



# New Hampshire General Court

**Chuck Morse**  
President of the Senate

**Shawn Jasper**  
Speaker of the House

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 6, 2016**

**Media Contacts:**

Kate Giaquinto  
[kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us)  
(603) 271-3043

Jim Rivers  
[jim.rivers@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:jim.rivers@leg.state.nh.us)  
(603) 271-3664

## **Senate President, Speaker statement on *Dover Lawsuit* decision**

Concord, NH – Today, the Sullivan County Superior Court handed down its decision in the education funding lawsuit, commonly referred to as ‘the Dover Lawsuit’. The court found the state’s adequate education funding formula caps unconstitutional, while rejecting Dover’s claim for payment of grants for years pre-dating the lawsuit.

Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) and House Speaker Shawn Jasper (R-Hudson) issued the following statements on the Court’s decision.

“The legislature continues to lead on education funding. We believe that fully funding education for New Hampshire students is important which is why the current education funding plan eliminates the cap entirely in fiscal year ‘18,” said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem). “The current law provides a funding mechanism in this fiscal year to alleviate the impact of the cap on communities by directing an additional disbursement of unspent funds from the Department of Education.”

“We continue, however, to be disappointed by the Attorney General and Governor who did not defend the state’s position on this issue, especially considering they both supported establishing the education funding cap in the first place,” added Morse.

“The reason we intervened in the Dover Lawsuit in the first place was to make sure that the legislature’s position was represented in the court,” said Speaker Shawn Jasper (R-Hudson). “The legislature has worked to restore full education funding to all towns, and today’s decision reinforces our actions to remove the cap entirely in fiscal year ‘18.”

**Background:**

**[SB 539-FN-LOCAL](#)** - AN ACT relative to the cost of an adequate education and provision of fiscal capacity disparity aid.

[Vote](#)

###