

AFT-NH Legislative Bulletin (March 30, 2026)

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SB 101 OPEN ENROLLMENT HEARING RESUMES ON APRIL 1ST

Open enrollment continues to dominate the education space in the State House with a new amendment and scheme introduced this week. Basically, instead of using local property taxpayers to directly pay for a student to attend a public school in a different district, the amendment provides open enrollment students with twice the state adequacy aid than is received for students enrolled in their own school district. The state is now offering to pay twice the adequacy amount if you want to attend a charter or if you want to go to a different public school but refuses to change the state funding amount to ensure every child can have a fully funded and great education at their local neighborhood school.

In addition, the bill as amended leaves numerous questions. One of the biggest is how districts will deliver the needed special education services so that all students can succeed. Stating that sending districts will cover the costs of special education needs does not answer the practical question of who will make sure the qualified staff are on hand and have room in their schedule to work with the student. This scenario will likely leave the sending district with unanticipated special education costs. And as is the case with any open enrollment scheme, the bill as amended does nothing to solve the disparity in our school districts and in fact exacerbates it. Districts that struggle financially will lose funding, and other districts that don't, stand to gain.

The hearing for open enrollment has been continued to April 1st, so if you have not signed in opposed to SB 101 you can still do that using the instructions below.

Other bills to watch out for next week:

SB 578, relative to play-based curriculum and physical education curriculum. The concept of this bill may have its merits. We know especially for younger students, play based curriculum can be very beneficial. However, as written this bill lacks any funding as schools transition curriculum, purchase new necessary materials and does not address how less time in the classroom will correspond with preparation for state standardized testing requirements. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 30th at 10:20 am before the House Education and Policy Committee. **AFT-NH Opposes this bill.**

SB 580, relative to establishing a school cooperative purchasing program still has very problematic language of state takeovers of schools. **AFT-NH opposes this bill.**

Breaking News

After a four-hour public hearing with overwhelming public opposition to HB 1815, the NH Senate quickly passed the bill this week and this afternoon Governor Ayotte signed the bill which shows the GOP's lack of commitment to ever properly funding our public schools. You can read [AFT-NH President Deb Howes Statement](#) on this action.

Sign in Opposed to SB 101 Amendment (Open Enrollment)

To register your opposition to SB 101, click [here](#).

1. Fill out your information in the content boxes.
2. Select April 1st in the calendar.
3. Select House Education Policy Administration in the dropdown box.
4. Select SB 101 10:00 AM from the "Choose the Bill" dropdown box.
5. Use the "I am" dropdown box to select who you are (likely member of the public).
6. In the "I'm Representing" box, write your organization, or choose to write "Myself".
7. Click the "I Oppose this Bill" circle.
8. If you have testimony to submit, you may upload it using the "Choose File" button or type into the content box any message that you would like to share with the committee members (talking points can be found below).
9. Under "Step 5. Final Review" click the "Submit" button.
10. You will then be asked to confirm your submission.

Thank you for taking action on this very important bill. Please also review the list below for upcoming hearings on other priority bills.

AFT-NH Legislative Hearings

Week of March 30, 2026

Date	Time	Location	Committee	Position	Bill	Title	Meeting Description	Sponsors
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Mar 30, 2026	10:00 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Policy and Administration</u>	Neutral	<u>SB 432</u>	Title: (New Title) authorizing the application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a licensed health care provider's note or prescription and establishing a skin cancer prevention education program.	Hearing	Ruth Ward Innis Watters
Mar 30, 2026	10:20 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Policy and Administration</u>	Oppose	<u>SB 578</u>	Title: (New Title) relative to play-based curriculum and physical education curriculum.	Hearing	Victoria Sullivan Pearl Carson
Mar 30, 2026	1:00 PM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Policy and Administration</u>	Neutral	<u>SB 507</u>	Title: (New Title) establishing a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances.	Hearing	Keith Murphy Victoria Sullivan Avard
Mar 30, 2026	2:00 PM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Policy and Administration</u>	Neutral	<u>SB 574</u>	Title: establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative	Hearing	Innis Watters McGough

units.

Mar 31, 2026	9:15 AM	SL, Room Map Room	<u>Senate Education</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1774</u>	Title: (New Title) relative to qualifying scholarship granting organizations and federal workforce Pell grants.	Senate Standing Committee	Kofalt Morse Osborne
Mar 31, 2026	9:25 AM	SL, Room Map Room	<u>Senate Education</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1817</u>	Title: (New Title) relative to access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs within school districts.	Senate Standing Committee	McDonnell Pam Brown Kuttub
Mar 31, 2026	9:35 AM	SL, Room Map Room	<u>Senate Education</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1828</u>	Title: requiring the department of education to establish an auditing process relative to teacher preparation programs at the post-secondary educational level.	Senate Standing Committee	Noble Layon Peternel
Mar 31, 2026	9:45 AM	SH, Room 122-123	<u>Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1807</u>	Title: (New Title) relative to mandatory reports to voters.	Senate Standing Committee	Peternel Bernardy Berry
Mar 31, 2026	10:00 AM	SH, Room 122-123	<u>Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 590</u>	Title: relative to cooperative school district school board	Senate Standing Committee	Andrus Cambrils Colcombe

