



NH Scholars Scoop

The All-Important Core Courses

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Resources on the web in New Hampshire

- www.NHscholars.org
- www.VisitNHcolleges.org
- www.internsnh.com
- www.nhcuc.org
- www.compactNH.org
- www.NHfuture.org
- www.careertrain.com
- www.nhheaf.org
- www.makingitcount.com/educators
- www.vlacs.org (Virtual HS)
- www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see

- 4 years English
- 3 years Math (algebra I, algebra II and geometry)
- 3 years Science (biology, chemistry, physics)
- 3.5 years Social Science
- 2 years Foreign Language

There's a good reason for encouraging students to take a rigorous course of study. Studies by the U.S. Department of Education and others show a strong link between the academic intensity of students' high school course of study and postsecondary degree completion.

For example, students who'd taken four years of English scored an average of 46 points higher on the SAT verbal test than those who'd taken only three. And 40 percent of students who take algebra II earn a bachelor's degree, compared with 23 percent of those who stop with geometry.

In fact, academic intensity is a better predictor than students' high school class rank when it comes to success in college, no matter where they start college or how many

institutions they attend.

That said, there is ongoing discussion regarding whether any changes to the core listed here is necessary to best align with post-secondary and employer expectations.

The emergence of the NH Scholars Leadership Board will be announced shortly. Decisions on topics such as this will ensure the project's long-term sustainability.

Please share your feedback regarding the Scholars Core by contacting Scott Power, spower@nhcuc.org



L-R: Gary Steinbach, Debbie Tessier, Rep. Emma Rous



Mary Heath, Deputy Commissioner



Tom Zarrella, GT Solar
Michael Power, WOC

Data Shows Real Results

Nationally, the data speaks for itself. Schools participating in State Scholars have seen immediate results in course enrollment of more rigorous classes.

In just two years, districts in the state of Maryland saw a 19% increase in students completing Algebra I by 9th grade. 15% increase in algebra II; and 67% increase in students taking a fourth

year of science.

We have already seen dramatic shifts in course enrollment here in New Hampshire.

For example: Winnisquam Regional High School (Tilton, NH)

Doubled enrollment in chemistry

Junior class enrollment in chemistry grew from 35% to 75% from 2007 to 2008

Tripled enrollment in college prep physics

Senior class enrollment in CP physics jumped from 8% to 23% from 2007 to 2008

Increased enrollment in a foreign language by 25%

These advances will ultimately better prepare students for college-level work and promote problem-solving skills.



There are 13 active Scholars districts. The program began in 2007 with six pilot schools.

Statewide NH Scholar School Coordinators

Business partners have asked to have easy access to school contacts at all New Hampshire Scholar districts.

Listed are the appropriate contacts at active schools to schedule business leader presentations or join the school's business advisory council.

Claremont
Frank Sprague, Student Services
fsprague@claremont.k12.nh.us

Fall Mountain
Susan Weinert, School2Career
sweinert@sau60.org

Franklin
Mary Maloney, Guidance
mmaloney@franklin.k12.nh.us

Gilford
Deb Laliberte, School2Career
dlaliberte@gilford.k12.nh.us

Gov. Wentworth, Kingswood
Ryan Whittaker, Guidance
rwhittaker@yahoo.com

Laconia
Jackie Creed, Guidance
jcreed@laconia.k12.nh.us

Litchfield
Lesleigh Buchanan, STC
lbuchanan@litchfieldsd.org

Lin-Wood
Wendy Hamill, Guidance
whamill@lin-wood.k12.nh.us

Merrimack
Tom Putney, Tech Ed
Thomas.Putney@merrimack.k12.nh.us

Newmarket
Nancy Winterbottom, STC
WinterbottomN@newmarket.k12.nh.us

Newport
Koko Feeney, School2Career
KFeeney@newport.k12.nh.us

Shaker Regional (Belmont)
Ralph Dixon, School2Career
rdixon@shaker.k12.nh.us

Winnisquam
Gary Steinbach, School2Career
gsteinbach@wrsdsau59.org

Schools will soon be able to identify speakers from the business community on www.NHscholars.org



Connecting with Business Partners

In the coming months, New Hampshire Scholars will be enhancing the web site to include an online searchable database.

This database will fulfill a need and request from the November survey following the Business/Education Conference.

Overwhelmingly, business leaders and school coordinators wanted accessible contact information for active participants.

School contact information is listed above and will be updated online also.

The searchable database will allow schools to identify business leaders

interested in speaking, mentoring or serving on local advisory committees.

With help from our business partners we will develop an extensive list of available speakers accessible with a click of a button. Stay tuned...

Reporting Activity & Accountability

With your help, we can begin to highlight the results that other states have found to be true:

- * Students taking the core course of study score better on the NECAP and other tests
- * Course enrollment in these courses have increased

In the next few weeks, New Hampshire Scholars staff will be contacting active school districts to discuss a few items regarding "reporting activity."

With increased exposure, momentum and expansion of the program, it is becoming critical that we have a cohesive plan in place to

show progress and results at the school level.

