

SB 491-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2056  
07/08

SENATE BILL        **491-FN**

AN ACT            enabling students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. McConkey, Dist 3; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17

COMMITTEE:      Education Finance

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ANALYSIS

This bill enables students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 enabling students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.

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

1 1 Education; Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE); Costs for Students Attending  
2 Career and Technical Education Programs. Amend RSA 188-E:6, IV to read as follows:

3 IV. In consultation with the house and senate committees responsible for education policy  
4 and financial matters, the [~~state board~~] **department** of education shall, in rules adopted pursuant to  
5 RSA 541-A, develop a formula for determining **separately** the tuition and transportation costs for  
6 approved career technical education programs and procedures for disbursement of funds.

7 2 Education; Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE); Tuition. RSA 188-E:7 is repealed  
8 and reenacted to read as follows:

9 188-E:7 Tuition.

10 I. The department of education is hereby authorized to pay, from its regular budget tuition,  
11 costs associated with transportation for part-time district students who are eligible for enrollment in  
12 career and technical education under the provisions of RSA 188-E:1-a, VI and receiving an EFA  
13 grant. The department shall develop rules under RSA 188-E:6, IV for such payments and for any  
14 adjustment or redirection for career and technical education tuition funding of EFA grants for those  
15 students enrolled as part-time students in career and technical education.

16 II. Students receiving an EFA grant shall be eligible for enrollment in career and technical  
17 education under the provisions of RSA 188-E:1-a, VI.

18 3 Education; Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE); Transportation. Amend RSA  
19 188-E:8 to read as follows:

20 188-E:8 Transportation. The department of education is authorized to reimburse from its  
21 regular budget the full cost of transportation in an amount based upon a formula using type of  
22 vehicle, mileage, and number of trips made for (a) regional career and technical education students  
23 who attend regional career and technical centers; and for (b) at-risk students who attend alternative  
24 education programs located at a regional career and technical education center or other  
25 comprehensive high school. The transportation reimbursement formula shall be established in rules  
26 adopted by the [~~state board~~] **department** of education pursuant to RSA 541-A. The CTE  
27 transportation reimbursement formula shall not be dependent upon the number of students riding  
28 on a particular bus or other type of vehicle. The sending district shall be responsible for providing  
29 transportation and paying the transportation costs and shall then be reimbursed from state funds.

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1           4 New Paragraph; Education; Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE); Payment of  
2 Tuition and Transportation Funds. Amend RSA 188-E:9 by inserting after paragraph IV the  
3 following new paragraph:

4           V. The department of education shall establish separate funds for tuition and transportation  
5 and determine the cost for each on an annual basis in accordance with the provisions of RSA 188:E-  
6 6, IV and 188-E:9, II-III.

7           5 New Paragraph; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of  
8 the Scholarship Organization. Amend RSA 194-F:4 by inserting after paragraph XVII the following  
9 new paragraph:

10           XVIII. The scholarship organization, in cooperation with the department of education, shall  
11 make available to EFA students in grades 9-12 information about enrolling in career and technical  
12 education classes and programs.

13           6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

**SB 491-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT enabling students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	Indeterminable		
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Education Trust Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

<b>Estimated Political Subdivision Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable	
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable		

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Department of Education states this bill guarantees career and technical education (CTE) access to Education Freedom Account (EFA) students. Under current law, CTE districts may charge tuition to an EFA family, require the student to enroll into their resident district to receive CTE services, or may provide CTE services free of charge. For School Year 2024-2025, 26 EFA students received CTE services. The Department does not know if those families were charged tuition, the sending district provided tuition payments, or services were provided without tuition.

State Impact

The Department states this bill may result in an increase in participation in the EFA program. The following provides information about different scenarios under which a student may access the EFA program:

- Students entering the program from home education or non-public systems would result in an increased expense for the state equal to the cost of the average EFA grant in the respective year.
- Students entering the program from an in-person chartered public school would have a net savings for the state of \$5,407 (FY 2027 charter adequacy aid of \$10,417 minus the average EFA grant in that year).
- Students entering the program from a district public school would have a net cost to the state if the student left a community with a statewide education property tax (SWEPT) grant in excess of the calculated cost of an adequate education. This net cost would be equal to the amount of the average EFA grant, which is estimated to be \$5,010 per student for FY 2027.
- Students entering the program from a public district school in a non-excess SWEPT community would result in a decrease to the adequacy grant for their resident district. This decrease is estimated to be \$2,040 (FY 2027 non-excess SWEPT community of \$7,050 minus the average EFA grant in FY 2027) based on the difference between the average total grant per student.

The Department states the CTE Tuition & Transportation grant is a fixed State appropriation not changed by the proposed bill. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on this aid program.

#### Local Impact

The Department states that sending districts without a CTE program may be required to pay for the services on behalf of EFA students not currently entitled to CTE services while enrolled in the EFA program, resulting in increased local expenditures. Increased costs, if any, are indeterminable and would vary by district. In addition, a district may incur an impact to revenue, to the extent it has a student leave its district for the EFA program, as illustrated above.

#### **AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Education