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Mar 31, 2026	10:00 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Funding</u>	Neutral	<u>SB 491</u>	Title: enabling students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.	Hearing	Watters Lang McGough
Mar 31, 2026	10:15 AM	SH, Room 122-123	<u>Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1309</u>	Title: relative to town meeting warrants.	Senate Standing Committee	Potenza Berry Burnham
Mar 31, 2026	10:30 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Funding</u>	Oppose	<u>SB 513</u>	Title: requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.	Hearing	Abbas Innis Watters
Mar 31, 2026	11:00 AM	SH, Room 122-123	<u>Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1125</u>	Title: enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections.	Senate Standing Committee	Wherry Aylward Creighton
Mar 31, 2026	11:30 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Funding</u>	Oppose	<u>SB 580</u>	Title: (New Title) relative to establishing a school cooperative purchasing program.	Hearing	Victoria Sullivan McGough Pearl
Mar 31,	1:00 PM	SH, Room	<u>Senate Election Law and Municipal</u>	Neutral	<u>HB</u>	Title: relative to the official	Senate Standing	Pauer Aylward

2026		122-123	<u>Affairs</u>		<u>1131</u>	ballot referendum form of town meetings.	Committee	Bernardy
Mar 31, 2026	1:30 PM	SH, Room 122-123	<u>Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1272</u>	Title: (New Title) providing an option for each candidate's party affiliations to be printed on the town or school district ballot.	Senate Standing Committee	Wherry Ford McGrath
Mar 31, 2026	1:45 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>==ROOM CHANGE==Senate Judiciary</u>	Neutral	<u>HB 1051</u>	Title: (New Title) modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.	Senate Standing Committee	Layon
Apr 1, 2026	10:00 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>==CANCELLED==House Education Policy and Administration</u>	Neutral	<u>SB 433</u>	Title: establishing the seizure safe schools act.	Hearing	Lang Birdsell McGough
Apr 1, 2026	10:00 AM	GP, Room 232	<u>House Education Policy and Administration</u>	Oppose	<u>SB 101</u>	Title: (New Title) authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state and creating a limited	Hearing	Lang Innis Gray

exemption
from parental
consent
required for
certain
recordings
under the
parental bill of
rights.

Apr 1, 2026	10:20 AM	GP, Room 232	==CANCELLED== =House Education Policy and Administration	Oppose	<u>SB 431</u>	Title: relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination.	Hearing	Lang Avard McGough
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Apr 1, 2026	11:00 AM	GP, Room 232	==CANCELLED== =House Education Policy and Administration	Oppose	<u>SB 430</u>	Title: (New Title) relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents and legal guardians.	Hearing	Lang Avard Birdsell
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Apr 1, 2026	1:00 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>Senate Education Finance</u>	Neutral	<u>HB 1121</u>	Title: defining the cost of an adequate education.	Senate Standing Committee	Ladd Peoples Dan McGuire
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Apr 1, 2026	1:10 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>Senate Education Finance</u>	Neutral	<u>HB 1495</u>	Title: allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances.	Senate Standing Committee	Ladd Spilsbury Popovici-Muller
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Apr 1, 2026	1:20 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>Senate Education Finance</u>	Neutral	<u>HB 1610</u>	Title: allowing school districts to annually retain year-end unassigned general funds.	Senate Standing Committee	Sellers DeRoy Pauer
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Apr 1, 2026	1:30 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>Senate Education Finance</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1816</u>	Title: relative to the intervention of the department of education into a school or school district during a financial emergency.	Senate Standing Committee	Ladd Spilsbury Popovici-Muller
Apr 2, 2026	1:00 PM	SH, Room 103	<u>Senate Health and Human Services</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1719</u>	Title: removing Hepatitis B from the list of diseases for which immunization is required under state law.	Senate Standing Committee	Potenza Barbour DeRoy
Apr 2, 2026	1:00 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>Senate Judiciary</u>	Neutral	<u>HB 1064</u>	Title: relative to liability of governmental units.	Senate Standing Committee	Kuttab Lynn Berch
Apr 2, 2026	1:20 PM	SH, Room 103	<u>Senate Health and Human Services</u>	Neutral	<u>HB 1584</u>	Title: directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.	Senate Standing Committee	Potenza Kofalt Layon
Apr 2, 2026	1:40 PM	SH, Room 100	<u>Senate Judiciary</u>	Oppose	<u>HB 1788</u>	Title: (New Title) holding state contracts with DEI	Senate Standing Committee	Nalevanko DeRoy Wherry

**provisions to
be void as a
matter of law
and
establishing a
right of action
for citizens
where public
entities or state
agencies
engage with
contracts with
DEI provisions.**