

## **Education this coming week:**

House Sessions – Wed and Thursday

HB272 – SUPPORT OTPA – increased funding for charter schools

Chartered schools have not had a funding increase for five years. There have been nine chartered school closures since 2005 and all related to financial reasons. This bill, as amended, will increase the “additional grant” for chartered schools by approximately \$1,000 per student.

HB529 – SUPPORT OTPA – education funding formula

HB529 sets the stage for Education and Finance Committees to work jointly in revising the education funding formula as part of evaluation the Governor's proposal. It adds a new formula disparity aid to towns with lower property valuations but with committee agreement that one if the current disparity aid calculations needs to be replaced. The committee also agreed that the current "stabilization grants" from 2012 for "ghost" children needs to be greatly revised or eliminated. The amendment adds accountability provisions to monitor how funds are to be used to promote student achievement.

HB601 – SUPPORT OTPA- Medicaid Direct Certification for free & reduced lunches

The bill is a directive for DHHS and DOE to seek participation in a federal program to use Medicaid enrollment to register students in the free and reduced meals programs. It would eliminate the local family application process and probably increase local funding based on higher number of students receiving free and reduced differentiated aid. This is already done for SNAP and TANF recipients. An issue is that none of these programs are in state law or rules. They are only department agreements with federal agencies that require data matching using confidential student information. We are told that the processes do (and will for Medicaid) provide an opt-out ability for parents but there was DHHS testimony that the SNAP and TANF opt-outs had been terminated and working to restore. The floor amendment will put this Medicaid program in statute, require parental opt in rather than just opt-out and also require DHHS and DOE to certify the programs comply with all federal and state laws.

## Education Committee Hearings:

Tuesday is EFA day:

9:00 a.m. **HB 331-FN** eliminates the family income limit for EFAs. SUPPORT

10:00 a.m. **HB 432-FN** requires EFA family income to be checked each yr. OPPOSE

10:45 a.m. **HB 446** relative to participation in EFA program by students with disabilities. OPPOSE as introduced – possible amendment coming

11:30 a.m. **HB 603-FN** restrictions on EFA education service providers OPPOSE

1:00 p.m. **HB 573-FN** limiting EFA funding to budgeted amounts OPPOSE

1:45 p.m. **HB 621-FN** relative to funds of the EFA program termination of a student's participation and responsibilities scholarship organization. Amend?

2:30 p.m. **HB 538-FN** enabling town vote on establishing locally funded EFAs  
SUPPORT

Friday:

9:30 a.m. **CACR 7** repeal of NH Constitution Blaine amendment that states no public funds to religious schools – anti-religious and ruled constitutional by US Supreme Court – see [RepealNHBlaine.com](http://RepealNHBlaine.com) SUPPORT

11:00 a.m. **HB 515** our tweaks to EFA language. SUPPORT

2:30 p.m. **HB 451** state board of education prohibition on discrimination – attack on private schools OPPOSE