

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**HB 1808-FN-A**, establishing the position of academic research and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education and making an appropriation therefor.

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:32 a.m. **Time Closed:** 9:50 a.m.

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill establishes the position of academic research and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education and makes an appropriation therefor.

---

**Sponsors:**

Rep. Ladd	Rep. Popovici-Muller	Rep. Peebles
Rep. Damon	Rep. Kofalt	Sen. Innis

---

**Who supports the bill:** Representative Rick Ladd, Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller, Heather Wilcauskas, and Daniel Richardson.

**Who opposes the bill:** Cory Stone, Jennifer Favreau, Louise Pajak, and Tami Lanzillo Zeimetz.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Dr. Nate Green (New Hampshire Department of Education)

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Rick Ladd, Grafton - District 5**

- Representative Ladd introduced and testified in support of House Bill 18018-FN-A.
- Representative Ladd stated that similar legislation came before the Senate in 2023 at the request of the Department of Education.
- He explained that this legislation creates an academic research and improvement performance data analyst position within the Department of Education.

- Rep. Ladd established that every three out of four employees at the Department of Education are funded through federal dollars. He stated that individuals paid by the federal government are primarily focused on compliance with federal directives, including grant requirements.
- He stated that there are also state grants, like adequacy, that need attention.
- He explained that this position would measure student progress, evaluate program instructional effectiveness, guide curriculum development and resource allocation, and promote accountability.
- He established that the state used to allocate different levels of aid based on remedial reading measures. He added that the program could not track the cohort of students' standardized test scores, making it impossible to determine if any improvements were made.
- He stated that New Hampshire consistently sees a significant decline in math achievement scores once students leave middle school and move into high school.
- He said that some schools may be effectively teaching a particular subject, and he believed it would be helpful if high-achieving schools could share their best practices with lower-performing schools.
- Representative Ladd explained that student success is not determined by the amount of money invested in a particular subject. He stated that examining how personal is deployed, providing support for our schools in curriculum development efforts, and analyzing achievement scores are essential to ensure the curriculum is being used effectively.
- He stated that the department has identified this position as a high-priority need. He testified that the department lacks the personnel to support curriculum areas within the schools, citing the creation of curriculum frameworks without anyone leading the effort. Similarly, there are established academic standards, but no one within the department to ensure compliance.
- He added that this role would collaborate directly with districts to enhance how and where they decide to allocate their resources.
- Representative Ladd explained that instead of buying a new curriculum, we should analyze data first to correctly identify the problems.
- He stated that this position would help New Hampshire meet their goals of keeping in touch with local districts and ensuring they are providing the best education possible.
- He stated that the State has the responsibility to ensure our assessment standards are aligned with our instruction and curriculum.
- He expressed concern that using federal staff to perform this role could lead to the state being accused of misusing federal funds.

- Senator Sullivan inquired about the absence of a fiscal note on the bill. Representative Ladd responded that the appropriation would be \$160,000 to cover all direct and indirect costs related to the position.

**Dr. Nate Green, *Division Director, New Hampshire Department of Education***

- Mr. Green explained that the department is in support of this legislation.
- Mr. Green explained that the department does a good job with data collection, but the department struggles to actualize and operationalize the data.
- Senator Abbas inquired about the \$160,000 appropriation. Mr. Green clarified that the appropriation covers an \$85,000 salary and all indirect costs related to creating the position.
- Senator Altschiller asked what is meant by the phrase “promote accountability.” Mr. Green clarified that the state has two accountability systems. One is a federal system that includes the Title I program, which covers the state assessment requirements. He explained that the Department identifies, at the school and district levels, the bottom 5% of school performance across the state. He added that this approach would help the identified under performing districts understand the data produced from the assessments and then develop a plan to improve their scores.
- Senator Altschiller asked how the program encourages accountability. In response, Mr. Green shared a specific example of an elementary school that was among the bottom five percent. The school collaborated with the department to change course and utilize their data, which led to significant academic improvements. Mr. Green envisions this school serving as a model for low-achieving schools to better serve their students.
- Senate Altschiller asked if the newly created position would analyze the effects of the state's funding of public education and the disparities among municipalities in their ability to fund educational services. Mr. Green responded that the situation she described would be outside the scope of this position. He explained that resource allocation aims to identify the streams of revenue for districts and work with districts to best utilize those dollars. He clarified that Title I funds are meant to address the needs of a school's lower-income student population in literacy and math. He stated that Title II money is used to promote professional development. He emphasized that this position would help districts target their professional development to specific identified needs to optimize their students' academic achievement.
- Senator Altschiller asked if the department is not analyzing the data that has been collected. Mr. Green responded that existing staff often focus on grant compliance, while the proposed position would work closely with a targeted

group of schools to examine all sources of funding together, rather than considering the funding mechanism separately.

- Senator Altschiller asked for clarification about where the bill states that this position would only focus on the bottom five percent of schools. Mr. Green responded that the targeted aspect of the bill addresses the unique needs and challenges that individual schools are working to overcome. He stated that the position will work on issues identified by each school.

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

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.

T.C.

Date Hearing Report completed: March 4, 2026