



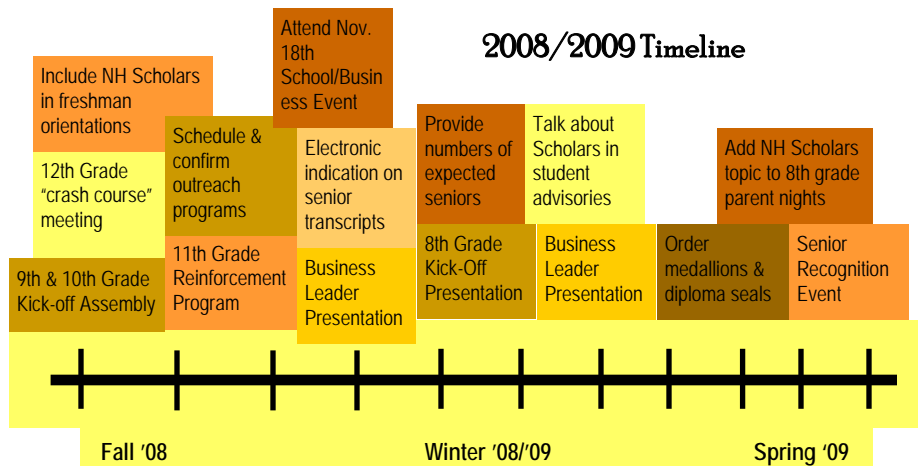
# NH Scholars Scoop

## Seamless Integration

Rigor and relevance is not a fad. This is the big picture. New Hampshire Scholars brings the goals of both school administrators, teachers, guidance and the business community together.

New Hampshire Scholars is simply an extension of the services schools already provide to students. There are several ongoing commitments that we can be doing throughout the year.

- Personalized counseling of student's 4-year plan
- Develop and strengthen business partnerships
- Schedule outreach presentations on topics such as college planning, career exploration, while reinforcing the expectations of rigorous course work
- Schedule business presentations to reinforce the message. Notice only 2 are listed below, but we encourage 5-7 business programs per academic year
- Include NH Scholars message in student advisory periods
- Incorporate NH Scholars message on school's web site and in monthly newsletters
- Keep accurate record of how many students sign on as NH Scholars



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### Resources on the web in New Hampshire

- [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org)
- [www.VisitNHcolleges.org](http://www.VisitNHcolleges.org)
- [www.internsnh.com](http://www.internsnh.com)
- [www.nhcuc.org](http://www.nhcuc.org)
- [www.compactNH.org](http://www.compactNH.org)
- [www.NHfuture.org](http://www.NHfuture.org)
- [www.collegeaccess.org](http://www.collegeaccess.org)
- [www.collegereadyne.org](http://www.collegereadyne.org)
- [www.vlacs.org](http://www.vlacs.org) (Virtual HS)
- [www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see)

## Schools & Businesses Will Convene

On Tuesday, November 18th nearly 150 educators and business leaders will gather in Concord for a breakfast event promoting school/business partnerships.

All K-12, Higher Ed and business professionals are

invited to attend. The event is free. Attendees will hear from dynamic speakers on ways to strengthen school/business collaborations. The event is sure to heighten awareness of the importance of working together

towards the common goal of better preparing our youth.

### Register today!

[www.nhcuc.org/reg\\_nhcuc.org](http://www.nhcuc.org/reg_nhcuc.org) or contact Scott Power for more information on this free event.



Physics is more than science. It develops critical thinking and problem solving skills... which all of us need in the competitive job market.

## Why Physics?

Many people ask why physics is part of the State Scholars Core Course of Study: is it really that important to postgraduate success in college, work, and life? The answer is yes, according to researchers, employers, and high school graduates.

Studies show that the intensity of a high school curriculum truly matters for those who plan to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Students who complete three or more units of labo-

ratory sciences also have a higher likelihood of completing a rigorous high school curriculum. According to the National Assessment of Educational Practice, physics is key to science proficiency. When researchers studied the effect of high school course-taking in science, they found that students who took physics had higher science proficiency scores than did students who only took chemistry and biology.

