

Questions and Answers about New Hampshire Scholars Program

Q. When will the program actually start in the classrooms?

A. Business leaders have been and will continue to be recruited and trained to make the 8th grade presentations in the fall and winter of 2007 before the next round of course selection. The recommendation of coursework, however, will begin immediately through the work of the school's guidance departments and career counselors and will continue throughout the year so as to spread the word about the program.

Q. Is there a New Hampshire Scholars Web site?

A. The New Hampshire Scholars Web site is www.NHscholars.org and the national Web site is: <http://www.wiche.edu/statescholars/>.

Q. How will messages about the program be communicated to students, parents and others?

A. During the next few months, the New Hampshire Scholars staff will begin sending frequent messages and updates about the program via email, flyers, and/or messages sent home through the school. School staff will also make brochures available and exhibit posters about the program. Schools with active web pages will include information about New Hampshire Scholars on their sites.

Q. What will the New Hampshire Scholars Core Course of Study include?

- A. The national baseline for the scholars program includes:
- English - 4 years;
 - Math - 3 years, to include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II;
 - Laboratory Science - 3 years of basic Laboratory Science, to include Biology, Chemistry, and Physics;
 - Social Studies - 3.5 years, (chosen from U.S. History and World History, Geography, Economics, and Government); and
 - Foreign Language - 2 years of the same foreign language other than English.

Students who complete this Core Course of Study will be prepared both for college and work. They will also be publicly recognized as New Hampshire Scholars.

Footnote: New Hampshire is not intended to duplicate other roadmaps to graduation, such as the Gold or Silver Scholars and similar programs in participating schools. It is intended to help all high school students recognize the benefits of and commit to a more rigorous Core Course of Study. It leverages the excitement offered by being recognized as a New Hampshire Scholar to motivate students to take more challenging classes.

Q. How will we know eighth graders and others students have made a commitment to become a New Hampshire Scholar? Will they be asked to sign a commitment or pledge? If so, when will they do this?

A. Each student will receive information about the New Hampshire Scholars during the 8th grade or from their high school counselors during course selection time. They will also review a four-year planner with their counselor. At this time, they will have the opportunity to take the New Hampshire Scholars' pledge by signing the four year planner, having a parent sign the planner as well, and returning it to their counselor. Students must communicate their intention to become a New Hampshire Scholar to their high school counselor.

Q. How will the students be recognized as New Hampshire Scholars?

A. At the end of the school year, all students who have successfully completed the Core Course of Study will be recognized as New Hampshire Scholars. Each school will recognize students

during graduation ceremonies. New Hampshire Scholars' high school transcripts will indicate that they have successfully completed the Core Course of Study. Each NH Scholar will receive a medallion and a NH Scholar "Seal" on their diploma. Other forms of recognition might include special recognition in a local newspaper, coupons for local businesses or scholarships from local sponsors.

Q. What grade do I have to maintain to qualify to be a New Hampshire Scholar?

A. Just as with other courses, whatever your school considers passing is what you will have to accomplish unless your counselor tells you otherwise.

Q. How will the students be motivated and energized throughout high school to follow this course work?

A. Each district will have the opportunity to answer that question in a way that is meaningful to their students. It is our goal to help identify and support resources that, in many cases already exist or...to help create the mechanisms that will assist students in meeting their scholars' goals. Business leaders are encouraged to (and have begun to do so) coordinate monthly activities and meetings for NH Scholars providing them instant and continuous rewards.

Q. How will this program work and interact with other programs already in place at district schools?

A. The goal of New Hampshire Scholars is complementary to other initiatives in place at participating schools and school districts. We will "join" with these programs and combine messages and perhaps even volunteers.

Q: Will graduating as a NH Scholar have a direct impact on college admission decisions or financial aid?

A: With 24 states participating in State Scholars, it has become a national initiative. Colleges across the country are familiar with this program and recognize State Scholars through transcript review. Colleges in NH are well aware of this program and the rigorous course curriculum is what they are looking for. In terms of financial aid, the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) addresses this. NH Scholars eligible for the Federal Pell Grant (need-based) will automatically be eligible for an additional grant called the ACG (Academic Competitiveness Grant). Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for more info.

Q. Who is responsible for collecting student data to ensure that students have successfully completed the program?

A. New Hampshire Scholars will work with each participating school and school district to determine the best way to collect student data. At this time, schools have designated a "data collector" responsible for reporting data to State Scholars and the Department of Education.

Q. Where can I go if I have questions or concerns about the program and coursework?

A. Talk with your counselor or call the New Hampshire Scholars Program Director: **Scott Power at 603-225-4199 x300 or by e-mail at spower@nhcuc.org**

