



New Hampshire

**Department of Education**

## *Friday Forum*

June 30, 2023

- The NH Department of Environmental Services recently issued this [letter](#) notifying schools about results from samples of **floor wax stripping** wastewater, confirming that PFAS were present in many floor waxes, wax stripper, and floor wax stripping wastewater. DES is encouraging all schools in the state to sample its floor wax stripping wastewater for PFAS, particularly schools that dispose of their wastewater via a septic system.
- This [technical advisory](#) has been issued regarding new legislation concerning criminal history records checks of **transportation monitors**. This law becomes effective July 31.
- In regards to the charter school/public school **memorandum of understanding**, NHED will soon be releasing the model MOU to be used as a guide in developing a MOU between chartered public schools and school districts, pursuant to RSA 194-B:5(VIII); expect this to be released during the week of July 10.
- **Title I, II, IVA allocations** were emailed to school leaders on Wednesday and the postings may be found [here](#). Please be aware that these grants will start in GMS July 1, pending the LEA has submitted its required documents; general assurances, program assurances, and equitable services affirmation for all non-public schools within the LEAs geographic attendance area.
- The NH Department of Energy has issued its [School Energy Efficiency Development \(SEED\) Grant Program RFP](#). Applications from public schools are being sought to provide a one-time competitive grant to implement an **energy efficiency project**. Responses to the RFP are due Aug. 30. Questions may be directed to [RFP@energy.nh.gov](mailto:RFP@energy.nh.gov).
- NHED is sponsoring a project on **student wellbeing and play** in New Hampshire public elementary schools. The overarching aim of the proposed project is to implement and evaluate two school-based programs, [Let Grow](#) and [Play Club](#). If you are a superintendent or school principal interested in learning more, please email Dr. Maggie Van Camp [vancampm@bc.edu](mailto:vancampm@bc.edu) to set up a virtual meeting.
- This [summer book club](#) is available to discuss themes on child development, play and wellness.

- Share your experience with **home education or nonpublic education** in New Hampshire. Gallup recently partnered with NHED to learn more about how to best support families. Gallup is now in the second phase of its study, which includes a 15-minute [survey](#). We hope parents will share their voice and help set children on a path to a fulfilling future. Nonpublic school leaders may share the study with their school communities.
- **NASA** would like to connect with NH classrooms through its Next Gen STEM SPARX (Sparking Participation and Real-world eXperiences in STEM). [SPARX](#) is a free educator professional development opportunity that provides teachers with on-demand training and access to an exclusive online community of practice. During the school year, educators can connect their classrooms virtually with NASA scientists and engineers to help expose students to STEM careers.
- The Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (**ARMI**) is offering a [professional development opportunity](#) for training in BioTrek – a project-based learning program that is free for teachers of high school students. ARMI/BioFabUSA is also offering high school students a [summer opportunity](#) to join BioTrek (in partnership with VLACS) to earn credit while learning about the science of biofabrication and the advanced technologies of biomanufacturing.
- NHED’s Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is hosting a Social Security Disability Youth-Focused orientation. This event will review how to apply for **social security disability**, age 18 redetermination, paid work-based learning experiences, work incentives for youth, and an introduction to the Ticket to Work program. Register [here](#).
- Summer is an important time to support students. NHED previously partnered with **Graduation Alliance** to provide 1-1 mentoring for students in need of an extra layer of support to boost school engagement and academic success. Students who choose to participate in the program will be assigned an academic coach at no cost – even during the summer months. Contact Christian Shiverdecker at 603-758-3259 to get set up.
- The deadline for submittal of the **Unused District Facility data collection** is July 1, 2023. To complete, please log-in to myNHDoe and access the ESS System. This information is being collected in accordance with RSA 194:61, which requires school districts to report information regarding unused facilities to the Department each year. If your district has not yet submitted the survey, please complete prior to July 1.
- Applications are due July 15! The [Yassprize.org](#), considered the Pulitzer Prize of Education Innovation, is a nationwide effort to find, reward, and help expand best-in-class education providers. Since 2022, more than \$40 million has been given to awardees who have demonstrated commitment to the principles of sustainable, transformational, outstanding and permissionless education.

*To have information included in future editions of the Friday Forum, email [Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov)*