### Employers Seek Graduates with Science Knowledge

Nearly 70 percent of employers surveyed for a 2005 report said that high school graduate entrants into the workforce were "deficient" in critical thinking and problem solving, defined as the ability to "exercise sound reasoning and analytical thinking; use knowledge, facts, and data to solve workplace problems; [and] apply math and science concepts to problem solving." Physics develops these skills and habits of mind.

Source: *Answers in the Toolbox*



A collaboration of the NH College & University Council and Campus Compact for NH

Our mission is to increase opportunities for under-represented students in NH. Join us at our next meeting on December 3rd!

## Project ARC (Access, Retention, Completion)

On the surface, the New Hampshire Scholars Initiative is a college and career readiness program with a strong emphasis on rigor and relevance. But to successfully accomplish the goals of the initiative we must ensure that all students have access to the necessary information.

We look to New Hampshire

Scholar graduates to successfully complete their rigorous program and in turn be better prepared for higher education—if this happens retention is high.

That is why, New Hampshire Scholars is involved with *Project ARC*, a college access initiative of the *NH College & University Council* and *Campus Compact* for

*NH*, encouraging K-12, Higher Education institutions and community-based organizations to work collaboratively on common goals.

*Project ARC* invites you to participate in advisory and partnership groups via quarterly meetings.

Visit [www.nhcuc.org](http://www.nhcuc.org) for more information or email [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org)

*The risk of over-simplifying financial aid forms is that those giving aid will have a more difficult time directing scarce scholarship dollars to those who need them the most. Complex forms are a trade-off for accurately targeting aid.*

## Financial Aid—An Easier FAFSA Form?

Although the politically popular goal of simplifying financial aid simplification is getting press, the reality is that won't happen in the near future. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings made headlines this week by saying she would cut down the 10-page, 145-question [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) to a quick two-page, 27-question form. That won't happen anytime

soon. The Department of Education has already drafted the FAFSA parents and students will have to fill out starting January 2009, and—surprise, surprise—it is seven questions longer than this year's form. Some conclude that simplifying the FAFSA (by using tax information instead) could save colleges more than \$2 billion and encourage more students to earn degrees.

Robert Shireman, president of the Institute for College Access and Success, says he's hoping for an even simpler idea: Allowing families to simply use their IRS filings as their financial aid application. "The goal is to eliminate the difficult, show-stopper questions that require the applicant to do research or to be a tax expert," Shireman says.

Source: *U.S. News & World Report*



# Survey Results say Business Leaders Want an Invite into Schools

Last month, business leaders in regions of the 11 State Scholar school districts were surveyed on various topics such as school involvement, types of presentations and communication preferences.

All business leaders surveyed were either active in State Scholars or willing to participate in some capacity.

**Seventy-percent (70%)** of volunteers preferred a direct invitation from the school district for classroom involvement.

While all business leaders surveyed were aware of the State Scholars Initiative, **nine-percent (9%)** surveyed were not aware that schools were looking for presenters or mentors.

*What does this all mean?*  
This indicates what we have presumed all along: local business leaders are not only **interested** in the success of our students, but they are **willing** to get involved in various ways to help schools better prepare our students. Businesses understand that

students of today are tomorrow's workforce. While business leaders feel it is partly their responsibility to help shape today's students, it is the school district's responsibility to reach out and invite them into the classroom.

Take this opportunity to strengthen collaboration. Both schools and businesses are encouraged to reach out to each other. Our students benefit most when we work together.

**Survey results show that business leaders want to get involved.**

*64% would serve on an advisory committee*

*64% would host job shadows or site visits*

*55% would provide school presentations*

## Resources for School Partners

By 2012, 88% of New Hampshire's fastest growing jobs will require postsecondary education. With the growing need for students to begin preparing for college earlier, consider these resources to assist your students on their road to college.

