



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Friday Forum

August 18, 2023

- Congratulations to our four [finalists](#) selected for New Hampshire's 2024 **Teacher of the Year** – Ritu Budakoti of Keene Middle School, Sean Donahue of McKelvie Intermediate School in Bedford, Elizabeth Duclos of Pembroke Hill School and Gregory Parker of Manchester Memorial High School.
- NHED is [seeking rehabilitation counselors and rehabilitation technicians](#) to assist individuals with disabilities and help them meet their workforce goals.
- NHED is [partnering](#) with **Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire** to launch a new program that will provide one-to-one mentoring for students (ages 14-24) with disabilities.
- 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 are interested in learning more, please email Dr. Maggie Van Camp vancampm@bc.edu to set up a virtual meeting.
- NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management's School Readiness Program is sharing some important changes regarding **school emergency operation plans** for this coming school year. A specialized procedure to include in appendices has been added due to legislative changes for [sports related injuries](#) as required by NH RSA 200:40-c. An updated School EOP template and checklist is available for reference to assist in developing school EOPs. The EOP submission portal opened on Aug. 8. More details [here](#).
- A big shout-out to Mackenzie Verdiner, a rising senior at Manchester High School West who has been named the national **GEAR UP Student of the Year**. Verdiner was selected for the award from among 500,000 students nationwide who participate in the federally funded GEAR UP program.
- The **Internal Revenue Service** is offering [flyers and stickers](#) to schools as part of its Back-to-School Backpack Initiative, which aims to help parents of young children and college students understand the tax credits and benefits they may be eligible to claim when they file a tax return. Email colleen.m.buckley@irs.gov with the approximate number of stickers needed, as well as a name, email and mailing address for the contact person the flyers and stickers should be forwarded to.

- Save the date for a free **Search Institute** in-person, train-the-trainer opportunity on Aug 21-22. [Essentials of Asset Building Training](#) introduces the Developmental Assets Framework and the powerful role of individual asset builders in the lives of youth and prepares community members and groups to deliver a variety of asset-building messages.
- For all families with children covered by NH **Medicaid**, DHHS is asking all school districts to spread the word about the need to complete Medicaid redeterminations when they are due. Please share this printable [flyer](#) with your school communities. Let's help kids keep their health insurance coverage.
- NHED previously emailed school leaders the **CRRSA Late Liquidation Template for ESSER II** and related guidance for any project funds requested to remain available past the grant obligation deadline of Sept. 30, 2023. The deadline for final submission of requests for late liquidation extension for CRRSA ESSER II funds is Oct. 31, 2023. For your final submission to be considered, the application and attachments must be fully completed and emailed to ESSER@doe.nh.gov; submission of the form does not guarantee approval of the late liquidation extension request.
- 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. Call 603-758-3259 to get set up.
- Online, 24/7 **tutoring** is available at no cost for students in grades 6-12 through a partnership with Tutor.com. Students may [register](#) here.
- **AmeriCorps** National Service positions are available. Volunteer NH operates an online hub for AmeriCorps opportunities in NH called Serve Learn Earn. Explore AmeriCorps opportunities that offer individuals a chance to serve NH communities, and provide a stipend and an education award to put towards higher education expenses. Visit [ServeLearnEarn](#) to learn more, or call 603-271-7200.

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