A few items we will ask you to provide include:

- Brief annual report
- List of active business partners
- Date of recognition event this June

Within the annual report will be the number of students signed on (grades 8-12), seniors graduating as NH Scholars, and SSI-related activities in '08-'09.

We are also working on ways to streamline your *i.4.see* submissions to efficiently capture NH Scholars data.



Partnership Aimed at Transforming New Hampshire High Schools for 21st Century

New Hampshire and three other New England states have announced that they are participating in a regional partnership to ensure that the academic performance and educational attainment of every student in New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont will be competitive with their peers worldwide.

Funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will provide sup-

port to the New England Secondary School Consortium.

"We must provide 21st century opportunities to prepare our young people for 21st century jobs and 21st century lives," says Governor John Lynch. "This initiative ensures we are providing more New Hampshire young people with those opportunities.

The consortium has set five goals including: (1) increasing the graduation rate to

90%; (2) decreasing the drop-out rate to less than 1%; (3) increasing the percentage of students enrolling in college to 80%; (4) reducing the need for college remedial courses to 5%; (5) ensuring more students who enter college graduate from college.

New Hampshire Scholars mirrors many of these goals and looks forward to supporting the efforts of the consortium as we better prepare each student.



Incentives for State Scholars Students

We are always looking for ways to provide incentives and/or rewards to our students for challenging themselves through a rigorous course of study.

These incentives may come in simple forms of exclusive school activities or lunches, or may include various prizes.

For example, students at Winnisquam Regional High School raising the most funds in a February State Scholars fundraiser will receive complimentary Celtics tickets from a local partner.

When meeting with your business advisory committee, think creatively

about ways to reward your State Scholars.

For those schools who expressed interest in participating, New Hampshire Scholars students will be recognized at the April 4th Manchester Monarchs hockey game. Students receive free game tickets.

Scholarship opportunity

Do you have any New Hampshire Scholars students who are also athletes? Check out the scholarship opportunity from the NH Fisher Cats Scholarship Foundation.

http://www.nhfishercats.com/uploadcache/2009_fisher_cats_application.pdf

Step Taken Towards Long-Term Sustainability

New Hampshire's leaders are committed to the State Scholars Initiative. And to ensure that the program continues to expand and enhance programming, New Hampshire Scholars has received funding from the Federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG).

The grant program was

created as part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRA) of 2007.

CACG is designed to support states in helping students and families to learn about, prepare for, and finance a postsecondary education.

This funding will enable New Hampshire Scholars to add additional school districts and sustain the initiative for years to come.

The goal of the project continues to be that every district in the state becomes a State Scholar school district.



Three NH Scholars were recognized in the national publication. [Click here for the full story.](#)



State Scholars Initiative

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College Ready, Work Ready, Ready for Life.



New Hampshire Scholars is part of the State Scholars Initiative, a national program that brings business leaders into the classroom to motivate students, beginning in Grade 8, to complete a rigorous course of study in high school—one that will give them a boost in college and careers. New Hampshire Scholars encourages and motivates **ALL** high school students to complete a rigorous course of study that prepares them for college and career.



This is a Federal grant-funded program developed and administered through a partnership between the New Hampshire College and University Council, Campus Compact for New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Forum on the Future, the New Hampshire Department of Education and the National State Scholars Initiative Network (WICHE).

Visit www.NHscholars.org for more information.

Click on the "Resources" tab for archived newsletters.

Educators to Obama: Focus on 21C skills

A survey of educators suggests 21st-century skills should be top priority

As President-elect Barack Obama tackles economic stability, his education reform plan has the potential to modernize library technologies, make school buildings more energy-efficient, and invest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and research.

Yet, according to a recent survey, educators say addressing 21st-century (21C) skills should top the list of priorities in Obama's plan, so students are prepared for the workplace of tomorrow.

"While education might not be front and center to the immediate economic crisis, educators want to remind President Obama that K-12 students need to be a top priority so that our nation can produce a globally competitive workforce for

the future," said Maurice Ghysels, chair of ASQ's K-12 Education Advisory Committee.

More than half (52 percent) of educators surveyed ranked 21C skills as the most important priority for the new administration- skills such as the ability to collaborate, innovate, create, and learn about technology.

Two issues tied for second place in the survey: retaining qualified teachers and helping all students meet achievement goals (42 percent).

Another recent ASQ study, conducted by Harris Interactive, shows that other adults agree with educators that schools are not making 21st-century skills a priority.

In fact, 96 percent of adults believe that students today need to improve

upon the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. Skills listed by adults and parents as needing more development include organizational skills, communication skills, problem solving and reasoning, creativity, teamwork, and science and technology skills.

Locally in New Hampshire, active State Scholars districts have taken a giant step towards developing 21st-century skills in our New Hampshire Scholars students.

Thank you to our business partners for helping with this.

Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, says the \$5 billion allocated to education in the stimulus package will reinvent education for the 21st century. Money is aimed at improving academic standards, improving data systems to track student success, boosting teacher effectiveness and supporting struggling schools.