- NH Next Magazine ["Should I Be Taking More Rigorous Courses?"](#)
- College.gov [Student-friendly site encouraging all students to pursue higher education.](#)
- New Futures [Recently launched a college and career website designed specifically for middle school students.](#)

- FAFSA4caster [Families need to plan for college expenses. Determine how much they're expected to pay long before they even apply for aid.](#)
- CampusTours.com [Today's students live in the world of social marketing and multimedia. Take a tour of campuses that are out of driving distance.](#)



**Your success. Your Future.**  
You know what you want to get out of life. So how are you going to get there? The answer is New Hampshire Scholars.

*Request NH-specific materials for your next State Scholars presentation*

## Core Course of Study

What if you could change the core course of study? What classes would it include? Would you increase or decrease any of the "years" required?

This is exactly what some states have done after the initial period. Maryland only requires 3 years of social studies, but demands a minimum 2.5 GPA, with special

recognition to students with a 3.5. Massachusetts has added a fourth year of math. Other states have included CTE credits or community service as requirements.

The core course of study is universal in that it includes what years of research has concluded are the critical areas of study necessary to attain high-level skills.

*But now it's your turn.*  
New Hampshire Scholars wants to ensure that all schools and all students can successfully participate and that any changes to increase flexibility does not diminish academic rigor.

[Contact Scott Power](#) with your suggestions of what NH's core course of study should look like.

SSI Core Course of Study	
Courses	Years
<b>ENGLISH</b> English I, II, III, IV	4
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	3
<b>SCIENCE</b> Biology, Chemistry, Physics	3
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> Chosen from US History, World History, World Geography, Economics, Government, etc.	3.5
<b>LANGUAGES</b> Foreign language other than English	2



## 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.

Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for more information.

Click on the "Resources" tab for archived newsletters.

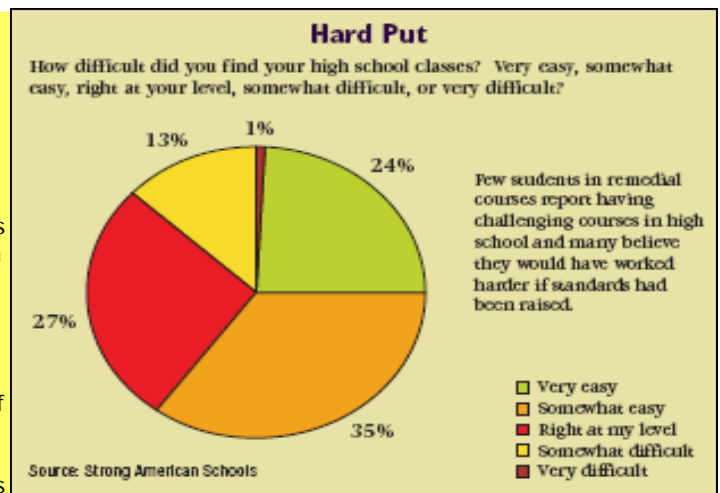
# More Than One-Third of All College Students Need Remedial Classes *(Have we challenged them enough?)*

Source: *Diploma to Nowhere* by Strong American Schools

A hoax is being played on America. The public believes that a high school diploma shows that a student is ready for college-level academics. Parents believe it too. So do students. But when high school graduates enroll in college as many as one million students fail placement exams every year. Well over one third of all college students need remedial courses in order to acquire basic academic skills. In many ways, the problem is that we haven't challenged our students. They are not graduating high school with the high-level skills required by colleges and employers. A high school degree no longer demonstrates that a graduate

is ready for college. Students' inadequate preparation for higher education has become a widespread problem. Some of the nation's most selective universities—like the University of Wisconsin, Madison—now test all incoming students to determine who needs extra academic help. Ivy League universities like Dartmouth College offer year-long remedial courses in writing.

It is estimated that the cost of remediation per student is between \$1,607 and \$2,008 for public two-year institutions and between \$2,025 and \$2,531 for public four-year institutions. From these data, colleges are spending \$2.31 to \$2.89 billion in total educational costs.



That said, the students who enroll in remedial education include some of the nation's most motivated students. A 2008 survey of remedial students found that: Nearly four out of five remedial students had a high school grade point average of 3.0 or higher. More than half described themselves as good students who worked hard and nearly always completed high school assignments.