

In 1980, the League adopted a position regarding the provision of education in New Hampshire as part of its position on funding state government. Since then, legislative policies governing education have become a focus of bipartisan attention, and public attitudes regarding education appear to be undergoing significant change. Many foundational assumptions are facing challenges. There does not appear to be a consensus about the role of public education in our democracy. Given these realities, LWFNH members at convention in June 2017 voted to review, update and expand the League's 1980 position on the provision of education in New Hampshire. The study will begin with an historical account of the role of public education in New Hampshire.

The LWFNH Education Study will then focus on the following: equity in access to educational opportunities, financing, governance, accountability and outcomes, standards and guidelines, and school choice.

The school choice phase of the study will include an examination of alternatives to traditional public education such as charter schools, vocational schooling, magnet schools, home-schooling, private schools, vouchers and tuition tax credits, as well as the accountability, transparency, and quality of outcomes involved in these choices.

The study will be conducted in phases with work done by the state study steering committee and local League committees and reported to the membership at large in the NHVoter and on the LWFNH.org website. The first consensus meetings will be held in December or early January in time for action to be taken in the next session of the Legislature.

All members are encouraged to read the fact sheets that local and state study committees will produce as well as to learn more about education in their local areas. For those members living near a local unit, participation in the study meetings is one way to become better informed. Meetings will be posted on the Calendar page of the LWFNH.org website.