

New Hampshire Public Education Funding Fairness Campaign

Date: September 2018
To: New Hampshire Town Select Board Members, School Superintendents, and School Board Chairpersons
Re: New Hampshire Public Education Funding Fairness Campaign

The members of the ConVal School Board (SAU1) and its nine member towns, acting through its Selectmen's Advisory Committee, is working together to confront the imbalance in state funding for public education throughout New Hampshire. Cuts over recent years averaging 50% have created an untenable situation for our schools, our children and our taxpayers. In this election year, we have an opportunity to raise the profile of this issue and compel our representatives and candidates to make this a front burner issue in the coming legislative session.

Together, our nine towns are initiating a grassroots statewide campaign in advance of the November election to get the attention of candidates running for office and those seeking re-election. The plan is to mail this letter directly to candidates and to send it to our local papers for publication. In order to make the largest impact possible, we are distributing the letter to all New Hampshire school boards and town administrators and managers, to be used as a template with a request to join us in this effort.

Because the election is just months away, we must act quickly. To make this efficient, we've outlined the steps and timing below:

1. Present this letter at your next School Board or SAC meeting (or call a special meeting).
2. Make any edits needed. (These are our words, feel free to add your own.)
3. Add your member names to the signature page. For larger groups, it may be best to have town boards authorize one member to sign on their behalf, and to have the school board chair sign representing the school board.
4. Gather signatures.
5. Scan the letter, save as PDF.
6. Distribute the letter to your elected officials, key committee chair people, Governor Sununu and all candidates running for office before October 12th.
7. Send the letter to your local newspaper during the month of October.

We are interested to know who will be participating around the state. Please complete this brief form: <http://bit.ly/NHedfundfair> to tell us how you plan to use the letter. For more information, contact Karen Hatcher, Select Board Member, Town of Peterborough at khatcher@peterboroughnh.gov.

Thank you in advance for joining us. Speaking with one voice as people who understand the critical importance of supporting public schools, together we can and must bring fairness to public school funding in New Hampshire.