

**Subject:** Equity in school funding

**Date:** Monday, November 30, 2020 at 11:57:56 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Marsha Morrow

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

Please accept the proposal that will help retirees such as myself whose taxes are climbing higher and higher each year and all school districts to fairly and equitably offer a sound education for future adult voters.

Marsha Morrow

Sent from my iPad

**Subject:** Commission to Study School Funding 11/30 Zoom Info Reminder  
**Date:** Monday, November 30, 2020 at 7:20:57 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**CC:** School Funding Commission

For those interested and able to attend, here is the information for today's 2pm Commission meeting:

Here is the zoom information for this afternoon's 2pm meeting:

Zoom link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97388734853>

OR

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799
2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 973 8873 4853 #

Thank you for following the Commission's work,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

  
[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Response to the Commission's Report on School Funding  
**Date:** Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 2:04:47 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Tara Coakley  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** NH School Funding Fairness Project  
**Attachments:** School Funding letter.docx

**Caution - External Email**

To Members of the Commission to Study School Funding,

Attached please find my response to the draft report your Commission issued. Please include my comments in the public record.

Thank you.

Tara Coakley  
2 Waterview Circle  
Litchfield, NH 03052

**Subject:** Draft of the Commission to Study School Funding

**Date:** Friday, November 27, 2020 at 8:13:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Lucy Natkiel

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

I have read the final draft of the report of the Commission to Study School Funding, and I write to support the five suggestions made by the New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project to strengthen the document.

1. The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers, putting an end to the tremendous disparities in rates of taxation from town to town. I live in the town of Hill. The property taxes are killing us. Our rates are 4 times what they are in larger, richer communities. There are people in town who want to close our elementary school, thinking they will save money, and it's tearing the community apart.
2. The report should specify a specific revenue source. A state-wide property tax that would be distributed equitably amongst all the communities sounds good to me. I know that rich communities would squeal "like stuck pigs", as my grandfather used to say. Those communities would wind up paying higher tax rates than they currently do, but they make up roughly 26% of NH towns. They won't vote for higher taxes, but the other 74% of NH towns never voted to pay more money to educate NH children. As far as I am concerned, a child in Berlin or Hill is no less worthy of support from his or her State than is a child in Moultonboro or Portsmouth.
3. The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.
4. I was shocked when I realized that the Commission's report fails to reflect the substance of the results of all of the school funding litigation. By referring to rulings that state plainly that the State of NH must pay for the full cost of providing a Constitutionally adequate education as "*advisory language*" is a travesty. If the State adopts this notion, then this whole Commission and the years of work since the first Claremont case have been an expensive waste of time. This language creates a loophole that is a highway for doing nothing, changing nothing. I remember how excited I was when the Claremont rulings came down. We were told that the State would pay for an adequate education for our children. And I remember how disgusted I was when the legislature went right to work figuring out how they could redefine "adequate" to minimize what that meant.
5. "Justice delayed is justice denied". Let's get moving.

My name is Lucianna Natkiel, and I have lived in the town of Hill since 1972. I have raised two sons here. When I realized that I was expecting a child, my first thought was, "Oh my God, I'm going to be a mother!" My second thought was, "Oh my God, I'm in the Franklin school district!" It shouldn't be this way.

Respectfully,  
Lucianna Natkiel

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\*Please note new email address\*

**Subject:** Hey

**Date:** Friday, November 27, 2020 at 1:13:29 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Ashley Johnson

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

I hope you could find the time to look this over,

May you, your friends and family remain safe by considering the proper precautions as we venture in to troubling and confusing times as we witness a pandemic unfold with the COVID virus.

Maybe there is something more deeper going on with all of this? May we be seeing the signs of the times being revealed? May this be a door of opportunity for people to open up their heart to what God wants us to hear?

Jesus says to His disciples speaking on the last days, "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:7-8).

We have been witnessing a record setting amount of Earthquakes world-wide in various places, including places that normally do not have Earthquakes. Now with COVID-19, may this be one of the pestilences that will come upon us in the last generation as spoken by Jesus? Where will it leave our economy? Did you know that the word of God explains that physical money will be no more in the last generation? May this be a vital stepping stone in making this all happen?

If you watch the news stations on TV, you may have seen on the NBC news station just months ago concerning the implantable RFID microchip that is gaining ground in Sweden where people are getting this microchip implanted in their hand.

Would you allow a microchip to be placed inside your body that has the ability to track where you go and what you do? How about if you knew it matched perfectly with Bible prophecy where God warns us not to take it during the future reign of the Antichrist, otherwise we will receive the fullness of His wrath (Revelation 14:9-11)?

This may be the most important message you will read in these times...please do not ignore this! This message reveals what the Mark of the Beast is, and the meaning behind counting a number people have been pondering for centuries, 666. This is truly a message from God!

In the Revelation of Jesus Christ given to the apostle John, we read:

...."And he (the false prophet who deceives many by his miracles) causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:16-18 BRG).....

Referring to the last times, this could only be referring to a cashless society, which has yet to occur, but we are getting close to. Why so? Otherwise we would be able to buy or sell without accepting the mark of the beast among one another if physical money was still valid. It logically deduces itself to this reason.

The mark of the beast can't be spiritual, because the word references two separate physical places. If it was to be spiritual, the text would only conclude one place.

Here is where it really starts to come together. It is shocking how accurate the Bible is concerning the RFID microchip. These are notes from a man named Carl Sanders who worked with a team of engineers to help develop this microchip in the late 1960's.

Mr. Carl Sanders sat in 17 New World Order conferences with heads of state officials such as Henry Kissinger and Bob Gates of the C.I.A. to discuss their agenda on how to bring forth this one-world system. The US government commissioned Mr. Sanders to invent a microchip for identifying and controlling the peoples of the world-a microchip that might be placed under the skin with a hypodermic needle (a fast, convenient process that would be gradually received by the people).

Mr. Sanders, along with a team of engineers behind him, with U.S. grant monies supplied by US tax dollars, took on this assignment and produced a microchip which is powered by a lithium battery, rechargeable by the temperature changes in our skin. With out the understanding of the holy Bible (Mr. Sanders was not a believer at the time), these engineers spent one and a half million dollars doing research on the best and most convenient place to have the microchip placed below the skin.

These researchers found that the forehead and the back of the hand (the two places Revelation says the mark will be received) aren't only the most convenient spots, however are also the only viable places for rapid, steady temperature changes inside the skin to recharge the lithium battery. The microchip is about 7 millimeters in length, .75 millimeters in diameter, about the dimensions of a grain of rice. It's capable of holding many pages of details about you. All of your general history, work history, crime data, health data, and financial data could be saved on this microchip.

Carl Sanders believes that this microchip, which he regretfully helped develop, is the "beast's mark" mentioned in Revelation 13:16-18. The original Greek word for "mark" is "charagma," which is defined as a "scratch or etching." Additionally it is interesting to notice that the number 666 is actually a word in the original Greek. The word is "chi xi stigma," with the final part, "stigma," also meaning "to stick or prick. Carl believes this is alluding to the use of a hypodermic needle being poked into a person to insert the microchip."

Mr. Sanders asked a Boston Medical Center doctor what would happen if the lithium contained within the RFID microchip leaked into the body. The doctor responded that if the microchip broke inside a human body, the lithium would cause a severe and painful wound filled with pus. This is what the scriptures of Revelation 16:2 has to say:

"And the first (angel) went, and poured out his bowl into the earth; and it became a noisome and grievous sore upon the men that had the mark of the beast, and that worshipped his image" (Revelation 16:2 ASV).

#### THE HIDDEN MEANING BEHIND THE NUMBER 666 REVEALED!

The holy scriptures tell us we will not be able to buy or sell with out accepting the mark, or the number of its name. Which is the number of the beast, 666. Scripture tells us to count the number 666. How may we count 666?

Here is where it all tops off. Calculating the number 666 has been long discussed all throughout the history of the world, however has finally been uncovered in these final times by the revelation of God. What you will see confirms itself with the holy scriptures the true interpretation to count 666.

Throughout the scriptures, God uses the number three for confirmation. Allow me to share some examples:

..."For three be, that give witnessing in heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three be one" (1 John 5:7 WYC)....

..."and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:4

NKJV)....

...."Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8 NKJV)....

Now what is interesting is the the mark of the beast is revealed in detail in 3 separate verses (Revelation 13:16,17,18), and every verse lists 3 different examples of the given topic. The final 3 being the number 6 used 3 times in a row. This is a key point to deciphering the way to count the number 666.

What does it suggest to count 666? It means to add up. So how might we add up 666? Remember my prior factor regarding God confirming in threes. Now logically, what can be the most reasonable way to count the number 666? To add it up equally in threes based off the number. It is not rational to count it equally as  $600+60+6$ , this would also take us back to the start. We can't count it as  $600+600+600$ , or  $60+60+60$ , because there are no zeroes in between or at the end of 666. The only sensible option is  $6+6+6=18$ . What is interesting is that the verse that tells us to count the number of the beast itself is verse 18, being the 3rd verse out of 3 verses that describe the mark of the beast. Now what is 18 divided by 3? 6. So  $3 \times 6=18$ , or  $6+6+6=18$ .

Yet another fascinating key point is that the two other possible combinations (bringing a combined total of 3 possible combinations) for moving the plus symbol in between the sixes are  $66+6=72$ , and  $6+66=72$ . Add both 72's together and you get 144. Why the number 144 is interesting is because the verse following Revelation 13:18 is the first time in the Holy Bible where the 144,000 are being described in detail:

...."And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty and four thousand, having his name, and the name of his Father, written on their foreheads" (Revelation 14:1 ASV)....

Now if you add up all 3 numbers by counting 666 by shifting the plus symbol around in all 3 possible combinations, we would get  $72+72+18=162$ . What is fascinating about the number 162, is, if you divide 144,000 by 162, you get 888. The name for Jesus in Greek gematria adds up to 888. The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. Revelation 14:1 not only mentions the 144,000, but also the Lamb who is Jesus.

Now what's fascinating about the the number for Jesus, 888, is that if you apply this same system, you get  $8+8+8=24$ . Why the number 24? Revelation 4 tells us there are 24 elders seated around the throne of God. That is the same throne where Jesus sits:

"Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads" (Revelation 4:2-4).

Now if you take  $8+8+8=24$ , and  $8+88=96$ , and  $88+8=96$ , you get  $24+96+96=216$ . Take 144,000 divided by 216 and you get 666. Take into account that this was the same exact method to get the value 162 out of counting 666 that brought about the value 888 when dividing 144,000 by 162. It's perpetual.

By making use of the same formulation of counting by including the plus symbol in between the numbers, why do all these numbers relate in such a manner?

The book of Revelation contains the use of the number 7 in various forms. For instance 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls. What is interesting about the number 37 (three sevens) is if you divide any number that contains the same single digit three times in a row, such as 111 to 999, it comes out to the value of if you were to add all three numbers up. For example 888 divided by 37 equals 24. So  $8+8+8=24$ . Or 666 divided by 37 equals 18. So  $6+6+6=18$ . Could this be another way of God's word confirming itself that the mystery behind calculating the number 666 indeed is 18?

Yet another interesting factor to notice is that if you add up all of the numbers from 1 to 36 ( $1+2+3...+36$ ), it totals 666. The number 36, as in three sixes? Might this be a hint that we ought to add up three sixes as opposed to perceiving the number as six-hundred sixty six?

So what might this suggest? We know in this world we're identified by numbers in numerous forms. From our birth certificate to our social security card, also with our drivers license, being identified based on a system of ruler ship. So it's possible that this RFID chip will include a new identification that has a complete total of 18 characters.

"here the wisdom is, the one having the mind let him calculate the number of the wild beast, number for "of human" it is, and the number of it 666" (Revelation 13:1, Greek Translation).

The Greek word "anthrōpos" being used in verse 18 where it says "of human" is the Greek strong's concordance G444. The first two definitions of the word are "a human being, whether male or female", and, "generically, to include all human individuals". Could the number of the beast apply to all mankind?

In the Greek (the New Testament was originally written in the Greek language), and other translations, you will notice the beast is described as an "it", instead of "him". The reason I'm making this point is because when a translation says "His number is 666", this would imply a singular person, the Antichrist. But by saying "the number of it 666", implies that it is of the beast system as a whole.

We can know the number of the beast cannot be to identify products (like a new barcode) to buy or sell because scripture says we cannot buy or sell without the number of the beast. What am I getting at? There will be instances where you could buy something someone made themselves and it wouldn't have a store branded identification on it. But for this number to be in our chips, that is where it must be to conclude ultimately that we cannot buy or sell without having the number of the beast. As previously mentioned in Revelation 13:18, the number of the beast (6+6+6=18) is a "human number", definition "generically, to include all human individuals".

Might this be the identification of the beast, the number of its name? The one-world beast system that is identified by 18 characters? This is able to fit the scriptures that speaks of a mark that we ought to have to buy or sell in our right hand or forehead, and that it additionally includes the number of the beast, throughout a future cashless money society.

Go to: <http://bible-freedom.org> | <http://voice-truth.org> | <http://revolutionbible.org> to see all the proof!

The Bible warns us in the last days that a false prophet will rise up doing miracles deceiving many to acquire the beast's mark:

...."But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur" (Revelation 19:20 NIV)....

At all costs, DO NOT TAKE IT!

"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:9-11).

We're dwelling in very prophetic times with very important Biblical prophecies being fulfilled.

When Donald Trump acknowledged Jerusalem as capital of Israel in December of 2017, this was a large step to bring about the Third Temple prophesied in the Holy Bible.

God's holy Word's warns us that the Antichrist will seat himself in this temple:



"...and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

Within the Islamic faith, there is a man referred to as the Mahdi, referred to as their messiah who they're awaiting to appear. There are a number of testimonies from individuals online who consider this man will be Barack Obama who is to be the biblical Antichrist. I myself have had strange dreams concerning Barack. He came on stage claiming to be a Christian with no affiliation to the Muslim faith, however it was later revealed by his circle of relatives that he certainly is a religious Muslim.

