



Friday Forum

April 12, 2024

- In recent months, six new programs have been approved by the State Board of Education for NHED's [Learn Everywhere](#) portfolio, including Laconia Flight Academy, UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Elements MMA and more – helping to capture learning that takes place outside of the classroom.
- Extra **solar eclipse glasses**? Please consider sending your used or new eclipse glasses to Eclipse Glasses USA. This organization will then send them to Latin America for children to enjoy the August 2024 eclipse. Ship them by August 1 to: Eclipse Glasses USA, LLC, PO Box 50571, Provo, UT 84605.
- The **ESEA Consolidated Application** opened April 1 and is due by June 1. This is a friendly reminder for districts to begin their application early, save their progress and return to it at a later time for final completion. The application may be found in GMS. More details [here](#); contact Jessica.L.Lescarbeau@doe.nh.gov with questions.
- Join NHED and **321 Insight** for free, in-person professional development focusing on strategies and best practices to help educators support all students, especially ESOL students. Earn up to six hours of [professional development](#) credit for attending.
- Registration is open for the **New Hampshire Teen Institute [2024 Summer Leadership Program](#)** August 5-9 in New Durham. Please share this opportunity with your high school students.
- The Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission has announced the creation of a [student arts-based competition](#) to correspond with the creation, installation, and unveiling of the new Christa McAuliffe Memorial in 2024. Winners within each grade level will be chosen among all **art forms** and mediums submitted. All submissions must be delivered by June 1. Please share this unique opportunity with your students at all grade levels.
- With **snow days** calculated, schools may find challenges in meeting the 180 day requirement. A waiver process is available to request a waiver of the school-year requirement. However, prior to requesting a waiver, schools must determine whether they can meet the school year requirement through hours, rather than days. Grades 1-6 must have 945 hours of instruction in the year, and grades 7-12 must have 990 hours of instruction. If you meet the total instructional hours, you will not need to satisfy the 180 day requirement and a waiver will not

be required. If a waiver is still required, the local school board must submit the waiver request to the Commissioner's Office.

- Enrollment for the 4th Annual **Assistive Technology Expo** is still open. As part of the NHED's [NHAT Connect Project](#), vendors and educators are invited to join together from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on May 16 at 25 Hall St. in Concord. Participants will engage with at least 25 vendors and educators through presentations and demonstrations. Join us for a day full of learning and networking opportunities related to services focused on ensuring that all students can be successful in inclusive learning environments.
- NHED and the Boston College School of Social Work are hosting [two free events](#) at Bow High School that are open to the public. A viewing of the film **Chasing Childhood** will take place at 6 p.m. on May 1. A viewing of the film **Anxious Nation** will take place at 5 p.m. on May 7. Free childcare is available at each event.
- Submissions are open for the 13th Annual Bow Seat Ocean Awareness [Contest](#) – Tell Your Climate Story. The 2024 contest encourages students to creatively share their experiences about the climate. Students ages 11-18 are invited to submit works of visual and performing arts, poetry, creative writing, film and multimedia.

Upcoming Webinars and Virtual Conferences

- **College Guidance Network** is hosting a webinar, [Navigating Financial Aid Uncertainty](#), at 7:30 p.m. on April 18.
- April is **Financial Literacy Month**! Join Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) for its free [Virtual Conference: Teaching Financial Lessons for Life](#) on April 13 for content-focused sessions and hands-on classroom activity ideas.
- Join NHED and **321 Insight** for its last free virtual [professional development](#) opportunity of the school year. Each two-hour workshop will take place April 17, April 18, May 2 and May 15.
- The Boston College School of Social Work and NHED are hosting a [webinar](#), "Math and Playful Materials: Collecting and Curating What You Have and What You Can Find," at 7 p.m. on April 16 with **Marina Seevak**, founding executive director of the Beautiful Stuff Project.
- Join **Dr. Peter Gray** for a webinar on [The Special Value of Age-Mixed Play](#) at 7 p.m. on April 18, hosted by NHED and the Boston College School of Social Work.
- You're invited! "Dessert with Discovery Education" [Virtual Series](#): Learn about **STUDIO!** at 7 p.m. on April 30 or May 1. You know about the Ready to Use activities such as Background Builders, Choice Boards, Activity Calendar and Daily Fix-Its, but did you know that you can edit them? Grab your dessert and join your colleagues for an informal chance to learn a few tricks to take your Discovery Game to the next level.

Resources for Educators

- **Tutor.com** is hosting an [Ice Cream Throwdown](#)! The (in-person) school with the highest percentage of students who connect for drop-off or on-demand writing sessions between April 15 to May 17 will win a school ice cream party.
- Do you want to get your school or district started with the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)? **iLearn NH** can assist you with that. [Learn more.](#)
- **Graduation Alliance** provides 1-1 mentoring for students in need of an extra layer of support to boost school engagement and academic success. Call 603-758-3259 to get set up.

To have information included in future editions of the Friday Forum, email Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov