

SB 659 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3264

12/08

SENATE BILL

**659**

AN ACT                   relative to education financing.

SPONSORS:           Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. McConkey, Dist 3; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16

COMMITTEE:       Education Finance

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ANALYSIS

      This bill makes changes to what substantive educational content satisfies an adequate education.

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Explanation:       Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                      Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                      Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT                      relative to education financing.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 Education; Adequate Public Education; Policy and Purpose. RSA 193-E:1, I-II is repealed and  
2 reenacted to read as follows:

3            I. It is the policy of the state of New Hampshire that public elementary and secondary  
4 education shall provide all students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills  
5 necessary to prepare them for successful participation in the social, economic, scientific,  
6 technological, and political systems of a free government, now and in the years to come; an education  
7 that is consistent with the state-established academic standards, and school district or school  
8 curriculum.

9            II. Respecting New Hampshire's long tradition of community involvement, it is the purpose  
10 of this chapter to ensure that appropriate means are established to provide an adequate education  
11 through an integrated public education system of shared responsibility between state and local  
12 government, in recognition of the fact that local governmental entities, including school districts, are  
13 created by the state, receive their authority to act and operate from the state, and are therefore  
14 indivisible from the state for the purposes of providing an adequate education. In this system, the  
15 state and local governmental entities function collectively to ensure that an adequate version of the  
16 academic program defined in RSA 193-E:2-a is provided to New Hampshire pupils. Such a system of  
17 shared responsibility ensures flexibility in implementing diverse educational approaches to  
18 instruction and curriculum tailored to meet student needs, allows local governments to make the  
19 local infrastructure and administrative choices that are best for their particular communities, and  
20 helps ensure that local school districts remain accountable and responsive to community and family  
21 needs. How the state and its local governmental entities choose to raise, allocate, and spend  
22 financial resources to implement this integrated public education system is a political policy matter  
23 reserved to legislative and executive judgment and control.

24           2 Education; Adequate Public Education; Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate  
25 Education. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, I(a) to read as follows:

26           I.(a) ~~[Beginning in the school year 2008-2009, and for each year thereafter, the specific~~  
27 ~~criteria and substantive educational program that deliver the opportunity for an]~~ **An** adequate  
28 education shall be defined and identified as the school approval standards in the following learning  
29 areas:

- 30                            (1) English/language arts and reading.  
31                            (2) Mathematics.

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- 1                   (3) Science.
- 2                   (4) Social studies, including civics, government, economics, geography, history, and
- 3 Holocaust and genocide education.
- 4                   (5) Arts education, including music and visual arts.
- 5                   (6) World languages.
- 6                   (7) Health and wellness education, including a policy for violations of RSA 126-K:8,
- 7 I(a).
- 8                   (8) Physical education.
- 9                   (9) Engineering and technologies including technology applications.
- 10                  (10) Personal finance literacy.
- 11                  (11) Computer science.

12           3 Education; School Money; Cost of an Opportunity for an Adequate Education. RSA 198:40-a,

13 III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

14           III. The sum total calculated under paragraph II shall be computed toward the cost of an

15 adequate education, defined in RSA 193-E:2-a, including all differentiated aid. The department

16 shall determine the cost of an adequate education, as defined in RSA 193-E:2-a, for each

17 municipality based on the ADMR of pupils who reside in that municipality.

18           4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.