

HB 1524-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2673

12/06

HOUSE BILL ***1524-FN***

AN ACT requiring a logic and critical thinking course within the state high school education curriculum.

SPONSORS: Rep. Read, Rock. 10; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that a logic and critical thinking course be taught as a part of the curriculum for all high schools in the state. The bill also directs the state board of education to develop policy guidelines for the teaching of logic and critical thinking.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 requiring a logic and critical thinking course within the state high school education curriculum.

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

1 1 New Paragraph; Criteria for an Adequate Education. Amend RSA 193-E:2 by inserting after
2 paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

3 VIII. Skills in logic and critical thinking, as defined in RSA 193-E:2-a, VI(f) and RSA 193-
4 E:2-a, VI(h).

5 2 New Subparagraph; Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education. Amend RSA
6 193-E:2-a, I by inserting after subparagraph (a)(11) the following new subparagraph:

7 (12) Logic and critical thinking, provided that a minimum of 54 hours of learning in
8 logic and critical thinking shall satisfy the educational content needed for an adequate education, as
9 required by this section.

10 3 Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, I(b) to
11 read as follows:

12 (b) Teachers shall use academic and applied instruction to teach the learning areas
13 under subparagraph (a). ~~[The following]~~ **Computer use and digital literacy** skills shall be
14 integrated into the learning areas **of logic and rhetoric**[:]

15 ~~[(1) Computer use and digital literacy.]~~

16 ~~[(2) Logic and rhetoric].~~

17 4 New Subparagraph; Education; Adequate Public Education; Substantive Educational Content
18 of an Adequate Education. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, VI by inserting after subparagraph (g) the
19 following new subparagraph:

20 (h) "Critical thinking" means the skill in understanding and seeking out the appropriate
21 kinds of evidence needed to support or challenge a given argument, the ability to distinguish valid
22 from invalid arguments based on logic, the habit of questioning the evidence, rationale, and
23 motivation of one's own and others' beliefs, and the awareness of how social media and other sources
24 of information can often be unreliable and promulgate psychological traps and logical fallacies that
25 lead to the formation of unreasonable beliefs.

26 5 New Subparagraph; Accountability for the Opportunity for an Adequate Education. Amend
27 RSA 193-E:3-b, I by inserting after subparagraph (a)(13) the following new subparagraph:

28 (14) Logic and critical thinking.

29 6 New Paragraph; Studies. Amend RSA 189:10 by inserting after paragraph III the following
30 new paragraph:

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1 IV. The school board shall ensure that logic and critical thinking courses approved pursuant
2 to RSA 186:11, XXXVIII are taught as a part of the curriculum for all high schools in the state.
3 Logic and critical thinking skills already being taught in high schools shall be embedded in a logic
4 and critical thinking course, pursuant to RSA 186:11, XXXVIII.

5 7 New Paragraph; Duties of State Board of Education. Amend RSA 186:11 by inserting after
6 paragraph XXXVII the following new paragraph:

7 XXXVIII. Logic and Critical Thinking Courses. Approve and distribute policy guidelines to
8 school districts regarding courses and content standards for the teaching of logic and critical
9 thinking.

10 8 Application. The requirements of this act shall not apply until the 2026-2027 school year.

11 9 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1524-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT requiring a logic and critical thinking course within the state high school education curriculum.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$1,081,000+	\$85,000	\$89,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

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

METHODOLOGY:

This bill, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, requires skills in logic and critical thinking to be added to criteria of adequate education, with a minimum of 54 hours of learning required in the content with school boards being required to ensure it is taught in high school. This bill also requires the State Board of Education to approve and distribute policy guidelines to school districts regarding the courses and content standards for teaching logic and critical thinking. The Department estimates the cost for content and standards development to be a minimum of \$1,000,000 (based on cost incurred to state for civics content and standards development). In addition, the Department states it would need one new position to develop and maintain this requirement at the state level. The cost for this position (SOC 23-03, step 4) is approximately \$81,000 in FY 2027, \$85,000 in FY 2028, and \$89,000 in FY 2029. This bill provides neither authorization nor appropriation for new personnel.

The requirement of 54 hours of content instruction may create a cost to districts, but would be determined based on the number of students served, number of teachers, and number of schools impacted, in addition to the costs to adopt curriculum to meet the content standards, and training of staff to meet the requirement. Ultimately, costs, if there are any, for districts to comply with this requirement are indeterminable and will vary from district to district.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education