

June 2008  
Volume 8

STATE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE



# NH Scholars Scoop

## Seniors Graduate with State Scholars Recognition

The New Hampshire Scholars Initiative continues to build momentum across the state. Having added four new school districts this year, New Hampshire now has ten participating districts. Last spring, six pilot schools graduated 72 seniors who completed the State Scholars core course of study. This June, at those same six pilot schools, 104 seniors were recognized.

Three New Hampshire high schools dramatically increased their totals from last year's graduation ceremonies. Winnisquam Regional High School increased the number of New Hampshire Scholars from 2 to 14; Belmont High School's total rose from 6 to 26; and Kingswood Regional High School increased the total number of SSI graduates from 4 to 26. These schools have seen substantial increases in enrollment in chemistry and physics courses, as well as foreign language.

New Hampshire's four new high schools recognized 41 Scholars in their first year bringing the state total to 145. These students were recognized at various senior award nights at the beginning of June.



Winnisquam Regional High School scholars and business partners at the June 10th senior award night. All fourteen New Hampshire Scholars at WRHS received either scholarship book awards or laptops from participating business partners.

## Data for Spring 2008 Due August 1st

Data collection from the four pilot schools is due on **August 1, 2008**. However, we encourage all schools to upload data. Longitudinal trends are useful to show progress and growth. [www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see)  
For questions on uploading data contact Scott Power or

## Planning for Fall 2008

As school districts wrap up the '07-'08 year, why not get a head start on the '08-'09 campaign? Schools are encouraged to utilize their freshman orientation days to launch State Scholars to incoming ninth graders.

Many of the districts hold freshman orientation in August or early September and what better way to instill the importance of course rigor and curriculum planning than at orientation? Take this opportunity to infuse the expectation of challenging course work and to develop a 4-year educational plan.

## Why School Business Partnerships?

Partnerships between businesses and schools are growing in numbers and importance, often determining the success of schools and the health of the community. Nationwide, there are an estimated 400,000 partnerships involving more than 7 million volunteers in our nation's elementary and secondary schools.

The effort to establish high academic standards and work ready skills continues to be a priority agenda item of the business and education community. Today's education that results in student success, inside and outside the classroom, does not occur by accident. It happens through planning by all stakeholders to develop shared visions and strategies to carry the collaboration

**Did You Know?** That New Hampshire Scholars has partnered more than 50 businesses and 65 business leaders with the ten Scholars school districts to date. We encourage all schools to strengthen their business advisory councils this summer.



## State Scholars Initiative

Scott Power, Director  
 New Hampshire Scholars  
 3 Barrell Court  
 Suite 100  
 Phone: 603.225.4199 x.300  
 Fax: 603.225.8109  
 E-mail: [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org)

College Ready, Work Ready, Ready for Life.



Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for more information.  
 Click on the "Resources" tab for archived newsletters.

**New Hampshire Scholars is part of the State Scholars Initiative, a national program that uses business leaders 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 careers.**

A MEMBER OF THE STATE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE NATIONAL NETWORK



*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.*

### Is it too late to start saving for college?

It's never too late. For parents of 8th, 9th and 10th graders, starting to save now means less you have to borrow later. The 529 College Savings Plan is the best college investment you can make. It has minimal impact on financial aid forms, meaning parents aren't penalized for saving. For those parents who think they can't afford to save; they can't afford not to. Visit [www.savingforcollege.org](http://www.savingforcollege.org) for more information on 529 Plans.

# New SAT is about the same as the old one

It wasn't long ago that everyone was buzzing about the "new SAT" which included a writing section. The latest word about the new SAT? It gives colleges about the same information as the old one did.

Last week, the College Board announced that the recent changes in the SAT had not substantially altered how accurately it predicts first-year grades. The news prompted applause from the test's proponents, scorn from its critics, and little surprise from admissions deans.

Officials at the College

Board, the nonprofit organization that owns the test, say the research affirms that revisions to the exam—including the addition of a writing section—did not diminish its value to admissions offices. The research also found that the new writing section was more predictive of freshman grade-point averages than the other two sections, critical reading and math.

So far, colleges have had a mixed response to the writing section, which includes a 25-minute essay. In a recent *Chronicle* survey of admissions officials, 32 percent of those who

require or consider test scores said the writing test had "no influence" on their evaluation of applicants, while 17 percent said they had "great influence."

"More information is better than less information," Martin A. Wilder Jr., VP of Enrollment at the University of Mary Washington said. "But we would never make an admissions decision based solely on test scores."

Some admissions deans have long argued that freshman-year grades are a limited measure of success in college. Scores would interest them more if they

could predict who would become an "interesting thinker."

Perhaps the most significant changes in the SAT affect students—not colleges. The revised test lasts three hours and 45 minutes (45 minutes longer than its predecessor) and costs \$45, up from \$29.50.

So, the longtime debate continues over standardized tests. But this remains true: four years of a rigorous high school curriculum (aka: the student's transcript) is the most important piece of the college application process.