



# Follow The Child & SB 18: An Implementation Plan

*"Today a high school diploma is the minimum price of admission for most jobs. Yet 20 percent of our young people are dropping out of high school. These young people will not have the opportunities they deserve. Half a high school education is no longer enough. That is why we must increase our compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18. In my budget, I will propose the funding necessary to expand alternative learning programs, including technical education, internships and night school, to help students who do not do well in traditional classroom settings. Together, we will make it possible for every child in New Hampshire to graduate from high school."*

~ New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch, 2007 Inaugural

Address

Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning

January 30, 2008

## ~ Executive Summary ~

The passage of Senate Bill 18 marked a new day for education in the State of New Hampshire. A signature piece of legislation called for by Governor John Lynch, it established the commitment on the part of the citizens of the state that all students would have the opportunity, and indeed, the imperative to graduate from high school in order to be prepared for success in college, careers, and all aspects of life beyond high school. This plan sets in motion a coordinated series of policies, programs, resources, and efforts at the State, regional, and local level to achieve this aggressive goal.

By June 30, 2008 plans to accommodate the educational needs of at-risk students age 16-18 will be established to allow these students to remain in school and earn a diploma. School districts and/or third party providers will be awarded monies for drop-out prevention from three state funds, totaling \$4.6 million. Guidance on issues surrounding regional program development, tuition and transportation, and personalized Alternative Learning

Plans will be finalized and released to districts. Schools will continue to develop competencies and assessments to allow students to participate in Extended Learning Opportunities that will personalize their education and make it more meaningful and relevant. The state will follow each child through a data system that will identify and track students at risk so as to better support them and their parents and families in making the necessary adjustments to succeed in their education.



The plan contains elements of New Hampshire's **Follow The Child** initiative, the statewide Literacy Plan, components of the new Minimum Standards such as Extended Learning Opportunities and Flexible Scheduling, Competency Assessment and School

Improvement endeavors. The Department has drafted a model Personalized Learning Plan template for use by districts. Three technical advisories have been released to the field to assist in developing and implementing alternative pathways to high school graduation for students in need.

Several recommendations for rule and statutory changes are made as part of this plan, including strengthening truancy provisions and establishing a state diploma for students who do not meet graduation requirements at any one high school. The Department has begun forging connections with Health and Human Services' Community Mental Health Services, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention offices, DCYF, and the Divisions of Juvenile Justice to develop plans that address the mental health and substance abuse prevention needs of at-risk students. It is clear that a well defined agenda and engaged and visible leadership on the part of the Governor and the Commissioner of Education is essential to the accomplishment of the plan.

### Did You Know?

- Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be unemployed, in poor health, living in poverty, on public assistance.
- Dropouts nationally earn \$9,200 less per year than high school graduates and more than \$1 million less over a lifetime than college graduates.
- Dropouts are more than eight times as likely to be in jail or prison as high school graduates, and make up nearly half the prison population.
- Almost one-half missed at least 10 days of school, one-third cut class at least 10 times, and one-quarter were late at least 10 times.
- Men who attain a GED earned 21% more than male dropouts; women GED holders earned 18% more than female dropouts.

### Vision ~

The Department of Education will work in partnership with policymakers, parents, students, school boards and districts, communities and community organizations, business leaders, and educational leaders across the state to build a system that will prepare all students to graduate from high school and succeed as productive and contributing members of New Hampshire society.

### Overall Goals ~

- Reduce the Dropout Rate to 0% by 2012.
- **Follow The Child:** Identify the personal, physical, and social barriers and educational gaps to success for each student and build a system that will address those barriers and gaps early in the process by creating a variety of options towards success.
- Build a system that will challenge each student to become college and work ready by high school graduation.

### Principles for Action ~

- Build through partnerships at the state, regional, and local levels.
- Provide for accountability for the emerging system through clearly identified goals at every level.
- Create on-going regular communications between levels to share successes and problem solve solutions.

### Methods to Engage and Build the System ~

- Leadership and Encouragement by the Governor, Commissioner and State Board of Education.
- Federal and State Grants.
- Implement the Minimum Standards for School Approval, through Technical Assistance Advisories and other communications.
- Build networks of schools, programs, and leaders.
- On-going professional development.
- Evaluate school and program performance, provide technical assistance, and showcase success.

<b>Projected Impact of Interventions on the Dropout Number</b>					
students to be served by the	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Adult HS</b>	545	575	750	900	900
<b>GED</b>	290	400	500	700	700
<b>WIA</b>	78	78	78	78	78
<b>Dropout Prevention</b>	70	70	70	70	70
<b>Alternative Ed (State)</b>	202	362	387	352	381
<b>Total</b>	1,185	1,485	1,785	2,100	2,129
<b>2006 Dropout Figures Less Total Impacted by Interventions</b>					
<b>2006 Total</b>	2,129	2,129	2,129	2,129	2,129
<b>Impact #</b>	1,185	1,485	1,785	2,100	2,129
<b>Projected</b>	944	644	344	29	0



*“A number of promising practices and approaches have been found to produce improvements in school completion rates... Efforts to increase achievement in the early grades help to reduce dropping out; successful students are more likely to complete school than unsuccessful ones.”*

**~ One-Third of a Nation: Rising Dropout Rates and Declining Opportunities—Education Testing Service**

**Parameters to the Chart above:**

- Projections are based on continued funding of programs.
- More than one program may serve the same at-risk student, so the projected number of dropouts is only an estimate
- Services need to be expanded to address the needs of younger students in the areas of math, reading, alternative education and Career Tech Education.
- Pending legislation to address systemic issues such as truancy and High School graduation requirements are also a part of the plan.
- Overall success of the plan will be dependent on:
  - the ability of schools to implement key aspects of the state minimum standards in collaboration with community partners, and
  - the state to address juvenile justice, social and emotional factors, as well as issues of substance abuse in conjunction with state and local health and human services programs.



*If you want one year of prosperity  
grow grain,  
If you want ten years of prosperity,  
grow trees,  
If you want one hundred years of prosperity,  
grow people.*

**~ Chinese Proverb**

## Alternative Education Grants Coming forward to G&C:

Division of Career  
Technology and Adult  
Learning

21 South Fruit Street,  
Suite 20

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-271-3801

Fax: 603-271-0056

Email: pleather@ed.state.nh.us

### ***We're on the Web!***

[http://www.ed.state.nh.us/  
education/doe/  
organization/adultlearning/  
NewHampshireHigh  
SchoolRedesign.htm.](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/NewHampshireHighSchoolRedesign.htm)



"We shouldn't  
be giving up  
on any child."

~ Tammy Davis,  
Superintendent of  
Schools,  
Winnisquam District

	<b>1/1/08- 6/30/08</b>	<b>7/1/08- 6/30/09</b>	<b>Total</b>
Manchester	174,460.80	420,877.29	595,338.09
NH-JAG Winnacunnet	41,319.00	66,321.00	107,640.00
Strafford Learning Center: Dover Adult Learning Center, Somersworth CTE Ctr, Milton, Wakefield, Farmington, Middleton, Somersworth, Rollinsford, Oyster River, Barrington, Northwood, Nottingham, Strafford	63,846.30	136,628.34	200,474.64
Rochester	4,932.40	61,064.80	65,997.20
Pinkerton Academy	60,248.00	137,084.00	197,332.00
Nashua	101,498.16	236,927.65	338,425.81
Concord	108,135.00	213,244.00	321,379.00
North Country Education Lancaster Littleton	146,520.00	129,859.32	276,379.32