



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

As New Hampshire eighth graders and their parents consider the courses of study students will take upon entering high school, New Hampshire educators and business leaders are hoping they will carefully consider taking more rigorous classes. Recent national surveys and data indicate many students are not challenging themselves enough in high school. The result places students at a real disadvantage when seeking admission to college or trying to secure their first job.

In response, New Hampshire has joined twenty-three other states in the State Scholars Initiative. Hundreds of New Hampshire middle school and high school students have already taken the first step to preparing for their future through the New Hampshire Scholars Program. This is a Federal grant-funded program developed and administered through a partnership between the **New Hampshire College and University Council**, the **New Hampshire Forum on the Future**, the **New Hampshire Department of Education** and the **National State Scholars Initiative Network**.

<b><u>CORE COURSE OF STUDY</u></b>	<b>YEARS</b>
ENGLISH - English I, English II, English III, English IV	4
MATHEMATICS - Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	3
SCIENCE - Biology, Chemistry, Physics	3
SOCIAL STUDIES - Chosen from U.S. History I & II, World History, World Geography, Economics, Government	3.5
LANGUAGES - 2 years of the same language other than English	2

The New Hampshire Scholars Initiative partners with business leaders who present a powerful presentation that encourages students to take a more rigorous course load in high school. Students and parents then agree to a 4-year planner (a personalized education plan) to complete the recommended Core Course of Study.

“Research shows a strong positive correlation between the academic rigor of a student’s high school courses and the completion of college. Research also indicates that a high school diploma is simply no longer enough to attain the skill level necessary to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy”, reports Fred Kocher, President of the New Hampshire High Technology Council and a Scholars Partner. “Students will find that the next level of education becomes essential to their future career choices and that is especially true in New Hampshire’s high tech fields,” Kocher added.

Many top performing New Hampshire high school students are already on track with a rigorous 4-year plan and NH Scholars will recognize them. However, the New Hampshire Scholars Program will target the remaining population with the goal of increasing the number of students pursuing postsecondary education, decreasing the number of students choosing to drop out of high school, and better equipping students who choose to go directly into the workplace or the military upon graduation from high school.

Schools actively participating in New Hampshire Scholars are: **Belmont HS**, Belmont, NH – SAU #80, **Gilford HS**, Gilford, NH – SAU #73, **Kingswood Regional HS**, Wolfeboro, NH – SAU #49, **Newport HS**, Newport, NH – SAU #43, **Stevens HS**, Claremont, NH – SAU #6 and **Winnisquam Regional HS**, Tilton, NH – SAU #59.

Each school is developing a local advisory committee that will guide the implementation of the program. Schools will help their students experience “success” by developing incentives and providing recognition once the student has “successfully completed” the Core Course of Study. Each school will determine which incentives to offer and in what way(s) “successful” students will be recognized in their community. These advisory team members are being drawn from local business, school personnel, existing School-To-Work Advisory Boards, postsecondary education, parents, students and other community members. Every student graduating as a New Hampshire Scholar receives a medallion at high school graduation, electronic indication on their transcript of completion of the core course of study and the New Hampshire Scholars Seal on their diploma.

Business members are very important to the development of New Hampshire Scholars as they may:

- ❖ Serve as the state level Advisory Council to the New Hampshire Scholars Program – (The NH Forum on the Future currently serves in that capacity) or on local school advisory teams
- ❖ Deliver a PowerPoint presentation to 8<sup>th</sup> graders prior to their high school course selection
- ❖ Serve as mentors, tutors or support person with their 4-year plan; schools may develop a “scholars club” led by business leaders
- ❖ Sponsor a school, a class, a student or a school activity (breakfasts, ice cream social, Pizza Party, etc.) They may also provide tickets for events such as games, theatre, concerts, etc.
- ❖ Collaborate with school personnel on incentives & motivators to keep students engaged
- ❖ Establish job shadowing and internship opportunities (summer or school year; paid or unpaid)
- ❖ Facilitate student workshops (career planning, interviewing techniques, resume-writing, managing your finances, etc.) or parent workshops (how to help your child succeed)
- ❖ Serve on panels held at participating schools
- ❖ Help schools find ways to finance summer academies of math and/or science
- ❖ Help school personnel determine other creative ways to expand upon business participation

New Hampshire is developing a sustainability plan to ensure the core of this program continues onward. Other states have customized and adjusted State Scholars to fit their school districts. As New Hampshire Scholars progresses, we too will fine-tune this initiative to best fit the needs of our students, educators and school communities.

New Hampshire Director Scott Power projects, “As the program gets implemented, students will not only achieve success in the core courses, but they’ll also begin to go above and beyond their graduation requirements. This will not only prepare them for college, but also the challenging workforce. We hope this generation raises the bar for others to follow.”

To learn more about New Hampshire Scholars please visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) or contact: **Scott Power**, Director of New Hampshire Scholars, 603.225.4199 x300 or [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org)



*“Follow The Child”*

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