

Rep. McDonnell, Rock. 25
Rep. Noble, Hills. 2
Rep. Peternel, Carr. 6
Rep. Freeman, Belk. 8
Rep. Belcher, Carr. 4
Rep. Terry, Belk. 7
Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32
Rep. Drye, Sull. 7
May 13, 2026
2026-1945h
12/09

Floor Amendment to SB 578

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT relative to play-based curriculum and limitations on recess periods for pupils.

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5 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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7 1 Modification of Play-Based Curriculum. Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, II-a to read as follows:

8 II-a. Instruction in support of **standards for** kindergarten [~~standards~~] shall be engaging
9 and shall foster children's development and learning in all domains including physical, social,
10 cognitive, and language. Educators shall create a learning environment that facilitates high quality,
11 child-directed experiences based upon early childhood best teaching practices and play-based
12 learning that comprise movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization, and music.
13 Educators shall [~~develop literacy through guided reading and shall~~] provide unstructured time for
14 the discovery of each child's individual talents, abilities, and needs.

15 2 New Paragraph; Studies; Limitation on Denial of Recess Periods Established. Amend RSA
16 189:10 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

17 IV. A pupil shall not be denied recess by a member of the school's staff unless the pupil's
18 participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the pupil or to the physical safety of
19 one or more of the pupil's peers. If a pupil's recess period is denied for safety concerns, school staff
20 shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats and minimize exclusion from recess to the
21 greatest extent possible.

22 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect August 1, 2026.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Modifies play-based curriculum by removing the requirement that educators develop literacy through guided reading.

II. Limits withholding pupils from recess unless a pupil's participation poses a physical safety risk to the pupil or one or more of the pupil's peers.

III. Requires that school staff make all reasonable efforts to minimize a pupil's exclusion from recess to the greatest extent possible.