

HB 1827-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2633

07/09

HOUSE BILL ***1827-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing a grant program to support school districts extraordinary needs and fiscal capacity disparities relative to providing an adequate education.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ladd, Graf. 5

COMMITTEE: Education Funding

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a grant program to support school districts extraordinary needs and fiscal capacity disparities relative to providing an adequate education.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 establishing a grant program to support school districts extraordinary needs and fiscal capacity disparities relative to providing an adequate education.

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

1 1 New Section; Education; Adequate Education; Education Trust Fund; Education Grant
2 Program; Plan and Accountability. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section 42 the following new
3 section:

4 198:42-a Education Grant Program; Plan and Accountability.

5 I. The grant program, pursuant to RSA 198:40-f and RSA 198:40-g, shall be designed to
6 provide funding assistance to eligible school districts in support of academic growth and achievement
7 in grades K-12. Grant recipients may expend grant funds in a manner which best fits local
8 education need. Grant funds shall not be restricted or targeted to any specific group.

9 II. A school district receiving grant award funds pursuant to RSA 198:40-f and RSA 198:40-g
10 shall submit to the department of education a plan identifying essential programs and accountability
11 indicators, considering educational needs and at what grade levels grant funds will be used. Grant
12 accountability plans shall demonstrate instructional and curriculum approaches designed to
13 contribute to academic achievement and growth. Initial grant awards shall be approved by the
14 department and awarded for a 5-year timeframe. The department of education shall annually
15 compute the amount of the grant. A cooperative school district that enrolls students in grades K-12
16 shall inform the department of education of the individual member communities that qualify for the
17 grant program and number of students enrolled in the cooperative school district from each
18 qualifying community. Such procedure shall also apply to schools with tuition agreements. Where a
19 cooperative school district serves only certain grade spans, the member communities shall be eligible
20 to apply for grant program support for their schools that exist outside the cooperative district. The
21 cooperative district shall also inform the department of education of the number of students from
22 grant eligible communities attending the cooperative school district and apply for the grant. This
23 procedure shall also apply to schools with tuition agreements.

24 III. The school district shall annually use the statewide assessment, or, in consultation with
25 the department, develop and administer its own standardized accountability grant assessment that
26 identifies a range of learning and yields objective data showing progress toward academic growth
27 and achievement attributable to grant funds. The school district shall submit to the department an
28 annual grant accountability progress report on January 15 of every even numbered year covering the
29 indicators set forth in the district's grant accountability plan, to include district progress on
30 indicators set forth in the delivery of an adequate education pursuant to RSA 193-E:3. The

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1 commissioner shall withhold grant funds from a school district until such time when the completed
2 annual grant accountability report is submitted to the department in accordance with established
3 department protocols and timelines.

4 IV. The state board of education may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, to implement this
5 section.

6 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

HB 1827-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
 AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT establishing a grant program to support school districts extraordinary needs and fiscal capacity disparities relative to providing an adequate education.

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	\$0	<u>Grants to Districts</u> Indeterminable <u>DOE Position</u> \$120K in FY 28 and \$123K in FY 29	
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund and Education Trust 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	Indeterminable	
Local Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

METHODOLOGY:

This bill, effective in FY 2028 (school year 2027-2028), requires districts to submit an accountability plan and monitor progress toward academic growth to receive targeted aid as identified in RSAs 198:40-f and 198:40-g. The monitoring must identify progress toward academic achievement growth and achievement attributable to the targeted aid grant. Districts failing to comply with this bill shall not receive the targeted aid grant until compliance is achieved.

The Department of Education states that connecting targeted aid to accountability plans was previously introduced in FY 2023 adequacy and required accountability plans for districts to receive this targeted aid. In FY 2023, seven out of the 115 municipalities eligible for targeted aid

did not submit accountability plans, and therefore did not receive the targeted aid. This resulted in approximately \$293K out of \$14.6M, or 2%, of eligible aid not being issued. Targeted aid in FY 2027 is approximately \$169M in funding. Assuming around 2 percent of eligible awards are not allocated due to a lack of compliant accountability plans, then approximately \$3M in targeted aid would not be distributed. Ultimately, it is unknown whether districts may not comply and how much in aid may not be distributed.

The Department states it would need to hire an instruction coordinator (SOC 25-07, starting step 5) to review and track the accountability plans submitted. The estimated cost for this position, assuming a start date of July 1, 2027, is \$120,000 in FY 2028 and \$123,000 in FY 2029. This bill provides neither authorization nor appropriation for new personnel.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education