



# New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

**For Immediate Release:**  
June 22, 2011

**Contact:**  
Carole Alfano, 271-7585  
[carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us)

## **Senate passes education funding reform**

Legislation ends donor towns; strengthens local ability to remove under performing teachers

(Concord) On a day when many schools across the state had already let out for the summer, the Senate remained in session, passing two bills reforming education funding and teacher non-renewal. The legislation ends donor towns and strengthens local ability to remove under performing teachers.

HB 337 addresses how the state will calculate and distribute adequate education grants for the next two years and is similar in approach to SB 183, the Senate version. HB 377 maintains state aid at its current level for all school districts. For FY12 and FY13, the level of spending from the general fund will be \$578 million, plus \$363 million from the state education property tax. The legislation adds a new category of differentiated aid that includes \$675 for every student not proficient in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading, a critical point in a student's academic development. HB 337 also eliminates donor towns.

The Senate also acted on SB 196 which extends a teacher's probationary period from three to five years and requires local school districts to develop a teacher performance evaluation policy. SB 196 continues to allow teachers to seek appeal through arbitration if that language is in their current contract.

Sen. Nancy Stiles, R-Hampton, and Sen. Jim Rausch, R-Derry, were deeply involved in education reform this legislative session and co-sponsored SB 183. Commenting on HB 337 and SB 196, Stiles said, "Both pieces of legislation focus on meeting the needs of students while providing the local district with the tools to insure excellence in education." Rausch was equally pleased, saying, "This legislation will provide the stability our local communities require and it stops the perpetuation of battles between 'winning' and 'losing' communities. Most importantly though, this legislation ties our education dollars directly to the children they are meant to support."

###