

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**HB 1571-FN-A**, requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curricula.

**Hearing Date:** April 7, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:58 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:21 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ward and Prentiss

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senators Sullivan, Abbas and Altschiller

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires the department of education to revise the statewide academic standards decennially beginning in June 2026.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Noble

Rep. Thibault

Rep. Peternel

Rep. Freeman

Rep. Korzen

Rep. Belcher

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**Who supports the bill:** 5 People signed in support of HB 1571-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide ([trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov](mailto:trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov)).

**Who opposes the bill:** 44 People signed in opposition to HB 1571-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide ([trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov](mailto:trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov)).

**Who is neutral on the bill:** 1 Person signed in neutral to HB 1571-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide ([trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov](mailto:trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov)).

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Kristin Noble, Hillsborough 2**

- Representative Noble introduced and testified in support of House Bill 1571-FN.
- Rep. Noble stated that the bill would direct the Department of Education to revise the academic standards for math, English, and science. The bill calls for revisions in 2027 and initiates a review process every ten years.
- She noted that the bill also directs the department to develop a new state assessment aligned with updated state standards and to compile a list of recommended academic materials consistent with those standards.

- She highlighted the fiscal note and shared that, due to its size, the implementation was pushed back by a year.
- She shared her commitment to moving away from the Common Core Standards and specifically stated the math portion.

### **Ann Marie Banfield**

- Ms. Banfield testified in support of House Bill 1571-FN.
- She shared that the current academic standards were adopted fifteen years ago and highlighted stagnation and declining student achievement scores.
- She viewed updating and strengthening academic standards as a worthy investment.
- She stated that public school students deserve equal access to a high-quality education.
- She highlighted several areas in the Common Core math standards that she believed were lacking and the limits they impose on New Hampshire high school students as they seek to further their education. She emphasized the need to focus on the standard algorithm for multiplication and long division.
- She shared that the language component of the mathematics curriculum harms English language learners and students with disabilities the most.
- She shared that the weak foundation of Common Core contributed to the compounding issues as students progressed in their education.
- She shared that the founder of Common Core recognized the deficiencies in the standards, including the lack of focus on STEM-related pathways.
- She mentioned that the Catholic dioceses revamped their math standards years ago and are better off because of it.
- She noted that the New Hampshire Math scores peaked in 2010 and have since declined, which mirrored the date the state adopted the Common Core standards.
- She referenced a report on the English standards that highlights specific concerns.

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

### **Neutral Information Presented:**

#### ***Drew Cline – New Hampshire State Board of Education***

- Mr. Cline referenced the specific language in the bill directing the department to initiate the revision of the standards, but noted that the state board is currently the body that adopts state standards in education.

- He asked the committee to consider how the effectiveness of revised standards may be measured.
- He stated that the Common Core Standards have proven to be weaker than initially thought.
- He suggested that the term high quality be further defined to focus on outcomes.
- He referenced the current work of the Board of Education and highlighted their collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Education and how they were able to boost their achievement scores.
- He noted that the State Board's rules expire every ten years, prompting the creation of new rules that reflect the latest trends in academia. He also attributed the inclusion of the Common Core in the state standards to the trend that compelled the board to adopt it.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 10, 2026