So what's in the name? The meaning of someones name can say a lot about a person. God throughout history has given names to people that have a specific meaning tied to their lives. How about the name Barack Obama? Let us take a look at what may be hiding beneath the surface...

Jesus says, "And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven'" (Luke 10:18).

In Hebrew, the name "Barack" means "lighting", and the usage of "Bama" (Strong's Hebrew word 1116) is used to refer to the "heights" of heaven.

The following day after the election of Barack Obama (11/04/08), the triumphant pick 3 lotto numbers in Illinois (Obama's home state) for 11/5/08 were 666.

Obama used to be a U.S. senator for the state of Illinois, and his zip code was 60606.

Regardless, whomsoever seats himself in the Third Temple in Jerusalem, declaring himself to be God WILL BE THE ANTICHRIST. DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

Why do we need Jesus Christ?

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 2:23).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Our good works cannot save us. If we step before a judge, being responsible for committing a crime, the judge is not going to judge us by the good that we have carried out, rather the crimes we have committed. If we as fallen humanity, created in God's image, pose this kind of moral justice, how much more a perfect, righteous, and Holy God?

God has introduced to us His moral law's by way of the ten commandments handed to Moses at Mt. Sinai. These legal guidelines were not given so we may be justified, however so that we may see the need for a saviour. They are the mirror of God's character of what He has put in each and every one of us, with our conscious bearing witness that we know that it's an offense to steal, lie, dishonor our mother and father, and so forth.

We may strive to comply with all the moral laws of the ten commandments, however we'll in no way catch up to them to be justified before a Holy God. That same word of the law given to Moses became flesh over 2000 years ago inside the body of Jesus Christ. He came to be our justification by perfectly fulfilling the commandments of God, living a sinless life that only God could accomplish.

The space between us and the law can in no way be reconciled by our own personal merit, but the arm of Jesus is stretched out by the grace and mercy of God. And if we're to seize hold of, by way of faith in Him, He will pull us up being the one to justify us. As inside the court of law, if somebody steps in and pays your fine, despite the fact that you're guilty, the judge can do what is legal and just and set you free. That is what Jesus did nearly 2000 years in the past on the cross. It was a legal transaction being fulfilled inside the spiritual realm by the shedding of His blood, with His last words being, "...It is finished!..." (John 19:30).

So why did Jesus have to die for us?

Due to the fact that God is Holy and just, the wrath that belongs to us could not be brushed away. Because of the perfect righteousness and justice of God's character, it ought to be reconciled, it ought to be quenched and satisfied.

For God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 18:23). That is why in Isaiah chapter 53, the place it speaks of the coming Messiah and His soul being a sacrifice for our sins, why it says it pleased God to crush His only begotten Son.

That is due to the fact the wrath that we deserve was justified by being poured out upon His Son. For if it was poured out upon us who deserve it, we would all perish and go to hell. God created a means of escape by pouring it out on His Son who's soul could not stay in Hades, however was raised and seated at the right hand of God in power.

So now when we put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14), God no longer looks at the man or woman who deserves His wrath, but rather the glorious image of His perfect Son residing in us, justifying us as if we obtained the wrath we deserve, making a means of escape from the curse of death.

Now what we ought to do is repent and trust in the saviour, confessing and turning from our sins. That is not just a head knowledge of believing in Jesus, but rather receiving His words, taking them to heart. In which we no longer live to practice sin, however turn from our sins and practice righteousness:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

By doing so we will come to be transformed into the image of God by way of faith in His Son Christ Jesus Who's inclined to present the Holy Spirit to those that ask of Him:

"Most assuredly, I (Jesus) say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:5-6).

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:9).

So what are you waiting for? Our heavenly Father only wants the best for us, restoring all the pieces this world has stolen from us. That is what it means to be "holy". To be made whole.

He is waiting to listen to you. That God given tongue to speak language, by way of faith, pray to Him, ask Him to forgive you by confessing your sins and be willing to forsake them; that you accept the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross, and that you need His Holy Spirit dwelling inside you transforming you into a child of the living God.

Jesus says, "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him (the Holy Spirit) will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Did you know that Jesus spoke more about hell than any one in the Bible, even more than He spoke about heaven?! For this very reason He came to die for us, to save us from this place that we deserve.

He describes hell as a real place where,

"Their worm does not die  
And the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44).

And where,

"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth..." (Luke 13:28).

Jesus tells us who to fear,

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'

Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'

And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.'" (Revelation 21:1-8).

**Subject:** Strengthen the Commission's Final Report

**Date:** Thursday, November 26, 2020 at 8:18:12 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Donald Moyer

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

I live in the Town of Hill and we have a small group of concerned residents who've been aggressively following this year's work toward addressing the severe inequities of today's funding system for both students and taxpayers. We act as local advocates for the town of Hill with the primary objective of increasing the awareness and understanding of the potential impact the Funding Fairness Project could have on our community. And Hill is not alone, as residents of Merrimack County I've looked at the impact at the county level and the AIR Cost Simulation model indicates 78% of the towns in Merrimack County would benefit from a single statewide uniform tax rate that is dispersed to the schools in a fair and equitable way

With that said I strongly urge you to incorporate the 5 ways to strengthen the commission's final report outlined in the Memo from John Tobin and the NHSFFP. Specifically:

1. **The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers**
  - Addressing student equity is only half of the problem, the final report must provide a complete and comprehensive solution that addresses the tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support our local school. Solutions for Taxpayers and Students must be treated with equal importance.
  - Hill is a property poor town with an aging population living on fixed income. The current school funding system is crushing our residents and tearing our community apart.
2. **The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source (or sources) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.**
  - The final report must endorse a single/uniform statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding. We must stop living in a world where the rich get richer (and their children are advantaged) while we punish New Hampshire residents with lesser means and set their children up for failure.
  - The Commission must also endorse a robust, state funded property tax relief program for low and moderate income taxpayers.
3. **The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.**
  - The final report from the Commission must recommend the dollar figures resulting from AIR's factor weights be incorporated into a new funding model. AIR recommendations are complete and comprehensive and based on extensive research and their work should not be ignored.
4. **The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.**
  - The final report must be true to the clear constitutional demand that "whatever the State defines as comprising constitutional adequacy it must pay for". This demand is settled law and can not be ignored, minimized or explained away.
5. **The Commission's final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.**
  - The state has ignored its constitutional duties for decades and the commission must lay out an aggressive plan to implement these impactful changes. Moving at the speed of government is not acceptable.

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Donald Moyer  
26 North Road, Hill NH 03243



**Subject:** Comments from author/sponsor of Statewide Property Tax in 1993  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 12:51:45 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Gordon Allen  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Background: Was State Representative from Hillsborough 1. Was elected in 1992 and ran on reforming education finance and introduced a Statewide Property Tax to fund education. Was sent to study and later Fred Bramante ran for Governor on this plan. Did 5 years of graduate study at Maxwell School at Syracuse University in Public Finance, and served on the Conval School Board for 8 years and worked to get the allocation of costs to 100% on equalized assessed valuation (partial success). A prime mover of the Citizens for Tax Fairness and developed our Apple ratings for a common-sense rating of plans for addressing the Claremont decisions. Much more background here, but the bottom line is I have been working on this issue for years motivated by the extreme injustice in our state of our public education system not providing a fair shot at the American Dream for every student. Second class education creates second class citizens.

Some quick comments.

Categorical funds need to supplement the formula distribution - There is no distribution formula (and we tried hundreds of options) that will provide for an equal shot/opportunity with 234 separate taxing jurisdictions. This is why we always provided for categorical funds outside the distribution formula that districts could apply if they incurred specified categories of unusual expenses - like a boiler breaking down in a small district or an influx of students with special needs.

Catch up categorical funds needed - There needs to be a provision for "catch up" funding outside of the formula allocation for districts that have faced years of deferred maintenance, equipment, etc. To provide an equal opportunity, districts that have been unable to afford new technology, etc. they need to get one-time funding to catch up.

Most effective distribution formulas - Of the many distribution formulas we tried with Clif Below, Liz Hager, and Caroline McCarley in our bills, the most effective for providing equal opportunity were ones that used a threshold level of poverty before extra per student funds were provided per student (e.g. 10%) and the most effective, was reserving a portion of the formula funds to equalize the local educational property tax rate need to raise \$1,000/student. We did not get it down to the average, but as long as any portion of our educational funding is raised with the local rate, it relegates the student-rich (or property-poor) districts to second class status because if I am a property-poor district, it will be very difficult to increase above the minimum state allocation if I have to increase my tax rate by \$7 to raise another \$1,000 per student compared to property rich districts which may only have to raise their rate by \$.50 to do the same.

Problems with using free and reduced lunch numbers - A small but important caveat for using students eligible for free and reduced lunch as a proxy for poverty. There are some families that

don't want the stigma associated with that - or for other reasons, while eligible, don't apply. That's why we provided for determining the eligibility for all students regardless of whether they participated in the program or not.

Homestead exemption to make the SWEPT progressive - Simplest way to make the statewide property tax more progressive in a clearly constitutional way is to put in a homestead exemption, and Clifton Below created provisions to have this apply to renters. Clif and I wrote HB 680 which was introduced by Rep. Shattuck in 2015. The impetus was that we were able to get data on second homes and their value that enabled us to get good estimates on what the statewide tax would raise with various rates and various levels of homestead exemptions. For the purposes of HB 680-FN-LOCAL, we chose a tax rate of \$8 and a homestead exemption \$250K. The revenue far exceeded our expectations (kept the 2015 \$363m State contribution the same and returned \$150m to the General Fund) and the percentage of dwellings in the property-poor towns paying no statewide tax was significant.

Direct bill of the SWEPT - In HB 280, we also had the State direct bill the property owner made possible at a reasonable collection cost by the statewide database of all properties established in the Lynch Administration. This eliminates in theory the "donor town" fallacy that has created constitutional and equity problems with the current SWEPT (not as I in my original or we had in the Hager-Below-Allen bills) where all the SWEPT is retained. The fallacy in the "donor town" concept is that our municipalities do not pay the SWEPT, individual property owners pay the SWEPT and the municipalities collect it. As you may recall, the term "donor towns" was invented by a well-known NH lobbyist/economist hired by a consortium of property-rich towns to fight increases in their property taxes from the Claremont suits. It was a very effective term for their cause and resulted in the political arrangement of SWEPT being retained and these towns being able to retain their tax advantage. Having the state collect the SWEPT directly- like it does with almost every other state tax - makes it clear that it is applied at an equal rate to all property taxpayers and there are no people in "donor towns" somehow paying more (when in fact for some very wealthy towns, they now effectively pay less as their excess collection for the SWEPT beyond their educational expenses goes to pay for non-educational expenses).

Coop Districts disparities - Don't forget about the cooperative districts that have student census per member town as part of their tax allocation formulas. These create unequal tax rates in member towns to pay for the same education in the same district.

The Pledge - Until we get rid of the "Pledge" as the live third rail of NH politics - and can have an adult conversation of taxes - real reform to provide all our students with an education that gives them a fair shot regardless of where they live will not happen.

--  
Gordon Allen  
21 Summer St  
Antrim, NH 03440  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Comments re: your draft report  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 11:57:25 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Mary Wilke  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

To the Members of the Commission to Study School Funding,

Thank you so much for all of your efforts to understand, describe and make recommendations about the serious flaws in NH's current school funding system. Your draft report represents a very positive step forward in offering students and communities a better alternative. In particular, I believe that educational opportunity should be consistent across zip codes, and I appreciate your demonstrated concern about equity for students.

However, I do have a few suggestions that I hope you'll take into consideration. First, it seems critical to me that the Commission acknowledge the State's Constitutional obligations: a) to pay for the entire cost of the educational opportunity to which students are entitled, and (b) to ensure that the taxes used for this purpose have a uniform rate across NH. Taxpayers in property-poor towns should not have to pay higher property tax rates than those in property-wealthy towns in order to ensure that their children receive the opportunity for an adequate education.

Secondly, I urge you to recommend immediate implementation of a new funding system, rather than a phased-in process. It's been 27 years since the first Claremont decision was issued, and more than two generations of students in property-poor towns have been denied their Constitutional rights during this time. Further delays will translate into lost opportunities for even more students, simply because of where they live.

Thank you for your consideration, and thanks again for your service on this Commission.

Sincerely,  
Mary Wilke  
Concord, NH  
Member of the Board of Directors of the NH School Funding Fairness Project



**Subject:** School funding final report concerns

**Date:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 11:11:39 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Jill Hartwell

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Good morning,

I am writing the commission urging them to re-evaluate the language in the draft and amend the final report, to be fully representative of the Commission's court and RSA mandated purpose. Additionally, the Commission has an ethical responsibility to fully represent the students, NH businesses and property owners best interests.

The Commission's purpose according to [RSA 193-E:2-e](#), is to evaluate the current funding formula and make recommendations to ensure equitable financing for adequate education, determine if the current funding formula complies with court mandates, identify disparities in student performance based on the current funding formula and reestablish a baseline cost required to fund adequate education. I certainly appreciate the Commission's considerable time, research and dedication to the legislative RSA and court mandate, that guided the draft report. However, there are some areas in the final report, I would like to see better communicated. I feel it is extremely important that the commission use this unique opportunity, to bring forth comprehensive, concise and steadfast recommendations. Below are the areas in the final report, I would like to see addressed.

1. It is my belief that the final report needs to balance student equality while clearly addressing the taxpayer burden. The students and taxpayers of NH should not bear the burden of our current dysfunction and fundamentally, unconstitutional system to fund our public education. NH students geographic location and its associated socioeconomic nuances, should not impact the education our students receive. Unfortunately, with the current funding formula, this inequality exists. Additionally, the responsibility to fund an adequate education, should not lie squarely on the shoulders of property and business owners. This is a detriment to many NH communities already struggling with low socioeconomic living and financial strains. The final report should firmly address the permitted, inequality of students and taxpayers and its impact on both.

