding directed to these other pathways could have been used to:
  1. Increase funding for school meals
  2. Meet the state's special education aid obligations
  3. Fund school building aid
  4. Incrementally adjust a fair and equitable school funding model

## Bill Spotlight:

1

**HB 1817**: relative to access to curricular courses and co-curricular programs within school districts.

2

**SB 581**: modifying education freedom account (EFA) eligibility and removing priority guidelines and the enrollment cap relative to EFA eligibility.

13

EFA bills were killed, sent to study or tabled this session.

# IMPACT & IMPLICATIONS

If HB 1817 passes, key operational implications include:

- Resident students risk losing seats in oversubscribed programs absent clear enrollment priorities.
- Increased pressure on class sizes and program capacity (CTE, electives) and added scheduling complexity.
- EFA students could access courses without accompanying state adequacy funding to districts.
- Greater administrative burden for enrollment processing, data tracking, attendance, and reporting.

## Bill Spotlight:

1

**HB 1300**: establishing a biennial school district local tax cap question and related limitations on central office administrative expenses in school districts.

2

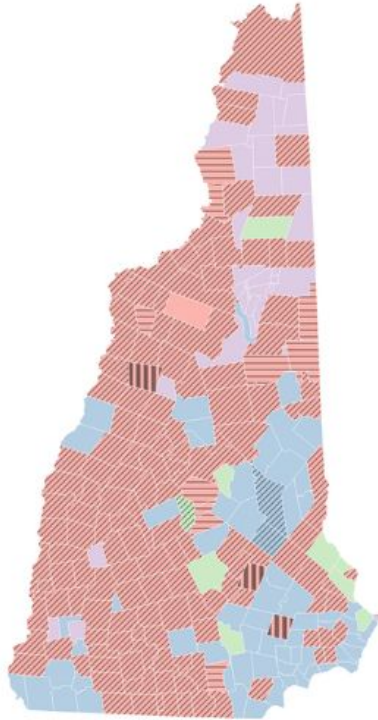
**HB 1816**: allowing department intervention into school district during a financial emergency

3

**SB 574**: establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units

# IMPACT & IMPLICATIONS

**VOTERS  
DECIDE:**  
How did  
Open Enrollment  
fare at the polls?



**104**

Number of Communities Voting  
on Open Enrollment

**94%**

Number of Communities that  
**PASSED** Open Enrollment policies  
to determine how it operates

**3%**

Number of Communities that  
voted not to pass Open  
Enrollment

*The voting results of 3% of voting communities are unknown.*

■ Voted on open enrollment ■ Did not vote on open enrollment ■ Does not use town vote process ■ No data  
▨ Failed ▨ Passed ▩ Warrant Outcome Unknown

Based on available data as of March 31, 2026.

Source: Reaching Higher NH • Created with Datawrapper

## Bill Spotlight:

1

**SB 101**: authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights.

2

**HB 751**: establishing a committee to study licensure of outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state, and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights.

3

**HB 1358**: establishing a commission to study transitioning all public schools to public charter schools.

# IMPACT & IMPLICATIONS

- Special education concerns, cost, and legal risk
- May primarily benefit families who already have the resources or flexibility to take advantage of school choice
- Fails to directly address the underlying need for high-quality educational options in every community
- Potential for “[new state spending](#)”

	1% takeup	5% takeup	10% takeup
Sen. Lang's Estimate	\$3m	\$15m	\$30m
RHNNH Estimate	\$6.4m	\$32m	\$64m
NHED Estimate	\$7.7m	\$39m	\$77m

## Bill Spotlight:

1

**SB 578:** relative to play-based curriculum and physical education curriculum.

2

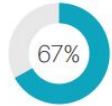
**HB 1792:** prohibiting school districts and personnel from the instruction of critical race theory and LGBTQ+ ideologies in schools as well as establishing a private right of action for violations.

3

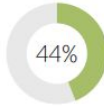
**SB 430:** relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents and legal guardians.

# IMPACT & IMPLICATIONS

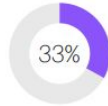
Of those who are **leaving New Hampshire**, 67% listed school climate as a top reason for leaving



Climate of school/district/board

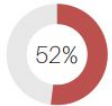


Concerns about consequences for teachers

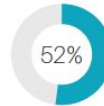


Level of support from administration/board

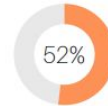
Of those who are **leaving the education profession**, 52% listed salary-related concerns as a top reason for leaving



Will make more money elsewhere

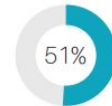


Climate of school/district/board



Increasing demands on teachers

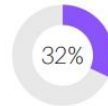
Of those who are **changing positions or districts but staying in New Hampshire**, 51% listed school climate as a top reason for leaving.



Climate of school/district/board



Will make more money elsewhere



Level of support from administration/board

Too many demands/ pressure/ expectations and not enough support (monetary or otherwise). It is a broken system, and it's taking a toll on the physical and mental health of teachers in our state.

*-Teacher leaving the profession*

# What now?

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

SB 101 and HB 751

## SCHOOL VOUCHER POLICY

HB 1817

## LOCAL CONTROL MEASURES

# Communities grow in places where people can thrive.

## Talent Development

Builds the workforce we  
cannot import fast enough

## Quality of Life

Strengthens the case to “live  
here” amid cost pressure

## Collaboration & Partnerships

Anchors communities that  
retain talent





# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



# REACHING HIGHER NH

[www.ReachingHigherNH.org](http://www.ReachingHigherNH.org)



**Nicole Heimarck**  
Executive Director  
[nicole@reachinghighernh.org](mailto:nicole@reachinghighernh.org)



**Alexandra Tilsley**  
Director of Policy  
[alex@reachinghighernh.org](mailto:alex@reachinghighernh.org)



**Kelly Untiet**  
Director of Public Relations  
[kelly@reachinghighernh.org](mailto:kelly@reachinghighernh.org)