

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**HB 1818-FN**, requiring the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects.

**Hearing Date:** March 24, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:28 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:34 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Ladd

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**Who supports the bill:** Representative Rick Ladd and Cory Stone

**Who opposes the bill:** Janet Lucas, Stephanie Osborne, Richard Osborne, Joyce Weston, William Copeland Jr, Priscilla Dube, Judith Saum, Sally Widerstrom, Valerie Scarborough, Daniel Richardson, Julie Retelle, Brian Flynn, and Diane Arsenault

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Tim Carney (NH Department of Education)

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Rick Ladd**

- Representative Ladd introduced and testified in support of House Bill 1818-FN.
- Rep. Ladd explained that the bill originally made a 10-million-dollar appropriation to use in aiding school districts that are consolidating one or more school buildings.
- Rep. Ladd stated that the appropriation language was removed from the bill because it was considered a large appropriation for a non-budget year.

- Representative Ladd explained that the bill, as written now, only requires school districts to report their 10-year school facilities plan to the Department of Education and describes what this report must include.
- He added that if a district does not make any changes to its plan annually, it is required to report it to the department.
- He stated that it is difficult for the Department to track the needs of local districts because the current law states districts “may” instead of “shall”.
- He stated that consolidation is becoming more common in the state due to enrollment and demographic trends.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:**

**Tim Carney, New Hampshire Department of Education**

- Mr. Carney explained that a position was requested in the bill as introduced in the fiscal note, but that position no longer exists in the bill as amended.
- Mr. Carney stated that, although the intent is appreciated, there is no way for the department to enforce the law without the position that the bill as introduced created.