2. While the Commission's draft clearly outlines three revenue model's to fund public education. I have concerns regarding the single statewide, property tax model. The model is lacking components to address the impact to our vulnerable populations. If the single statewide property tax model is to function as intended, the state wide property tax rate, must be sufficient to improve the educational inequality, NH students are enduring. Duly, it must also offset the tax burden property and business owners are experiencing. The single state wide property tax rate, would likely lead to an increase, in some communities and has the potential to place our low income and fixed income elderly at further risk. Therefore, I believe the statewide property tax model should be amended, to include state funded property tax relief, for our vulnerable low income and fixed income elderly tax payers.

3. The Commission's final report provides evidence based research regarding base per student cost. Unfortunately the commission fails to take a stance, backing a funding formula with dollar amounts. I believe the commission needs to send a clear position backing the formula, the commission believes would achieve its goals of equality for students and taxpayers. Failure to take this opportunity and recommend a funding formula would be in opposition of the Commission's primary objective according to [\(RSA 193-E:2-e\)](#). The RSA establishes the primary purpose of the Commission is to "review the education funding formula and make recommendations to ensure a uniform and equitable design for financing the cost of an adequate education for all public school students".Therefore, I believe the Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.

4. The commission portrays the Supreme court ruling in the 2006 Londonderry case as "advisory language". This is not only irresponsible but also indirectly defies the purpose of establishing a constitution, which is in part, to establish principles, legal basis and governance. Additionally, the commission's verbiage asserting "State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity." is erroneous. In the 2006 Londonderry case the NH Supreme Court held that education, according to the NH constitution, is a fundamental right. It further provides that the State has "the duty to ensure that the public schools achieve their objective and...provide an education to all its citizens and that it support all public schools." Therefore, both of the assertions in the draft, insinuating the state has no legal obligations to ensure and support adequate education is inaccurate. The commission needs to amend the final report to reflect the true legal and financial responsibility the state of NH must be held to, in providing adequate education.

Finally, I would again like to express my appreciation for the time, research and dedication the Commission has given towards school funding in NH. I truly hope your efforts are fruitful and after the decades of inequality in school funding, we will finally have a system and funding formula that works for the students, business owners and property tax citizens of NH.

Thank you for attention and time to our concerns,

Jason and Jill Bard,  
Charlestown, NH

**Subject:** Final report

**Date:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 11:02:08 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** David Doherty

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Good Day -

Thank you for your dedicated service to education and to the state of NH. Please consider the five recommendations to the final report recommended by the NH School Funding Fairness Project. I believe these recommendations will add improvements to an already well-done report. I wish the commission members a Happy Thanksgiving.

David B. Doherty  
242 Fourth Range Rd.  
Pembroke, NH 03275



**Subject:** My support of NHSFFP's recommendations

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:44:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** robpearce@comcast.net

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

I'm sending this email to inform you that I believe the Commission should follow the recommendations in NHSFFP's memo of November 23, 2020 to the Commission concerning refinements that should be made to the Commission's draft report prior to the Commission's upcoming final vote on the report.

Thanks,

Robert Pearce

**Subject:** School Funding Study improvements

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 9:45:12 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Melissa Hinebauch

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Dear Commission to Study School Funding,

It is essential that your Commission's report be as strong, clear, and comprehensive as possible. As a NH taxpayer and parent of three children, here are ways your report can be improved significantly. I support the five principal changes below:

[The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers.](#) NHSFFP agrees that one of the chief aims of any reform of school funding in New Hampshire should be a greater equalization of educational opportunity in the Granite State, but such reform should also put an end to the tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support their local schools. Achieving greater student equity does not, on its own, guarantee that greater taxpayer equity will result.

[The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source \(or sources\) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.](#) Of note, the draft report does outline three models of how the costs of an adequate education might be met, but only one – a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding – would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates. The Commission should endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

[The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.](#) The Commission's draft report includes detailed information, based on research from the American Institutes for Research (AIR), about base per student costs and differentiated aid that would help students with greater needs achieve statewide average educational outcomes. Yet, the draft fails to recommend a specific funding formula that incorporates this information and the dollar amounts associated with it.

[The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.](#) The Commission's draft report portrays one of the central elements of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 2006 *Londonderry* case – namely, that the State of New Hampshire must pay for the full cost of providing a constitutionally adequate education - as “advisory language”. The draft report also asserts that “The role of state funding in New Hampshire is not to implement a specific set of state-defined programs. State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity.” Neither statement is accurate; both should be corrected in the Commission's final report.

[The Commission's final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.](#) If the Commission's proposed five-year timeline were followed, many students in grade 8 or higher today would complete their entire elementary and secondary education in New Hampshire without ever knowing the full measure of justice. For their sake and the sake of our state's future, we can not ask them to continue to wait.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mel Hinebauch  
Concord, NH 03301



**Subject:** My comments on your draft report: Please read this email  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 8:43:49 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Claudia Damon  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Dear School Funding Fairness Commission,

I have been following your work and appreciate very much how hard you have worked. As a former school board member (3 terms of 3 years each) and as the mother of two children who went through Concord schools, and as a citizen in a democracy where informed and educated citizens hold the key to success of this form of government, I am so very grateful for all you have done.

That said, I want to let you know that I fully support and am in agreement with the 5 recommendations that the NH School Funding Fairness Project has relayed to you. These will strengthen your report and I urge you to include them in your final report. Since your report will help form the basis for future efforts to reform New Hampshire's way of funding schools in order to make it more equitable for students and taxpayers, it is absolutely essential that your report be as comprehensive, clear and strong as possible.

I know the NHSFFP has sent you a long memo explaining its recommendations. I just want to reiterate the recommendations in shorter form, for the sake of clarity and easy reference.

- 1. The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers.** We all agree that one of the main aims of any change in school funding in NH should be a greater equalization of educational opportunity in the Granite State. But it is really important to make sure that such changes end toe tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support their local schools. Achieving greater student equity does not, on its own, guarantee that greater taxpayer equity will result.
- 2. The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source (or sources) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.** While your draft report does outline three models of how the costs of an adequate education might be met, only one of these – a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding – would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates. Please endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.
- 3. The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.** The Commission's draft report includes detailed information, based on research from the American Institutes for Research (AIR), about base per student costs and differentiated aid that would help students with greater needs achieve statewide average educational outcomes. It is very important to take the next step to complete the thought, so to speak, and to recommend a specific funding formula that incorporates this information and the dollar amounts associated with it.
- 4. The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.** The Commission's draft report portrays one of the central elements of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 2006 *Londonderry* case – namely, that the State of New Hampshire must pay for the full cost of providing a constitutionally adequate education - as "advisory language". The draft report also asserts that "The role of state funding in New Hampshire is not to implement a specific set of state-defined programs. State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity." Neither statement is accurate; both should be corrected in the Commission's final report. The NH Supreme Court has commanded compliance with the NH Constitution and did not provide an "advisory" opinion.
- 5. The Commission's final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.** If the Commission's proposed five-year timeline were followed, many students in grade 8 or higher today would complete their entire elementary and secondary education in New Hampshire without ever knowing the full measure of justice. For their sake and the sake of our state's future, we must not ask them to continue to wait. The Commission should play no part in making students wait.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on your draft report. I look forward to reading the final report when it becomes available.

All the very best,

Claudia Damon  
Concord

**Subject:** Fwd: 5 recommendations

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 8:13:54 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** clsasher2@aol.com

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

-----Original Message-----


From: Mike Stanley <guitarstrings\_03243@yahoo.com>

To: Carol Snow Asher <clsasher2@aol.com>

Sent: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 2:14 pm

Subject: 5 recommendations

I support the recommendations of the NH School Funding Fairness Project, but my email will not go through to [SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu).

--Marie Stanley H , NH  




**Subject:** support for Commission's report

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 8:12:01 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** clsasher2@aol.com

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

I've read the full report of the Commission to be presented on December 1st and I support the five changes to make it even stronger

Thank for all that you are doing.

Caro Snow Asher  
Chair, School Board Chair H SAU103

**Subject:** In support of NHSFFP changes

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 4:45:05 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Nancy Starmer

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

To the Commission to Study School Funding,

First, thank you all so much for taking the time to consider this important issue for the future of our State. We live in a beautiful place, but I believe strongly that if we don't do something soon to ensure that *all* of our young people receive a quality education, we won't be able to attract businesses or young families, or provide the workforce needed to create a vibrant, viable economy in our state.

I have read through the draft of your report, and also the five recommendations made by the NH School Funding Fairness Project, and am writing to urge you to incorporate the changes they are recommending. None appears to me to change the substance of your recommendations, rather they clarify and strengthen them.

- The first recommendation, including equity for both students *and* taxpayers, I believe is critical.
- I also wholeheartedly believe the claim made in the second recommendation, that a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding is the only model that would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates, and that the Commission should endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.
- The language in the third recommendation appears to me to be more clear and concise than in your original draft: *The Commission recommends that the legislature adopt a funding model that ensures that every child receives a constitutionally adequate education, that recognizes that the cost of constitutional adequacy varies across communities and children, and that targets those areas and students with the greatest needs, as determined by the factors identified in this report.*
- I will admit that I haven't studied the cases that are referenced in the fourth recommendation closely, but agree that these references should be accurate.
- Finally, knowing the challenges ahead for this project, frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model seems important.

Thank you for hearing my support for the NHSFFP's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Nancy Starmer  
School Board member, Inter-Lakes School District (SAU2)

**Subject:** final report draft

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 3:03:56 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** R & D Lengyel

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

Congratulations on the thorough job you did on the funding report. It was a long process and NH appreciates your time.

It would be helpful if you would consider a few changes before your final report :

1. Put an end to the disparities in property tax rates.
2. Specify the revenue source NH should use.
3. Recommend a funding formula including specific dollar values with clarifying goals.
4. Properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in NH.
5. Consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dorene Lengyel

**Subject:** School Funding Fairness  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 2:53:58 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Jim & Pat Strickland  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**Attachments:** image001.gif, Jim & Pat Strickland.vcf

**Caution - External Email**

## **We support the recommendations NHSFFP is proposing!**

**The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers.** NHSFFP agrees that one of the chief aims of any reform of school funding in New Hampshire should be a greater equalization of educational opportunity in the Granite State, but such reform should also put an end to the tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support their local schools. Achieving greater student equity does not, on its own, guarantee that greater taxpayer equity will result.

**The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source (or sources) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.** Of note, the draft report does outline three models of how the costs of an adequate education might be met, but only one – a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding – would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates. The Commission should endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

**The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.** The Commission's draft report includes detailed information, based on research from the American Institutes for Research (AIR), about base per student costs and differentiated aid that would help students with greater needs achieve statewide average educational outcomes. Yet, the draft fails to recommend a specific funding formula that incorporates this information and the dollar amounts associated with it.

**The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.** The Commission's draft report portrays one of the central elements of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 2006 *Londonderry* case – namely, that the

**State of New Hampshire must pay for the full cost of providing a constitutionally adequate education - as “advisory language”. The draft report also asserts that “The role of state funding in New Hampshire is not to implement a specific set of state-defined programs. State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity.” Neither statement is accurate; both should be corrected in the Commission’s final report.**

**The Commission’s final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model. If the Commission’s proposed five-year timeline were followed, many students in grade 8 or higher today would complete their entire elementary and secondary education in New Hampshire without ever knowing the full measure of justice. For their sake and the sake of our state’s future, we can not ask them to continue to wait.**

Thank you so much.

Jim & Pat

**Subject:** Funding source for equal education

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 2:48:01 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Patricia Sherman

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

Property tax is inherently unequal, regressive and erodes the social fabric of NH. Taxes should be paid on the basis of ones ability to pay, not where they live. A State Wide property tax only makes a bad taxation policy worse.

The states. "unwillingness" to accept a broad base tax is a political myth propounded the "pledge" and no financial facts that might well show that a broad based is more equitable.

Any report on Equitable Spending on Education CANNOT be based on the property tax. The NH Advantage is only an Advantage for those who do not need it.

Patricia C Sherman FAIA  
12 Pine ST  
Newbury NH 03255

**Subject:** Five Ways to Strengthen the Commission's Final Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 2:09:58 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Katherine Heck  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Good Afternoon,  
I am in full support of adopting the "Five Ways to Strengthen the Commission's Final Report" recommendations included in the memo.

Thank you for the work you have done to Research, Analyze and Present a most thorough and comprehensive report for legislative consideration.

Respectfully,  
Katherine Heck

--

Katherine Heck  
Greenfield Representative  
Conval School Board,SAU 1

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**Subject:** Taxpayer concern about the final report  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 2:00:29 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Kim Gillis  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Dear School Funding Commission,  
Thank you for all the work that you have been doing in drafting guidelines in support more equitable school funding reform! This is no small task!

As a citizen of Epsom, a town with medium-high property taxes (\$25.97 per \$1,000), I am concerned that the final draft of the policy lacks adequate clarification on several key points as noted by the NH School Funding Fairness Project. These include:

- explicitly and equally addressing both student equity and taxpayer equity
- specify revenue sources to be used to provide equal and adequate educational opportunities
- recommend a specific funding formula to be used
- clarify that past school funding litigation offered specific requirements and not just recommendations regarding the state's responsibility to pay for an adequate education for every student
- specify timelines that include more precise implementation deadlines and more frequent evaluations

Thank you for considering these suggested modifications to the current draft.

Kim Gillis  
Epsom, NH



**Subject:** Comments on the draft proposal

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 1:24:19 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Julie King

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Good afternoon,

First of all, I'd like to thank the commission for the thorough work you have done throughout this process! I have followed along closely, listening to many of your work sessions and participating in feedback sessions. I found the presentations of information by outside organizations very informative, as I'm sure you did as well. In a relatively short amount of time, it seems you left no stone unturned...kudos!

