

NH Scholars Scoop

National State Scholars Summit Helps Define Academic Rigor

On April 28th, more than 30 state teams from across the country convened in Boston to discuss ways to increase academic rigor and to improve academic relevance in high school. New Hampshire's team strategized about our sustainability plan as we aim to address the 3 R's: **Rigor, Relevance & Relationships**.

As we move closer to a statewide core course of study that suits every district, a definition of rigor evolved:

Rigor is a combination of academic intensity in math, reading for content, writing and specific subject matter. Rigor includes access to the full range of content and the demonstration of student mastery of which is supported by quality teaching.

New Hampshire Scholars continues to build on the progress we have made. We aim to be a leader in encouraging families to start earlier, embrace challenging content and providing a seamless transition to Higher Ed institutions.

Data for Spring 2008 Due August 1st

Data collection from the four pilot schools is due on **August 1, 2008**. We encourage all schools to upload data. Longitudinal trends are useful to show progress and growth. www.ed.state.nh.us/f4see For questions on uploading data

Recognition Time for Seniors

Last year seventy-two (**72**) seniors graduated as NH Scholars from the six pilot schools. This year one-hundred thirteen (**113**) will graduate from those same schools. This is a testament to the hard work of the students, counselors and business mentors. Great job and congratulations.

One-hundred fifty-one (**151**) seniors (not including Merrimack or Newmarket) will wear medallions at graduation this June. Through ongoing reinforcement activities, this number will increase each year.

Welcome Litchfield Schools

The Litchfield School District becomes the 10th in New Hampshire to sign on as active participants. Current 8th graders will be introduced to the program at their freshman orientation event in August. Campbell High School will jumpstart the initiative by recognizing seniors this June who have completed the State Scholars Core Course of Study. Campbell Principal, Bob Manseau says that his goal is to increase academic rigor across the student body.

Congratulations, Litchfield.

They join Franklin, Merrimack, Newmarket, Gilford, Winnisquam, Belmont, Kingswood, Newport and Claremont as NH Scholar districts.



Create a Speaker's Bureau for Your Students

As New Hampshire Scholars recognizes its second graduating class this spring, it's time to assess what other resources we can provide to our students. **Business mentors** play a critical role in reinforcing the importance of academic rigor. But there are other outreach efforts to offer your students as well. We encourage a variety of speakers throughout the year, including business activities, **college** outreach, **career** training, **peer** mentoring, etc.

Next year we ask that you track your school's outreach. We will provide a user-friendly form to do so. We also plan to launch an outreach program in collaboration with our partner Campus Compact for New Hampshire. Stay tuned. As you assemble your

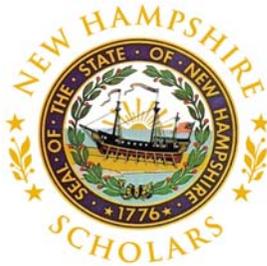
Did You Know? When a school district signs on with State Scholars, The Office of Postsecondary Education, which administers the Academic Competitiveness Grants, is also notified. This certifies eligibility and connects NH State Scholars with the FAFSA.



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

College Ready, Work Ready, Ready for Life.



Visit 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.



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.

Congratulations!

Kingswood RHS increased NH Scholars graduates from 4 in '07 to **36 this year**.

Winnisquam increased last year's total of 2 to **14 this year**.

Belmont went from 6 in '07 to **26 in '08**

Ideas From Other States

New Hampshire can learn from what other states have found to be successful. Check out some of the strategies other states have used.

Tennessee: TN Scholars receive free tuition to all of their Technology Centers. These credits can transfer to community colleges.

Utah: State matches up to \$400 per year towards student's 529 Plan. Campus Compact VISTAS provide classroom presentations.

Kentucky: Target schools in communities served by community colleges. Scholarships from these colleges follow.

Indiana: Three-tiered diploma program—basic, advanced and technical honors.

South Dakota: Passed through legislation. State provides \$5000 scholarship for completing Core Courses.

New Hampshire is working diligently on its own plan!

Best Practices

What Other NH Schools Have Implemented

Every school district has the ability to customize their State Scholar program, from outreach presentations and activities to incentives and recognition events. This is the New Hampshire way.

At the March retreat we learned about some of the strategies Winnisquam Regional High School has implemented. Here are a few other best practices from districts across the state to consider adopting:

- Engraved medallions with student name and YOG on the back
- Plaque for school lobby showcasing NH Scholars
- Senior celebration honors (laptops, book awards, scholarships)
- Monthly school-business partnership meetings aimed at developing ongoing activities and incentives for students
- NH Scholars Jeopardy Game (*contact Scott Power for access to the PowerPoint*)
- Required community service or extra curricular involvement for New Hampshire Scholars
- Fundraiser development to assist with activities and recognition awards
- Placing NH Scholars watermark seal on the high school transcript (*note: Fall 2008 seniors should all have NH Scholar indication on their transcript in time for college application season*)
- Incorporate Project Running Start into State Scholars objectives
- Promote Virtual High School as viable option to supplement core courses www.vlacs.org
- Structured series of ongoing workshops and presentations from various outreach services