I did read a recent memo from the NH School Funding Fairness Project recommending the following 5 changes be made before the report is finalized:

- **The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers.** NHSFFP agrees that one of the chief aims of any reform of school funding in New Hampshire should be a greater equalization of educational opportunity in the Granite State, but such reform should also put an end to the tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support their local schools. Achieving greater student equity does not, on its own, guarantee that greater taxpayer equity will result.
- **The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source (or sources) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.** Of note, the draft report does outline three models of how the costs of an adequate education might be met, but only one – a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding – would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates. The Commission should endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.
- **The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.** The Commission's draft report includes detailed information, based on research from the American Institutes for Research (AIR), about base per student costs and differentiated aid that would help students with greater needs achieve statewide average educational outcomes. Yet, the draft fails to recommend a specific funding formula that incorporates this information and the dollar amounts associated with it.
- **The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.** The Commission's draft report portrays one of the central elements of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 2006 *Londonderry* case – namely, that the State of New Hampshire must pay for the full cost of providing a constitutionally adequate education - as "advisory language". The draft report also asserts that "The role of state funding in New Hampshire is not to implement a specific set of state-defined programs. State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity." Neither statement is accurate; both should be corrected in the Commission's final report.
- **The Commission's final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.** If the Commission's proposed five-year timeline were followed, many students in grade 8 or higher today would complete their entire elementary and secondary education in New Hampshire without ever knowing the full measure of justice. For their sake and the sake of our state's future, we can not ask them to continue to wait.

I believe their recommendations warrant consideration and further research (if needed) by the commission, as they seem to make sense to me. Again, I appreciate the time invested in this process and certainly hope NH can move forward with a funding model that is equitable to all NH students and taxpayers.

Your partner in education,

**Julie King**

*Superintendent*

**SAU#3 – Berlin Public Schools**

*District Office*

**183 Hillside Ave., Berlin, NH 03570**

**Phone: (603) 752-6500 ext.1108 | Fax: (603) 752-2528**

**[jking@sau3.org](mailto:jking@sau3.org) | [www.sau3.org](http://www.sau3.org)**

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**Subject:** BOLD STEPS

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 1:22:53 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Maureen F. Prohl Prohl

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Dear Commission Members,

While I applaud all the time, analyses, and problem solving that you have devoted to the education issues in our state in terms of student and taxpayer equity, I urge you to take **bold steps** to identify specific revenue sources to actually solve a big part of the problem.

You don't have to take the pledge!! Why not a broad base tax, on income or sales of certain items? We cannot continue to kick the can down the road by applying band aid, half baked solutions , or old solutions that ended up in court.

BE BOLD!!

Maureen Prohl

Sent from my iPad

**Subject:** Add recommendations:

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 12:18:57 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Sheldon Perry

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

School Funding Commission members:

Please institute the NHSFFP's 5 recommendations in your upcoming report. Your commission needs to support the specific challenges in providing fair and adequate education to our children by including these recommendations. Hard choices need to be made and your courage in making a disciplined report is extremely important.

Sheldon Perry

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Sheldon Perry  
191 Great Hill Rd  
Tamworth, NH 03886

[https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sppnh.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7CSchoolFunding.Commission%40unh.edu%7Cdc35a6ecd37145a15fa208d8909d0cd3%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C1%7C637418352208631101%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=HcrMORZxLOuLdNIQzI2R4KVN7nZKQfRwmHJgarXDONY%3D&reserved=0)

[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sppnh.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7CSchoolFunding.Commission%40unh.edu%7Cdc35a6ecd37145a15fa208d8909d0cd3%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C1%7C637418352208631101%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=HcrMORZxLOuLdNIQzI2R4KVN7nZKQfRwmHJgarXDONY%3D&reserved=0](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sppnh.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7CSchoolFunding.Commission%40unh.edu%7Cdc35a6ecd37145a15fa208d8909d0cd3%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C1%7C637418352208631101%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=HcrMORZxLOuLdNIQzI2R4KVN7nZKQfRwmHJgarXDONY%3D&reserved=0)

**Subject:** Request on Commission to Study School Funding Final Report

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 12:17:17 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** McNamara, Paul

**To:** School Funding Commission

Dear Colleague,

I write to express my appreciation for your efforts on behalf of educational equity, but also to offer my strong support for the proposed additions to your report from the NHSFFP:

<https://fairfundingnh.org/2020/11/23/five-ways-to-strengthen-the-commissions-final-report/>

Sincerely,

Paul McNamara  
12 Hamilton St.  
Dover, NH 03820

**Subject:** Strengthen your report please

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:57:53 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Charen Urban

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

Dear Members,

Please enhance your final report to include equity for students and taxpayers, specific goals, amounts, funding sources and timelines. Without details your report is a dream, not a goal for educational equity in New Hampshire.

Respectfully, Charen Urban

Retired Teacher

Newport, NH

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject:** Funding with equity

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:57:21 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** C j-g

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

The consequence of relying on Property Taxes for the funding of public schools has created and maintained a system of inequality in the education for our children. Poor towns=poor schools and wealthy towns = good schools. There is no surprise here.

The consequence of unequal tax burdens on educational quality are blatant. In order to address this we, as NH citizens, should carefully consider a more balanced approach to taxes. This approach should include income; sales tax; property tax and business/corporate taxes. High property taxes are a terrible burden for citizens of less wealthy towns and cities. Last time I looked, property taxes are paid for by income. Yes...incomes...but they are based on assessments of property rather than n assessment of income. Crazy? Unfair? Counter productive? Yes...to all.

**Subject:** Funding Fairness Project

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:46:50 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Ellin Leonard

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

To All Concerned:

I am very much FOR moving forward on the 5 Recommendations.

Ellin Leonard

Budget Com Member for Conway. (Carroll County District 2)





**Subject:** Equity, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:45:40 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Tom Luther  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

The Commission Report must NOT exceed its obligations or authority. Attempts to legislate via commission algorithm will be met with extreme prejudice, much like the Claremont decision engendered. Do NOT repeat the elitist arrogance of Volinsky/Tobin.

The Commission must be careful in its proposals. Your remit:

Does NOT mandate subsidized unionized government owned operated and maintained schools with bus service.

Does NOT preclude paying children and parents DIRECTLY, creating a market for education to replace the socialist utopia we endure today.

Does NOT preclude religious, private, co-op, home, un-school, remote, or any other variety of education now or future.

Does NOT mandate support for Horace Mann's command/control soviet factory labor supply model of education as indoctrination.

Does NOT mandate a mechanical funding formula to shackle NH to an algorithm in perpetuity.

Does NOT preclude a phased in timeline that reflects the social, financial, and political risks.

Does NOT require precise revenue sources.

Does NOT mandate a one-size-fits-all per child payment.

Act in haste, repent at leisure. Do it right, or do it over. Equity, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

I urge the Commission to avoid the mistakes of past decades. NH cannot afford it. Utopia is an illusion. The wreckage of Volinsky/Tobin and the NH School Funding Fairness Project are testimony to the failure of elitist attempts to control society by specifying outcomes, instead of relying on freedom of choice. Pronouncements from the former USSR and the current People's Republic of China echo the language of socialism. NH is not quite socialist enough to destroy the individual for the collective.

It is beyond the commissions authority to de-centralize and de-institutionalize the cruel monopoly of government education. However, it is NOT acceptable for the commission to fail to include separating School from State as a valid and affordable option.

Neglecting educational freedom is NOT an option for NH, or for the commission.

Live Free, or Die!

tom luther  
2 Winter St  
Claremont NH

**Subject:** Comments on the Commission's Report

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:26:39 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Karen Hatcher

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

To the Education Funding Commission,

Thank you for all of the good work and time you have dedicated to improving NH's school funding crisis. While the draft report is a huge step forward, there are essential elements missing and identified succinctly by Jeff McLynch of the NH School Funding Fairness Project at the last commission meeting. I am writing to ask that you implement the five recommendations he makes into the Commission's final report to the Governor.

**The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers.** NHSFFP agrees that one of the chief aims of any reform of school funding in New Hampshire should be a greater equalization of educational opportunity in the Granite State, but such reform should also put an end to the tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support their local schools. Achieving greater student equity does not, on its own, guarantee that greater taxpayer equity will result.

**The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source (or sources) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.** Of note, the draft report does outline three models of how the costs of an adequate education might be met, but only one – a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding – would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates. The Commission should endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

**The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.** The Commission's draft report includes detailed information, based on research from the American Institutes for Research (AIR), about base per student costs and differentiated aid that would help students with greater needs achieve statewide average educational outcomes. Yet, the draft fails to recommend a specific funding formula that incorporates this information and the dollar amounts associated with it.

**The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.** The Commission's draft report portrays one of the central elements of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 2006 *Londonderry* case – namely, that the State of New Hampshire must pay for the full cost of providing a constitutionally adequate education - as "advisory language". The draft report also asserts that "The role of state funding in New Hampshire is not to implement a specific set of state-defined programs. State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity." Neither statement is accurate; both should be corrected in the Commission's final report.

**The Commission's final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.** If the Commission's proposed five-year timeline were followed, many students in grade 8 or higher today would complete their entire elementary and secondary education in New Hampshire without ever knowing the full measure of

justice. For their sake and the sake of our state's future, we can not ask them to continue to wait.

Sincerely,

**Karen Hatcher**  
**189 Old Street Road**  
**Peterborough, NH 03458**  


**Subject:** School Funding Commission Report Suggestions

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:14:09 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Ed Juengst

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

As both a citizen taxpayer and a member of the Peterborough, NH Select Board I urge you and believe that it is essential that your commission include the five items NHSFFP recently suggested in your final report recommendations:

**The Commission's final report should seek to achieve equity for both students and taxpayers.** NHSFFP agrees that one of the chief aims of any reform of school funding in New Hampshire should be a greater equalization of educational opportunity in the Granite State, but such reform should also put an end to the tremendous disparities in property tax rates homeowners and businesses now pay to support their local schools. Achieving greater student equity does not, on its own, guarantee that greater taxpayer equity will result.

**The Commission's final report should specify the revenue source (or sources) the State of New Hampshire should use to meet its obligation to provide an adequate education to every child.** Of note, the draft report does outline three models of how the costs of an adequate education might be met, but only one – a single statewide property tax at a rate sufficient to provide full state funding – would likely ameliorate existing inequities while complying with constitutional mandates. The Commission should endorse that model in combination with a robust, state-funded property tax relief program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

**The Commission's final report should recommend a funding formula that includes specific dollar values and should clarify the goals that formula seeks to achieve.** The Commission's draft report includes detailed information, based on research from the American Institutes for Research (AIR), about base per student costs and differentiated aid that would help students with greater needs achieve statewide average educational outcomes. Yet, the draft fails to recommend a specific funding formula that incorporates this information and the dollar amounts associated with it.

**The Commission's final report should properly reflect the substance of school funding litigation in New Hampshire.** The Commission's draft report portrays one of the central elements of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 2006 *Londonderry* case – namely, that the State of New Hampshire must pay for the full cost of providing a constitutionally adequate education - as "advisory language". The draft report also asserts that "The role of state funding in New Hampshire is not to implement a specific set of state-defined programs. State funding should be applied to assist locally raised funds to ensure student equity." Neither statement is accurate; both should be corrected in the Commission's final report.

**The Commission's final report should avoid a protracted implementation timeline and should consider more frequent re-evaluation of the education cost model.** If the Commission's proposed five-year timeline were followed, many students in grade 8 or higher today would complete their entire elementary and secondary education in New Hampshire without ever knowing the full measure of justice. For their sake and the sake of our state's future, we can not ask them to continue to wait.

Thanks!  
Ed Juengst

"Always seek to find what is good in all people you encounter. There is always something you will find!"

**Subject:** Final Report

**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 10:38:18 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Bidy Irwin

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Dear Commissioners; I fully support the recommendations from the NH School Funding Fairness Project and hope you seriously take them into consideration. NHSFFP has worked long and hard on NH's school funding issues and they have come up with solid recommendations. Yours is not an easy task. School funding in NH does not have an easy solution. There must be a safety value for all our taxpayers and we must consider all options.

Thank you for your time

Bidy Irwin

Newport

--

Virginia O'Brien Irwin AKA Bidy

**Subject:** Commission's November 22 draft report  
**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2020 at 8:30:36 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Jeff McLynch  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** 'John Tobin', Jeff McLynch, 'Dave Luneau', Mel.myler@gmail.com, Jay.Kahn@leg.state.nh.us, 'Jon Morgan', 'Richard Ames', 'Rick Ladd', Mary Heath, John Beardmore, Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu, 'Bill Ardinger', Corinne Cascadden, 'Susan D. Huard', Chris Dwyer, 'Val Zanchuk', 'David Ryan', Mallory, Bruce, Hensley, Jordan  
**Attachments:** image002.png, NHSFFP memo on Nov22 draft Commission report.pdf

**Caution - External Email**

Members of the Commission:

Attached for your consideration please find a brief memorandum from the NH School Funding Fairness Project outlining five possible changes to the Commission's November 22 draft report. While the draft report reflects considerable progress toward the fulfillment of the Commission's statutory responsibilities and, more importantly, toward devising a more equitable and sustainable system for funding New Hampshire's public schools, we believe the incorporation of these suggested changes would strengthen the report significantly.

If you should have any questions about the memorandum or the suggestions it offers, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Thank you for your time and your service to our state -

Jeff

Jeff McLynch  
Project Director

PO BOX 921 • CONCORD, NH 03302  
603.945.9988 OFFICE • 617.835.1421 CELL  
FAIRFUNDINGNH.ORG

**Subject:** Re: 11/23 Zoom Information Commission to Study School Funding Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2020 at 8:03:42 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** David Doherty  
**To:** Hensley, Jordan  
**CC:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Thank you, Jordan.

On Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 7:48 AM Hensley, Jordan <[Jordan.Hensley@unh.edu](mailto:Jordan.Hensley@unh.edu)> wrote:

Good morning,

For those interested in attending, here is the Zoom information for today's 2pm Commission to Study School Funding meeting:

Zoom link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/94966895585>

OR

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799
2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 949 6689 5585 #

Best,

Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy



[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)



**Subject:** 11/23 Zoom Information Commission to Study School Funding Meeting

**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2020 at 7:48:19 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Hensley, Jordan

**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

For those interested in attending, here is the Zoom information for today's 2pm Commission to Study School Funding meeting:

Zoom link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/94966895585>

OR

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799

2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 949 6689 5585 #

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Question

**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2020 at 7:39:04 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Bruce Smith

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

I have been following the proceedings of the commission very intensely, including attending in person when that was permissible. So I am very well aware of the tremendous amount of effort that has gone into it, and very appreciative of those efforts.

The skin in the game for me, so to speak, is that the town of Surry in which I live has experienced a big increase in the number of students that we must tuition to Keene. Accordingly, our tax rate in 2009 of \$14.85 was \$28.92 in 2019 while our equalized valuation / student ratio was \$567,186 above state average in 2007-2008 and \$416,845 below state average in 2018-2019. Hard to describe those trends as sustainable.

I realize that the majority party in Concord changed in the most recent election, and I also realize that perhaps there is not enough time now to introduce legislation resulting from the commission's work for consideration in the upcoming legislative session. I also realize that you as the Chair and Sen Kahn, my senator, have invested a tremendous amount of effort and are very passionate about this funding issue which perhaps holds the key to the future of public education in the state. Finally, I realize that someone needs to continue with the commission's work so that some version is enacted into law for the commission to bear fruit.

What is anticipated will occur after the report is released so that the results are considered by the Legislature, and is there a way we who are interested will be able to follow, and advocate for, the consideration effort? I assume perhaps the School Funding Fairness Project is one such vehicle for the future tracking of this issue.

Thanks once again for the tremendous effort you have invested in the commission's work. I for one very much appreciate it.

Bruce Smith  
Surry, NH 03431  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: My comment at today's public comment session with update  
**Date:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10:51:45 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Doug Hall  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Jordan,

Fast change. Yes. Thank you. What used to be "Resources" is now "Resources and Meetings" with two links below. "Resources and Analyses" takes me directly to the page for which you earlier gave me the link.

I downloaded the AIR Final Report PDF file with a name that identifies it as version 10. I assume that all the members of the Commission were sent a copy although it does not appear in the Meeting Documents and Video listings (that I had been able to find).

I also downloaded the "AIR School Funding Simulator (10/2).xlsx" As with all prior versions, this is still password protected. While we were given a password, we promised to keep that to ourselves and have done so. As identified in my comments yesterday, we know that data is drawn from other worksheets not yet made available.

In this regard, our main request is for the Commission to require all of AIR's data files that feed data into the regression analysis and the simulator to be provided to the Commission and for the Commission to make them publicly available with any password requirements removed. The AIR text material is superb. But for future work we and others will need all the data.

As an example: AIR used the DoE published data on annual graduation rates. Those are the 4-year rate for each freshman year cohort. It answers the question, "How many freshman graduated in 4 years?" The nearly 1,000 students who graduate in 5 years don't get counted as graduates in the 4-year cohort rate. They didn't graduate because they did not have sufficient credits to graduate in 4. This varies by high school because different schools have different required credits by subject and required credits to graduate. The Department of Education has the data to provide the 5 year cohort rate but has never published it. In the future we will be looking at whether the 5 year rate is a better measure of outcomes than the 4 year measure.

Thank you for giving me the link and then setting the main menu so it is now there.

Doug

On 11/19/2020 9:59 AM, School Funding Commission wrote:

Doug,

We'll double check that – and I am making sure today that our website shows both tabs below resources. Right now you have to click on that larger resources button first to get to the page, which is not as clear as it should be. I'm sure there won't be all the answers you want but

hopefully some! And other answers we'll all have to keep digging for together.

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Cell: 360-609-5824; Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

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**From:** Doug Hall <[doughallnh@comcast.net](mailto:doughallnh@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 9:47 AM

**To:** School Funding Commission <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: My comment at today's public comment session with update

**Caution - External Email**

Jordan,

Thank you for this.

I have been on the Commission's website since the beginning using the menu at the top of the page. When I go to the homepage <https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding> and click on "Resources" in the top menu the only option is to "Meeting Documents and Video" and that is where I have regularly searched, downloaded, and read materials prepared by and for the Commission.

The link you have provided is certainly new to me. I will see if I can find answers to some of my comments there.

Doug

On 11/19/2020 8:30 AM, School Funding Commission wrote:

Doug,

Thank you – this will be forwarded to the full Commission. You reference some documents in the meeting tabs on the website, and I wanted to make sure that you had also been able to review everything on the resource page as well:

<https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding/resources>. Appreciate all your efforts on behalf of NH students and engagement with this work!

Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

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**From:** Doug Hall <[doughallnh@comcast.net](mailto:doughallnh@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:47 PM

**To:** School Funding Commission <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>

**Cc:** Jeff McLynch <[jmclynch@fairfundingnh.org](mailto:jmclynch@fairfundingnh.org)>; John Tobin <[jtobinjr@comcast.net](mailto:jtobinjr@comcast.net)>

**Subject:** My comment at today's public comment session with update

**Caution - External Email**

Bruce, Dave, Commission members, and Carsey staff,

Attached is my written comment that I made orally today about data issues. I have added two paragraphs in italics based on Dave and Jordan's conversation after my oral comment.

Thank you all for the huge task you have undertaken and the many hours or work you have all put in.

Doug Hall

|

**Subject:** Re: My comment at today's public comment session with update  
**Date:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 9:47:12 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Doug Hall  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Jordan,

Thank you for this.

I have been on the Commission's website since the beginning using the menu at the top of the page. When I go to the homepage <https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding> and click on "Resources" in the top menu the only option is to "Meeting Documents and Video" and that is where I have regularly searched, downloaded, and read materials prepared by and for the Commission.

The link you have provided is certainly new to me. I will see if I can find answers to some of my comments there.

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Doug,

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Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst  
Carsey School of Public Policy  
Cell: 360-609-5824; Office: 603-862-1463  
[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

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**From:** Doug Hall <[doughallnh@comcast.net](mailto:doughallnh@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:47 PM  
**To:** School Funding Commission <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>  
**Cc:** Jeff McLynch <[jmclynch@fairfundingnh.org](mailto:jmclynch@fairfundingnh.org)>; John Tobin <[jtobinjr@comcast.net](mailto:jtobinjr@comcast.net)>  
**Subject:** My comment at today's public comment session with update

**Caution - External Email**

Bruce, Dave, Commission members, and Carsey staff,

Attached is my written comment that I made orally today about data issues. I have added two paragraphs in italics based on Dave and Jordan's conversation after my oral comment.

Thank you all for the huge task you have undertaken and the many hours of work you have all put in.

Doug Hall

|

**Subject:** RE: My comment at today's public comment session with update  
**Date:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 8:30:08 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** School Funding Commission  
**To:** Doug Hall, School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Jeff McLynch, John Tobin

Doug,

Thank you – this will be forwarded to the full Commission. You reference some documents in the meeting tabs on the website, and I wanted to make sure that you had also been able to review everything on the resource page as well: <https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding/resources>. Appreciate all your efforts on behalf of NH students and engagement with this work!

Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

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**From:** Doug Hall <doughallnh@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:47 PM  
**To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>  
**Cc:** Jeff McLynch <jmclynch@fairfundingnh.org>; John Tobin <jtobinjr@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** My comment at today's public comment session with update

**Caution - External Email**

Bruce, Dave, Commission members, and Carsey staff,

Attached is my written comment that I made orally today about data issues. I have added two paragraphs in italics based on Dave and Jordan's conversation after my oral comment.



Thank you all for the huge task you have undertaken and the many hours or work you have all put in.

Doug Hall

I

**Subject:** My comment at today's public comment session with update  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 5:47:29 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Doug Hall  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Jeff McLynch, John Tobin  
**Attachments:** DH comments for 2020 11 18.pdf

**Caution - External Email**

Bruce, Dave, Commission members, and Carsey staff,

Attached is my written comment that I made orally today about data issues. I have added two paragraphs in italics based on Dave and Jordan's conversation after my oral comment.

Thank you all for the huge task you have undertaken and the many hours of work you have all put in.

Doug Hall

|

**Subject:** NHSFFP statement during today's public comment period  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 4:20:10 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Jeff McLynch  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** 'Dave Luneau', Mallory, Bruce, Hensley, Jordan  
**Attachments:** NHSFFP Statement on Initial Commission Report.pdf, image001.png

**Caution - External Email**

Members of the Commission to Study School Funding:

Attached, for your information, please find a copy of my statement from today's public comment session. If you should have any questions about the statement or the points it raises, I'd be more than happy to speak with you about them.

Thank you -

Jeff

Jeff McLynch  
Project Director

PO BOX 921 • CONCORD, NH 03302  
603.945.9988 OFFICE • 617.835.1421 CELL  
FAIRFUNDINGNH.ORG

**Subject:** RE: Public Comment 11/18/2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 3:37:01 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** School Funding Commission  
**To:** Carisa Corrow, School Funding Commission  
**Attachments:** image002.jpg

Carisa,  
Thanks so much for emailing your input – really appreciate you taking the time to be a part of this process. We will forward your comments to the members of the Commission.

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**  
Pronouns: He/Him/His  
Policy Analyst  
Carsey School of Public Policy  
[REDACTED] Office: 603-862-1463  
[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

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**From:** Carisa Corrow <carisacorrow@educatingforgood.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>  
**Subject:** Public Comment 11/18/2020

**Caution - External Email**

Good Afternoon,

I had hoped to be able to provide public comment this afternoon, yet am now finding myself unable to attend the meeting. In general, here are the comments I had hoped to share:

I was a New Hampshire educator from 2002-2016. For the last four years, I've been supporting teachers and schools in New Hampshire as they redesigned their competency-based assessment systems as part of the NH PACE project. I'm very concerned with the initial ideas set forth by the commission to tie funding to our current assessment system, graduation rates and attendance.

I want to particularly caution against using standardized testing to justify funding. When we think about equity, we should always ask, equity to what goal? The goal of having high standardized test scores? Test scores that can't assess the actual skills necessary for success in post-secondary life? For generations schools, parents and communities have put stock in the ability of these tests to tell us how intelligent our children are, and how good our schools are without understanding the complicated theories from which these assertions are built. Psychometrics is theory, yet we treat it as absolute. The history of psychometrics has deep connections to the eugenics movement from which tests like the SAT were born. As a reminder, the eugenics movement used pseudoscience to convince people there was a difference in intelligence and human worth based on skin color and ethnicity. It led to mass sterilizations and was the justification Hitler used to carry out mass genocide. Although modern day psychometricians may not have the same intent as eugenicists, they are operating under the same basic starting point, that specific testing questions asked in particular ways can tell us facts about complicated learning journeys and the skills we hope our learners have. It is dishonest and unethical to peddle these tests as fact and should not be used to help make decisions about school funding or the quality of our schools. The New Hampshire constitution and our Ed rules clearly lay out the importance of honesty in the education process, this should also be true of our assessment systems. Currently, our assessment system is not honest and a new funding formula should not hitch its wagon to these tests.

The proposed outcomes-based solution will not properly address school funding in the long term, in fact it may work to further undermine our public school system. Taxpayers will get frustrated as test scores don't reach "proficient" levels, and if additional funding is not used to address the structures and policies in schools that lead to absenteeism and push out rates, taxpayers will equally be frustrated and we'll be back at the table negotiating another formula. Money will address some problems, but the money alone will not do it, the school funding debate has to be more than just about funding, but also about substance and practices. Looking at funding as one issue, without addressing how we'll honestly understand the quality of our schools will only further harm students, frustrate tax payers and undermine our public education system.

I suggest that you carefully look at some of the work of [MCIEA in Massachusetts](#) and connect with Jack Schneider.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute public comment via email,  
Carisa Corrow  
Penacook

--

[Redacted Signature]

Carisa Corrow  
Principal Owner

[Redacted Contact Information]

“Any decent society has to be built on trust and love and the intelligent use of information and feelings. Education involves being able to practice those things as you struggle to build a decent society that can be nonviolent.” Myles Horton

**Subject:** Public Comment 11/18/2020

**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 3:31:45 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Carisa Corrow

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Good Afternoon,

I had hoped to be able to provide public comment this afternoon, yet am now finding myself unable to attend the meeting. In general, here are the comments I had hoped to share:

I was a New Hampshire educator from 2002-2016. For the last four years, I've been supporting teachers and schools in New Hampshire as they redesigned their competency-based assessment systems as part of the NH PACE project. I'm very concerned with the initial ideas set forth by the commission to tie funding to our current assessment system, graduation rates and attendance.

I want to particularly caution against using standardized testing to justify funding. When we think about equity, we should always ask, equity to what goal? The goal of having high standardized test scores? Test scores that can't assess the actual skills necessary for success in post-secondary life? For generations schools, parents and communities have put stock in the ability of these tests to tell us how intelligent our children are, and how good our schools are without understanding the complicated theories from which these assertions are built. Psychometrics is theory, yet we treat it as absolute. The history of psychometrics has deep connections to the eugenics movement from which tests like the SAT were born. As a reminder, the eugenics movement used pseudoscience to convince people there was a difference in intelligence and human worth based on skin color and ethnicity. It led to mass sterilizations and was the justification Hitler used to carry out mass genocide. Although modern day psychometricians may not have the same intent as eugenicists, they are operating under the same basic starting point, that specific testing questions asked in particular ways can tell us facts about complicated learning journeys and the skills we hope our learners have. It is dishonest and unethical to peddle these tests as fact and should not be used to help make decisions about school funding or the quality of our schools. The New Hampshire constitution and our Ed rules clearly lay out the importance of honesty in the education process, this should also be true of our assessment systems. Currently, our

assessment system is not honest and a new funding formula should not hitch its wagon to these tests.

The proposed outcomes-based solution will not properly address school funding in the long term, in fact it may work to further undermine our public school system. Taxpayers will get frustrated as test scores don't reach "proficient" levels, and if additional funding is not used to address the structures and policies in schools that lead to absenteeism and push out rates, taxpayers will equally be frustrated and we'll be back at the table negotiating another formula. Money will address some problems, but the money alone will not do it, the school funding debate has to be more than just about funding, but also about substance and practices. Looking at funding as one issue, without addressing how we'll honestly understand the quality of our schools will only further harm students, frustrate tax payers and undermine our public education system.

I suggest that you carefully look at some of the work of [MCIEA in Massachusetts](#) and connect with Jack Schneider.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute public comment via email,

Carisa Corrow

Penacook

--

Carisa Corrow  
Principal Owner

“Any decent society has to be built on trust and love and the intelligent use of information and feelings. Education involves being able to practice those things as you struggle to build a decent society that can be nonviolent.” Myles Horton

**Subject:** Zoom Access Information - 11/16 Commission to Study School Funding Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:36:26 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

Here is the access information for today's 1pm Commission to Study School Funding Meeting:

Zoom link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/94111813816>

OR

Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799

Code: 941 1181 3816#

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)



**Subject:** 11/12 Commission to Study School Funding Zoom Information  
**Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 8:21:21 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

Here is the zoom information for this afternoon's 2pm Commission to Study School Funding meeting:

Zoom Link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/94433064626>

OR

Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799

Conference Code: 944 3306 4626#

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Commission to Study School Funding Zoom Information 11/9  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7:12:20 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

Please find the zoom information for today's Commission to Study School Funding meetings (FP at 1pm, Adequacy at 3pm) below:

Zoom Link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/92874689165>

OR

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799
2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: **928 7468 9165#**

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** 11/2 Commission to Study School Funding Zoom Info  
**Date:** Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7:30:35 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good Morning,

Please find the Zoom information for today's 2pm Commission meeting below:

Zoom Link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97245102617>

OR

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799
2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 972 4510 2617#

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** 10/29 Commission Work Group Zoom Information  
**Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 8:28:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

Please find the information for today's Commission to Study School Funding Work Group Meetings (Fiscal Policy 10am, Engagement 1pm, Adequacy 3pm) below:

Zoom link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97273837011>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,97273837011# or +13126266799,,97273837011#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799  
or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 972 7383 7011

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** FW: 10/27/2020 Municipal and School Leader Reprise on Public School Funding in NH  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 1:27:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Paul Deschaine  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

At the suggestion of Bruce Mallory, I share the following.

Paul  
Paul R. Deschaine  
Project Manager  
Town of Newington  
205 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801  
[pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com](mailto:pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com)  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paul Deschaine  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 7:26 PM  
**To:** Carrie Portrie (carrie.portrie@unh.edu) <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>; Bruce Mallory (Bruce.Mallory@unh.edu) <Bruce.Mallory@unh.edu>  
**Subject:** 10/27/2020 Municipal and School Leader Reprise on Public School Funding in NH

Carrie/Bruce,

Since I was surprised by the abrupted conclusion of today's Municipal and School Leaders Focus Group, and to not prolong the meeting any longer than necessary, I offer the following views that I did not have time to express on behalf of the Town of Newington.

1. I hope I was successful in slipping this comment under the Chat feature of the meeting before it

closed. If not, I offer it again here and perhaps in more detail. An observation I made when Bruce was summarizing the Commission's work to date was the statement described as "Givens" in the presentation. That statement was "...no rationale for infusing new or additional resources..." into the overall funding of schools. I recognize that at \$3 billion overall spending appears to be adequate given the average student outcomes. However, that statement implies the presumption that the sources or the mix of sources must and/or should stay the same. As stated earlier in the presentation, property taxes as a source of funding is at or nearly 75% of the total funding. It's been that way for decades even after the state reclassified/renamed a portion of the local school property tax to become the state-wide property tax. It's still a property tax. Property taxes are admittedly regressive and locally centric since property must be located somewhere and its value is based on location. It was then later stated in the presentation that after more than 20 years of addressing these problems of school funding, disparities still exist. Maybe they exist because there is a systemic problem with funding education using property taxes no matter the source.

2. To illustrate more clearly the problems of relying so heavily on property taxes, let's remove the complexity of school funding from the discussion and replace it with a more universal government service/expense. Highways. Let's presume this legislature is met with a decline in state gasoline tax revenues (the toll tax). Not so far fetch given the historic decline experienced during the last 10 or more years due to more fuel-efficient cars and electric vehicles. Now with the pandemic, there are fewer commuters, and less traffic overall. Even less gasoline is sold with a resulting loss of gas tax revenues. If faced with declining revenues, no decline in the need for maintaining highways, and the commitment/given that there cannot be any new revenue source to be found, the miracle answer is to institute a state-wide property tax for roads and bridges. Not that much a leap given the history of school funding. Municipalities have roads and bridges. They have used property taxes to support their construction and maintenance. You usually can't use a local road without interconnecting with a state road. There is your rationale for a state-wide highway property tax. Imagine, if property "rich" towns in NH had to assist property "poor" towns with the construction and maintenance of another town's highway system. The same characteristics that describe under performing schools could be used to measure the poor highway outcomes in these same communities. I am not saying there is not a need in these communities, but meeting that need by use of the property tax system has inherent inequities and may sustain the disparities over time be they highways or schools.
3. The pandemic may invalidate several of the assumptions used in AIR's model. We have all lived in a changing world, but that rate of change has increased exponentially due to the pandemic. In talking with the Town of Waterville Valley for instance, their school enrollments this fall have jumped from 20 students to 60. This has been attributed to the recent surge in purchases of existing homes that were previously used seasonally for year-round permanent residences. This was caused by new owners fleeing urban areas in which they lived to avoid Covid exposures. It has also contributed to a recent rise in market values in that Town in a very short timeframe. This further increases the hardship experienced by longer-term residents who may have higher valued homes but not the income to support the resulting taxes. By adding an increase in a state-wide property tax to deal with other communities' educational disparities, you will further widen the income disparities of many other residents in "property rich" towns. I can already see this effect in other communities in NH closer to the MA border. The predictive AIR model may become unintentionally obsolete without anyone knowing it. Simply put, Covid may make this effort untimely and unpredictable.

4. Specific to Newington, there have been recent global changes in its commercial values. With the recent sale of the electrical generation assets that were formerly owned by PSNH/Eversource, their sale values were significantly less than their previous assessed value. The reasons for the difference are multifaceted, so I will not add to the length of this comment by describing it in detail. The Town is actively engaged in an abatement process with the new owners that could have significant impacts on the total assessed value of the Town. Then there is the collapse of the retail industry before Covid due to online sales. Covid has only magnified the distress experienced by the Fox Run Mall and other retail outlets in Newington. Vacancies have soared and the resulting decrease in market value of brick and mortar storefronts is also concerning. The perception that Newington is a property rich town may not be accurate over the long-term.
5. Newington has a unique burden that other “property rich” towns do not have. Since most of our value is commercial property based, there are trade-offs of hosting such uses. The daily congestion and services we must provide are disproportional to the size of our community and the number of its residents. Our residents are exposed to frequent air quality issues connected to some of the industries within our commercial tax base. Noise and other nuisances are daily occurrences, which conflict with peaceful enjoyment of our residential properties. Understanding the trade-off of living in such a community should not include subsidizing other communities if the donor town concept is the outcome of the Commission’s work.

I lastly suggest once the Commission has completed its work and the presentation commonly referred to as the “Rotary Club Presentation” is prepared, that you specifically approach the former “Coalition Communities” and make this presentation to them. This is to further the dialogue regarding the future impact of the Commission’s findings and to attempt to find common ground with those communities, their leaders, and future legislators who are being elected next week. I offer to assist in making that effort happen.

I thank you for being given the opportunity to provide you these thoughts.

Paul

Paul R. Deschaine  
Project Manager  
Town of Newington  
205 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801  
[pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com](mailto:pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com)

**Subject:** Thank you for Joining us! Oct 27th Municipal and School Leader Reprise on Public School Funding in NH  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 11:24:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Portrie, Carrie  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Mallory, Bruce, Mel Myler, Dave Luneau, Jay Kahn, Hensley, Jordan  
**Attachments:** School\_muni\_leaders\_102720.pdf,  
FINAL\_SchoolFunding\_MunicipalSchoolLeaderReprise\_DiscussionGuide\_10112020.pdf

Municipal and School Leaders,

Thank you again for attending the presentation and discussion about public school funding in New Hampshire last night, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5:30pm. **Attached** is the presentation shared about the Commission's work and guide we used to help frame the gathering last night.

**Today**, there is a public commenting session from 4 to 5pm. You can find the link under October 28<sup>th</sup> here: <https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding/calendar>. We also welcome comment via the Commission's email address at [SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu).

All the best,  
*Bruce and Carrie*

(on behalf of the public engagement workgroup  
for the Commission to Study School Funding in NH).

**Carrie Portrie**  
**[NH Listens](#) Program Manager and Fellow**  
PhD in Education: Children and Youth in Communities  
[carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) | pronouns = *she/her*



**NH Listens**, Carsey School of Public Policy  
University of New Hampshire  
Huddleston Hall, 73 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824-3532  
V: 603.862-3864 | [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)  
[www.nhlistens.org](http://www.nhlistens.org)

*Located on the traditional lands of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present, we acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.*

**Subject:** School Funding Statement of Principles  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:01:12 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Jeff McLynch  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Mallory, Bruce, Jeff McLynch  
**Attachments:** Statement of Principles (October 28, 2020).pdf

**Caution - External Email**

Members of the Commission:

Attached please find for your review a statement of principles on school funding that NHSFFP has developed in partnership with several other organizations, including the NH School Administrators Association (NHSAA) and the NH School Boards Association (NHSBA). We hope that you will find it useful as you strive to develop a comprehensive, equitable, and lasting set of recommendations for reforming New Hampshire's school funding system. NHSFFP and several of the other organizations supporting the statement will discuss it during today's dedicated public comment session at 4:00 pm and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about it.

Thank you -

Jeff

Jeff McLynch  
Project Director

New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project (NHSFFP)  
P.O. Box 921  
Concord, NH 03302  
603-945-9988

www.fairfundingnh.org

**Subject:** Re: Today! Oct 27th at 4-5:30pm: Municipal and School Leader Reprise on Public School Funding in NH  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 9:47:21 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Portrie, Carrie  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Mel Myler, Portrie, Carrie, Mallory, Bruce, Hensley, Jordan  
**Priority:** High

Good Morning Again Municipal and School Leaders,

The registration link for today is here. If you lost your original personalized link register again and receive a link for the meeting: <https://unh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlrf-2srT4pEtQAR94lftxAtxuAxK7t2Scj>

Thank you again for registering for a discussion about public school funding in NH and an update on the Commission for School Funding's work. **We are looking forward to talking with you all today from 4 to 5:30pm.** Upon registration, you received a zoom link and phone number, so you can connect via computer, tablet, or phone. If you need a new link or tech support let us know prior to the meeting. You can email [carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) or call 603-862-3864.

See you later today at 4:00pm,  
*Carrie*

(on behalf of the public engagement workgroup  
for the Commission to Study School Funding in NH).

**Carrie Portrie**  
**NH Listens Program Manager and Fellow**  
PhD in Education: Children and Youth in Communities

[carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) | pronouns = she/her

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---

**From:** New Hampshire Listens <carsey@carsey-unh.ccsend.com> on behalf of New Hampshire Listens <nh.listens@unh.edu>  
**Reply-To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 10:01 AM  
**To:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>  
**Subject:** NH School Funding Municipal and School Leader Reprise

**Caution - External Email**

## NH School Funding Municipal and School Leader Reprise October 2020

**Dear Municipal & School Leaders,**

The Commission is very much still in the process of learning, listening, and looking at potential school funding options. **We invite you to join us once again to provide input.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 27,  
4 – 5:30 p.m.**

[Register Here](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about

joining the meeting. If you have any questions about participation, email [Carrie.Portrie@unh.edu](mailto:Carrie.Portrie@unh.edu) or call 603-862-3864.

You can also visit the [Commission to Study School Funding Calendar](#) to learn more and/or to attend upcoming meetings and public commenting sessions.

**Also note:** You can find the municipal and [school leader focus group report from June 2020](#) under the August 10 meeting documents. You may also find it useful to look over some of the documents listed on the [Resources and Background webpage](#). If you are unable to attend, you may provide comments [here](#).

Very Best,  
**Carrie Portrie**

New Hampshire Listens Program Manager  
Ph.D. in Education: Children and Youth in Communities  
On Behalf of the Public Engagement Workgroup for the Commission to Study School Funding

**New Hampshire Listens is A Civic Engagement Initiative at the University of New Hampshire Carsey School of Public Policy.**  
Learn more at [www.nhlistens.org](http://www.nhlistens.org).

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Sent by [nh.listens@unh.edu](#)

**Subject:** Today! Oct 27th at 4-5:30pm: Municipal and School Leader Reprise on Public School Funding in NH  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 at 4:54:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Portrie, Carrie  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Hensley, Jordan, Mallory, Bruce, Portrie, Carrie, Mel Myler  
**Priority:** High

Good Morning Municipal and School Leaders,

Thank you again for registering for a discussion about public school funding in NH and an update on the Commission for School Funding's work. **We are looking forward to talking with you all today from 4 to 5:30pm.** Upon registration, you received a zoom link and phone number, so you can connect via computer, tablet, or phone. If you need a new link or tech support let us know prior to the meeting. You can email [carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) or call 603-862-3864.

See you later today at 4:00pm,  
*Carrie*

(on behalf of the public engagement workgroup  
for the Commission to Study School Funding in NH).

**Carrie Portrie**

**[NH Listens](#) Program Manager and Fellow**

PhD in Education: Children and Youth in Communities

[carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) | pronouns = *she/her*

**NH Listens**, Carsey School of Public Policy

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V: 603.862-3864 | [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)  
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---

**From:** New Hampshire Listens <carsey@carsey-unh.ccsend.com> on behalf of New Hampshire Listens <nh.listens@unh.edu>

**Reply-To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:02 AM

**To:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>

**Subject:** Share your Perspective on School Funding! Focus Groups for Residents of NH 65 and Older

**Caution - External Email**

## NH Residents over 65 – Share your perspectives on Public School Funding on Tuesday, October 6th!

**Dear Colleagues and Senior NH Residents,**

**We are writing on behalf of the Commission to seek senior residents' input from across the state about public school funding via two online focus groups using Zoom video and telephone conferencing.**

These conversations about school funding will take 60–90 minutes and will help inform the Commission as it shapes its recommendations in the coming months.

No expertise required and all perspectives welcome!

**Oct. 6, 8 – 9:30 a.m.,**  
**[Register Here](#)**

**Oct. 6, 4 – 5:30 p.m.,**  
**[Register Here](#)**

The Commission to Study School Funding (established by the NH General Court last fall) began work this past winter. The Commission has asked the Carsey School of Public Policy and its public engagement program NH Listens to support its research, policy analysis, and engagement goals.

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you have any questions about participation, email [Carrie.Portrie@unh.edu](mailto:Carrie.Portrie@unh.edu) or call 603-862-3864.

You can also visit the [Commission to Study School Funding Calendar](#) to learn more and/or to attend upcoming meetings and public commenting sessions.

Very Best,  
**Carrie Portrie**

New Hampshire Listens Program Manager  
Ph.D. in Education: Children and Youth in Communities  
On Behalf of the Public Engagement Workgroup for the Commission to Study School Funding

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Sent by [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)

**Subject:** NHSFFP responses to Commission's "Critical Questions"  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 at 10:30:43 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Jeff McLynch  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Mallory, Bruce, Jeff McLynch  
**Attachments:** Critical Questions before the Commission to Study School Funding.pdf

**Caution - External Email**

Members of the Commission to Study School Funding:

During the Commission's October 19 meeting, you each received a set of 28 "critical questions" pertaining to the Commission's remaining work, ranging from the specific elements of a new adequacy formula to future expectations of the Department of Education. In the attached document, NHSFFP offers its perspective on each of those questions. I hope you find it useful.

If you should have any questions regarding the attached document, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Thank you for your time and your service to the Granite State.

Jeff

Jeff McLynch  
Project Director

New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project (NHSFFP)  
P.O. Box 921  
Concord, NH 03302  
603-945-9988



www.fairfundingnh.org

**Subject:** 10/26 Commission to Study School Funding Zoom Information  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 at 8:20:37 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

For ease of access, please find today's Commission to Study School Funding Meeting (2pm) Zoom info below:

Zoom link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/92706173398>

OR

Dial 1-312-626-6799

Enter Code 927 0617 3398#

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Your email requires verification verify#ynCHzoEeIES5V9Txc7HMY-1603202575)  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 10:02:55 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** cnhtjffk@server264.web-hosting.com on behalf of webmaster@cnht.org  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

No worries. We just want to make sure the message you sent to CNHT came from a real live human being and not a spam source. Our email is 'out there' and thus would otherwise garner a lot of spam.

To complete this verification, simply hit REPLY to this message and leave the subject line intact, or click the link below:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnht.org%2Fcgi-sys%2Fbxdcgi%3Fa%3Dwebmaster%40cnht.org%26id%3DynCHzoEeIES5V9Txc7HMY-1603202575&data=02%7C01%7Cschoolfunding.commission%40unh.edu%7C13a8c231c5354e31454808d87500e196%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C637387994640778312&sdata=apTwktVqGtU%2BpeY1QFPOH7qgU%2BIOKYDX%2BQ2t5k4iqJl%3D&reserved=0>

The headers of the message sent from your address are shown below:

From [SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu) Tue Oct 20 10:02:55 2020  
Received: from se17.registrar-servers.com ([198.54.122.197]:39948)  
by server264.web-hosting.com with esmtps (TLS1.2) tls TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384  
(Exim 4.93)  
(envelope-from <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>)

id 1kUsE3-002wB6-1v

for [webmaster@cnht.org](mailto:webmaster@cnht.org); Tue, 20 Oct 2020 10:02:55 -0400

Received: from mail-mw2nam12on2051.outbound.protection.outlook.com ([40.107.244.51] helo=NAM12-MW2-obe.outbound.protection.outlook.com)

by se17.registrar-servers.com with esmtps (TLSv1.2:AES128-GCM-SHA256:128)

(Exim 4.92)

(envelope-from <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>)

id 1kUsDp-0002IA-2f

for [webmaster@cnht.org](mailto:webmaster@cnht.org); Tue, 20 Oct 2020 07:02:54 -0700

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ARC-Authentication-Results: i=1; mx.microsoft.com 1; spf=pass

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header.d=unh.edu; arc=none

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=unh.edu; s=selector2;

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Received: from MN2PR04MB6159.namprd04.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:208:e6::19)

by MN2PR04MB5518.namprd04.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:208:dd::29) with

Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1\_2,

cipher=TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384) id 15.20.3477.25; Tue, 20 Oct

2020 14:02:36 +0000

Received: from MN2PR04MB6159.namprd04.prod.outlook.com

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([fe80::118c:8a73:d85c:721b%3]) with mapi id 15.20.3477.027; Tue, 20 Oct 2020

14:02:36 +0000

From: School Funding Commission <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>

To: CNHT <[webmaster@cnht.org](mailto:webmaster@cnht.org)>

Subject: Re: Speak Out on Education Funding!

Thread-Topic: Speak Out on Education Funding!

Thread-Index: AQHWpump7/tM4SUIdUSb146ePD3O9g==

Date: Tue, 20 Oct 2020 14:02:36 +0000

Message-ID: <[3A0863FD-0460-479B-A4A5-B8CEA65E0CEF@unh.edu](mailto:3A0863FD-0460-479B-A4A5-B8CEA65E0CEF@unh.edu)>

Accept-Language: en-US

Content-Language: en-US

X-MS-Has-Attach:

X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:

user-agent: Microsoft-MacOutlook/16.42.20101102

authentication-results: cnht.org; dkim=none (message not signed)

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x-ms-exchange-messagesentrepresentingtype: 1

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Authentication-Results: registrar-servers.com; spf=pass [smtp.mailfrom=SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:smtp.mailfrom=SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu);

dkim=pass header.i=unh.edu

X-SpamExperts-Class: ham

X-SpamExperts-Evidence: Combined (0.15)

X-Recommended-Action: accept

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X-Report-Abuse-To: [spam@se5.registrar-servers.com](mailto:spam@se5.registrar-servers.com)

No need to do anything else, your original mail will then be delivered and you'll be whitelisted.

Thanks for understanding!

~ CNHT

**Subject:** RE: High school tuition  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020 at 11:15:24 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** School Funding Commission  
**To:** Jennifer Boylston, School Funding Commission

Jen,

The issue of tuition spending has been discussed at previously as a cost factor for some districts (and at one point in the process the cost was being counted both on the sending and receiving side--that was subsequently updated to avoid double counting), but I do not recall any specific conversations about restrictions on out of district placements/tuition.

Jordan Hensley  
Pronouns: He/Him/His  
Policy Analyst  
Carsey School of Public Policy  
[REDACTED] Office: 603-862-1463  
[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Boylston <[jennifer.boylston@adimab.com](mailto:jennifer.boylston@adimab.com)>  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 9:37 PM  
To: School Funding Commission <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>  
Subject: High school tuition

Caution - External Email

Hi,

I am wondering if the commission has discussed school tuition cost. I believe that VT imposes maximums on the per student tuition charge paid by sending towns. To my knowledge, NH doesn't impose any restriction or control on the

cost. Have you discussed tuition costs and the impact(s) they have on sending towns? If so, can you point me to that recording or transcript?

Thanks,  
Jen

Sent from my iPhone

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This message may be confidential and privileged. Use or disclosure by anyone other than an intended addressee is prohibited. If you received this message in error, please delete it and advise the sender by reply email.

**Subject:** High school tuition

**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2020 at 9:36:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Jennifer Boylston

**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

Hi,

I am wondering if the commission has discussed school tuition cost. I believe that VT imposes maximums on the per student tuition charge paid by sending towns. To my knowledge, NH doesn't impose any restriction or control on the cost. Have you discussed tuition costs and the impact(s) they have on sending towns? If so, can you point me to that recording or transcript?

Thanks,  
Jen

Sent from my iPhone

--

This message may be confidential and privileged. Use or disclosure by anyone other than an intended addressee is prohibited. If you received this message in error, please delete it and advise the sender by reply email.

**Subject:** Commission to Study School Funding 10-19 Zoom Reminder  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020 at 8:05:24 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

A reminder that today's Commission meeting is extended (1-4:30). Access info is below:

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799
  2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 997 4936 1191#
- Video access is available at: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/99749361191>

Best,

Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)



**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Speak Out on Education Funding!  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2020 at 2:51:56 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** CNHT  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Caution - External Email

From: EDWARD NAILE <[ednaile@comcast.net](mailto:ednaile@comcast.net)>

Dear Carrie...

Here is CNHT's input from the Chairman.

1. Release the S.P.E.D.I.S. #s to the public like they were meant to be.
2. No bottom line budgets - line items so voters have a choice.
3. No secret payoffs to Superintendents.
4. School choice.

For starters

**Subject:** RE: Property Tax Funding of Schools Reports  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 12:57:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** School Funding Commission  
**To:** Paul Deschaine, School Funding Commission

Paul,  
Thanks again for participating in the process and providing comment to the Commission. Glad you're following along. Some specific dates where the Commission discussed taxation include:

May 7  
June 1  
June 5  
June 15  
June 22  
July 7  
July 16  
August 3  
August 17  
August 24  
August 31  
September 14

As you noted during the comment period, a lot of the discussion has centered around property taxes given their significant role in funding public education, but in the notes and video from these meetings there are also times where other revenue sources were discussed. Hope this helps and feel free to reach out as future questions arise.

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His  
Policy Analyst  
Carsey School of Public Policy  
[REDACTED] Office: 603-862-1463  
[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

---

**From:** Paul Deschaine <[pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com](mailto:pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:44 PM  
**To:** School Funding Commission <[SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu](mailto:SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu)>  
**Subject:** Property Tax Funding of Schools Reports

**Caution - External Email**

Jordan/Carrie/Bruce,

Thank you and the Commissioners for hearing my comments earlier today. As suggested, here is my contact information to allow you to forward any information you think may assist me in getting up to speed with the Commission's work especially as it relates to the sources of school funding. I did discover the dropdown menu on Property Taxes [https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding-study/resources#collapse\\_8460](https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding-study/resources#collapse_8460) and found some of the reports referenced during our online conversation.

I look forward to having a continuing dialogue with the staff and the Commission on behalf of the Town of Newington and all municipalities who will be affected by the Commission's work.

Enjoy today's sunshine.

Paul

Paul R. Deschaine  
Project Manager  
Town of Newington  
205 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801  
[pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com](mailto:pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com)  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Property Tax Funding of Schools Reports  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 4:44:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Paul Deschaine  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Jordan/Carrie/Bruce,

Thank you and the Commissioners for hearing my comments earlier today. As suggested, here is my contact information to allow you to forward any information you think may assist me in getting up to speed with the Commission's work especially as it relates to the sources of school funding. I did discover the dropdown menu on Property Taxes [https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding-study/resources#collapse\\_8460](https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding-study/resources#collapse_8460) and found some of the reports referenced during our online conversation.

I look forward to having a continuing dialogue with the staff and the Commission on behalf of the Town of Newington and all municipalities who will be affected by the Commission's work.

Enjoy today's sunshine.

Paul

Paul R. Deschaine  
Project Manager  
Town of Newington  
205 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801

[pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com](mailto:pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com)

**Subject:** Thank you! Youth/Young People Focus Group - Public School Funding in NH  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 2:37:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Portrie, Carrie  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** corinne.cascadden@gmail.com, Mel Myler, Mallory, Bruce, Mejia, Andres

Hello everyone,

The conversation last night was very engaging and provided important perspectives about public school funding in New Hampshire for the Commission to consider. We wanted to share the school funding website again - <https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding>. On the opening page you will find a link to the public meeting calendar, meeting minutes/materials and video archive. At the bottom there is a comment form as well. We hope you will continue to talk about school funding with others! This is an important policy issue that affects all of us!

Also, keep an eye on the Reaching Higher NH Website <http://reachinghighernh.org/student-voice/>. The video we watched will eventually be available publicly.

Thank you and reach out anytime,  
Carrie

**Carrie Portrie**

**[NH Listens](#) Program Manager and Fellow**

PhD in Education: Children and Youth in Communities

[carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) | pronouns = *she/her*

**NH Listens**, Carsey School of Public Policy  
University of New Hampshire

Huddleston Hall, 73 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824-3532  
V: 603.862-3864 | [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)  
[www.nhlistens.org](http://www.nhlistens.org)

*Located on the traditional lands of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present, we acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.*

---

**From:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:01 AM  
**To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>  
**Subject:** Reminder: Today! School Funding Focus Group 6-7:30pm

Good morning!

Thank you again for registering for a discussion about public school funding in NH with fellow young people living and going to school in NH.

Our discussion will be informal and includes a video that explains school funding in NH. When you received a zoom link and phone number was sent to your email, so you can connect via computer, tablet, or phone. If you need a new link or tech support let me know prior to the meeting. Email [carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) or call 603-862-3864. Feel free to forward the invite on to others.

We will use the following questions as a guide for discussion. You do not need to answer each. This is just to help us all think about school funding together.

- Where do you live and what school do you attend?
- Name one or two things that were important to you about your own education in NH
- If you could name one thing that needs more funding in your school, what would it be?
- What do you think about the difference in funding amongst schools in our state?
- What would you consider an adequate education?
- What barriers exist for students and their families based on how schools are funded?
- Who should pay for our public schools?
- Students take tests and make decisions about life after high-school that help decision-makers measure how well students are doing in school. What should school leaders measure to know whether students have received a (Good? Fair? Similar? Equal?) education no matter what community they live in?
- How would you describe a student who has had a positive outcome in NH public schools?

Looking forward to seeing you later today,  
Carrie

**Carrie Portrie**

**[NH Listens](#) Program Manager and Fellow**

PhD in Education: Children and Youth in Communities

[carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) | pronouns = *she/her*

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**From:** New Hampshire Listens <carsey@carsey-unh.ccsend.com> on behalf of New Hampshire Listens <nh.listens@unh.edu>

**Reply-To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:08 AM

**To:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>

**Subject:** Youth Voices Matter! School Funding Focus Groups Oct. 2020

**Caution - External Email**

## Youth Voices Matter! Opportunities for Young People to Talk about Public School Funding in NH October 2020

**Dear Colleagues and NH Youth,**

**We Know Youth Voices Matter.** Below are Four Opportunities for Young People in New Hampshire to Share their Thoughts about Public School Funding in New Hampshire this Fall.

*Please share these opportunities broadly!*

**Youth Only Public Commenting Session**

**Wednesday, October 7, 4 - 5 p.m.**

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Visit the [Commission to Study School Funding Calendar](#)  
for Zoom Links.

**Prepare a 1-3 minutes statement about your experience in School and what  
you think about public school funding in NH.**

**No expertise required! All perspectives welcome!**

Learn more about school funding by visiting Reaching Higher NH's  
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**Two Focus Groups for Young People Ages 14-21  
who attend or have attended a NH Public School**

**We will view a short video to learn about school funding  
and have a conversation.**

*We hope for a representation of voices from across the state and ask only young people participate  
with our welcoming facilitators who will support the conversation.*

**Oct. 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m.,  
[Register Here](#)**

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Very Best,  
**Carrie Portrie**

New Hampshire Listens Program Manager  
Ph.D. in Education: Children and Youth in Communities



M.D. in Education: Children and Youth in Communities  
On Behalf of the Public Engagement Workgroup for the Commission to Study School Funding

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Sent by [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Reminder: Today! School Funding Focus Group 6-7:30pm  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 at 4:49:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Portrie, Carrie  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning!

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Our discussion will be informal and includes a video that explains school funding in NH. When you received a zoom link and phone number was sent to your email, so you can connect via computer, tablet, or phone. If you need a new link or tech support let me know prior to the meeting. Email [carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) or call 603-862-3864. Feel free to forward the invite on to others.

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**From:** New Hampshire Listens <carsey@carsey-unh.ccsend.com> on behalf of New Hampshire Listens <nh.listens@unh.edu>

**Reply-To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:08 AM

**To:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>

**Subject:** Youth Voices Matter! School Funding Focus Groups Oct. 2020

**Caution - External Email**

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Very Best,  
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New Hampshire Listens Program Manager  
Ph.D. in Education: Children and Youth in Communities

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Sent by [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Zoom Access Reminder - Tomorrow's Commission Work Group Meetings

**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:47:52 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Hensley, Jordan

**To:** School Funding Commission

Good Morning,

Hope everyone had a wonderful weekend. Reminding folks that the Commission to Study School Funding will hold its work group meetings **tomorrow** (10/13), at the same times as usual (FP 10am, Engagement 1pm, Adequacy 3pm). Zoom information below:

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799

2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 934 0107 5903#

Video access is available at: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/93401075903>

Best,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Thank you! School Funding Focus Group for NH Senior Residents

**Date:** Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 2:36:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Portrie, Carrie

**To:** School Funding Commission

**CC:** Mallory, Bruce, Mel Myler, Corinne Cascadden

Hello again,

Thank you for the engaging conversations on October 6<sup>th</sup>. All participants provided important perspectives about school funding in New Hampshire for the Commission to consider. For those of you who attended or registered and were unable to attend, we want to share the school funding website again - <https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding>. On the opening page you will find a link to the public meeting calendar, meeting minutes/materials and video archive. At the bottom there is a button that links to a public commenting form.

All the best,  
Bruce and Carrie

(on Behalf of the Commission  
Public Engagement Workgroup)

**Carrie Portrie**

**NH Listens Program Manager and Fellow**

PhD in Education: Children and Youth in Communities

[carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) | pronouns = *she/her*

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**Subject:** School funding forum follow up  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 at 7:17:32 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Hope VE  
**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Hi Bruce,

Due to time constraints, I didn't get the chance to add one point that I hope the commission will consider. During the call, it was mentioned that adding revenue streams doesn't solve the problem. My response would be - it depends on the problem we are considering. If we are considering the state funding of education, no the problem isn't solved. If the burden that education funding has on the taxpayer is being considered, then additional revenue streams could be part of the solution depending on the source in which the revenue is taken.

From a taxpayer perspective, adding more revenue streams, such as gas taxes and room taxes shared amongst state visitors or implementing tiered property taxes, may help relieve the burden of residential property taxes.

In reading the AIR report, it seemed the voice of the taxpayer and their current tax burden was excluded.

Thank you for doing such a great job facilitating.

Kindly,  
Hope



**Subject:** Manchester Student Written Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 2:42:56 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Elizabeth Kirwan  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**CC:** Portrie, Carrie, Angelina Gillispie - Student Teacher, Kelly Priddy, Mejia, Andres  
**Attachments:** Wilondja - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Jhomar - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Kritika - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Fady - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Bitokenja - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Ederlin - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Nathaniel - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Paul - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Sarah - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Samuel - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Sultan - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Wagner - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Helene - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Faithful - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Amanda - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf, Yaneicis - Funding Commission Student Voice Letter - Google Docs.pdf

**Caution - External Email**

Good afternoon,

Please accept the attached written testimony to be delivered at the Youth Public Comment Period for today at 4pm. Unfortunately, the students are no longer able to meet in person at school in order to participate. We do believe there will still be a few who decide to read their letters, so we would like to still submit all for review and reading during the public comment session.

Should a student decide to read, can their written letter be taken into consideration by the Commission? Depending on internet connection, it may be difficult to understand them orally.

If a student is not present to read their letter, can these still be read in the live meeting? Angelina and I will be present to read if that is easiest for the Commission. We will be in contact with our students to see who is signed in at that time.

Please let us know if this is possible and how we can help.

Thank so much,

Liz

--

Liz Kirwan, M.S. TEFL

She/Her Pronouns

EL Teacher

Manchester West High School

Interested in Equity? Here is what I am [reading](#) and [listening](#) to surrounding this essential topic. Enjoy!

**Subject:** School Funding Commission: Youth Input  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 1:12:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Rogers, Sawyer  
**To:** School Funding Commission  
**Attachments:** School Funding Commission.docx

Hello,

I plan on attending and making a public comment at the Youth Voice Comment Period tomorrow. Attached is what I plan to say, might make some slight modifications to it but beyond that they should be the same.

-Sawyer Rogers

**Subject:** Reminder: Tomorrow Oct 6 at 4:00pm NH Senior Resident Focus Group - Public School Funding in NH

**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 at 2:42:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Portrie, Carrie

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Priority:** High

Good afternoon NH senior residents,

Thank you again for registering for a discussion about public school funding in NH. We are looking forward to talking with you all tomorrow, **October 6, 2020 on Zoom at 4:00pm**. Upon registration, you received a zoom link and phone number, so you can connect via computer, tablet, or phone. If you need a new link or tech support let us know prior to the meeting. You can contact Carrie at [carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) or 603-862-3864 and share with others senior residents who may be interested -- No expert knowledge required. Bring yourself, your perspectives, and your experiences.

These are the questions that will help guide our discussion:

- How does the current system for funding public schools work for you? Your family? Your community?
- In your opinion, what is currently working in terms of the way we fund public schools in NH?
- In your opinion, what are the problems with the current system?
- What are the most important components of an “adequate” education that should be considered as part of the base formula for calculating the cost of adequacy?
- If education is a right for all the school-aged young people in NH regardless of where they live, how would you solve the dilemma of adequate public school funding for every child?
- What do you think are the necessary elements of a public school funding policy that is bi-partisan and able to solicit wide-spread support so school-aged young people in NH can have an equitable opportunity for an adequate public school education?
- How would you describe a student who has had a positive outcome in NH public schools? What components of public schooling supports students’ positive outcomes later in life?

See you tomorrow Oct 6 at 4:00pm,  
*Carrie*

(on behalf of the public engagement workgroup  
for the Commission to Study School Funding in NH).

**Carrie Portrie**

**NH Listens Program Manager and Fellow**

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**From:** New Hampshire Listens <carsey@carsey-unh.ccsend.com> on behalf of New Hampshire Listens <nh.listens@unh.edu>

**Reply-To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:02 AM

**To:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>

**Subject:** Share your Perspective on School Funding! Focus Groups for Residents of NH 65 and Older

**Caution - External Email**

## NH Residents over 65 – Share your perspectives on Public School Funding on Tuesday, October 6th!

**Dear Colleagues and Senior NH Residents,**

**We are writing on behalf of the Commission to seek senior residents' input from across the state about public school funding via two online focus groups using Zoom video and telephone conferencing.**

These conversations about school funding will take 60–90 minutes and will help inform the Commission as it shapes its recommendations in the coming months.

No expertise required and all perspectives welcome!

**Oct. 6, 8 – 9:30 a.m.,**  
**[Register Here](#)**

[register here](#)

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Very Best,  
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Sent by [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)

**Subject:** Reminder: Tomorrow Oct 6 at 8:00am NH Senior Resident Focus Group - Public School Funding in NH

**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 at 2:40:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Portrie, Carrie

**To:** School Funding Commission

Good afternoon NH senior residents,

Thank you again for registering for a discussion about public school funding in NH. We are looking forward to talking with you all tomorrow, **October 6, 2020 on Zoom at 8:00am**. Upon registration, you received a zoom link and phone number, so you can connect via computer, tablet, or phone. If you need a new link or tech support let us know prior to the meeting. You can contact Carrie at [carrie.portrie@unh.edu](mailto:carrie.portrie@unh.edu) or 603-862-3864 and share with others senior residents who may be interested.

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**Reply-To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:02 AM

**To:** "Portrie, Carrie" <carrie.portrie@unh.edu>

**Subject:** Share your Perspective on School Funding! Focus Groups for Residents of NH 65 and Older

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Sent by [nh.listens@unh.edu](mailto:nh.listens@unh.edu)

**Subject:** RE: AIR data

**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 at 1:31:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Carolyn Mebert

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Thanks, Jordan. I've been analyzing much of the same data AIR used and shared some of my 2018-19 results with Bruce many months ago, but my results are not always consistent with theirs. I haven't been able to find, in any of the materials they've provided, how the enrollment weights were derived and how they were used. I'm wondering why districts with enrollments of 2000 to < 5000 are in the same category as the two largest districts, those with 11k to 13k enrollments. I could be missing something, so maybe you could point me in the right direction. I'm also wondering how they calculated z scores that don't have means of 0 and standard deviations of 1, which all z scores for specified distributions should have. Finally (at least at this point), the table on page 13 of their draft report has analyses that cover multiple years, 11 or so in one case and 3 in the other, but there's no indication of how the various years were aggregated. The degrees of freedom reported suggest that each district was entered as a separate case multiple times, but it would be good to know with more certainty. Can you or someone else on the team help me find answers to these questions?

Thanks again,  
Carolyn

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**From:** [School Funding Commission](#)

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 1:11 PM

**To:** [Carolyn Mebert](#); [School Funding Commission](#)

**Subject:** RE: AIR data

Carolyn,

Thanks for staying engaged in this process and appreciate your comments. I believe the data used by AIR is publicly available, from the DOE and DRA, and their own regional index of costs. Those are noted for the most part under the appropriate figures, and there were requests by the Commission to make the data sourcing clearer from the initial draft of the report to the most current version. I will forward your request about AIR's data files, although my understanding at this time is that the Commission's ownership extends to the final report, briefs, and simulator and not those spreadsheets in particular.

I saw your other comment in Qualtrics about questions in video comment sections – we are not monitoring

the YouTube comments sections, so it would be helpful to have any other feedback for the Commission placed in Qualtrics or sent to this email address.

Thanks,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Cell: 360-609-5824; Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)

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**From:** Carolyn Mebert <c.mebert@dover.k12.nh.us>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 11:07 PM

**To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Subject:** AIR data

**Caution - External Email**

Would it be possible for AIR to make available the data files they used? The information provided in their draft report doesn't make clear what data were used, or how they were used in the analyses presented. Since the commission paid for the research and analyses, wouldn't the commission own the data?

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Subject:** RE: AIR data

**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 at 1:11:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** School Funding Commission

**To:** Carolyn Mebert, School Funding Commission

Carolyn,

Thanks for staying engaged in this process and appreciate your comments. I believe the data used by AIR is publicly available, from the DOE and DRA, and their own regional index of costs. Those are noted for the most part under the appropriate figures, and there were requests by the Commission to make the data sourcing clearer from the initial draft of the report to the most current version. I will forward your request about AIR's data files, although my understanding at this time is that the Commission's ownership extends to the final report, briefs, and simulator and not those spreadsheets in particular.

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**Jordan Hensley**

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**From:** Carolyn Mebert <c.mebert@dover.k12.nh.us>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 11:07 PM

**To:** School Funding Commission <SchoolFunding.Commission@unh.edu>

**Subject:** AIR data

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Subject:** AIR data

**Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 11:07:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Carolyn Mebert

**To:** School Funding Commission

**Caution - External Email**

Would it be possible for AIR to make available the data files they used? The information provided in their draft report doesn't make clear what data were used, or how they were used in the analyses presented. Since the commission paid for the research and analyses, wouldn't the commission own the data?

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Subject:** Commission to Study School Funding Zoom Info 10/5  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:32:40 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Hensley, Jordan  
**To:** School Funding Commission

Good morning,

Here is a Zoom access reminder for today's 2pm full Commission meeting:

1. Dial the call in number: 1-312-626-6799
2. Enter the conference code, followed by the pound sign: 970 7982 5982#

Video access is available at: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97079825982>

Thanks,  
Jordan

**Jordan Hensley**

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Policy Analyst

Carsey School of Public Policy

Office: 603-862-1463

[jordan.hensley@unh.edu](mailto:jordan.hensley@unh.edu)