



3 Barrell Court, Suite 100, Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 225-4199 x300 • www.NHscholars.org



3 Barrell Court, Suite 100 • Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 225-4199 • www.nhcuc.org

## New Hampshire Scholars Initiative

The State Scholars Initiative continues to build momentum in New Hampshire. What started as six pilot school districts has grown to sixteen (16), by adding 10 new districts in 2008/09. Active school districts include: Claremont, Fall Mountain Regional, Franklin, Gilford, Governor Wentworth (Kingswood), Hillsboro-Deering, Laconia, Lin-wood, Litchfield, Manchester, Merrimack, Nashua, Newmarket, Newport, Shaker Regional (Belmont), and Winnisquam Regional.

The immediate impact is seen in course enrollments. Data from four pilot schools show increases that are significant within a two year period. Beginning in fall 2006 through the spring of 2008, the percentage increase of student enrollment in the State Scholars core course of study indicate:

**Example - Class:** % of enrolled students in fall '06 to % in spring '08 (percentage increase)

**English:** 52% to 87% (+ 35%) ~ data may be impacted by block scheduling

**Algebra I:** 14% to 26% (+ 12%)

**Geometry:** 7% to 26% (+ 19%)

**Algebra II:** 7% to 15% (+ 8%)

**Biology:** 16% to 27% (+ 11%)

**Chemistry:** 10% to 15% (+ 5%)

**Physics:** 3% to 7.5% (+ 4.5%)

**Social Studies:** 41% to 79% (+ 38%)

**Foreign Language:** 34% to 46% (+ 12%)

Moving forward, we will continue data collection with all active schools via the Department's *i.4.see* system.

Many school districts have had overwhelming success for example: Winnisquam Regional High School (Tilton)

- **Doubled enrollment in chemistry** (junior class enrollment grew from 35% to 75% in 2008; 43 students to 91)
- **Tripled enrollment in college prep physics** (senior enrollment jumped from 8% to 23%; 10 students to 28)
- **Increased enrollment in foreign language by 25%** (either Spanish or French); 30 more students from '07-'08

### Initiative's Goals

The impact this project can have is multi-fold. Students completing the core course of study and having access to critical workforce information, will graduate better prepared for college and career. Students will attain the necessary skills for future success in college-level coursework. Within many districts, these objectives change the culture of expectations. We've found that when students are asked to do more, they accept the challenge. When students complete the prescribed courses, colleges will see higher quality applicants in the K-12 pipeline. There will also be a decreased need for remedial coursework. Business leaders, Higher Education and K-12 are working together on a common goal; education is a community undertaking.

The ambitious goal of achieving statewide implementation is now a reality. Our objective to add 25 more schools by 2011 would mean that half of the districts in NH are State Scholar districts. Increasing the number of schools increases the number of students reached and increases NH Scholar graduates. The target audience is the mid-50 percentile in the student class – those whom would not otherwise have access to the business mentorships or motivation to challenge themselves in rigorous coursework.

### Sustainability

Initial funding expired in March 2009. Upon the recommendation of Governor John H. Lynch however, a second USDOE grant (College Access Challenge Grant - CACG) will provide funding through 2010. In an effort to increase visibility to the initiative and encourage other key constituents to engage in this statewide effort, we have developed a Leadership Board to provide oversight regarding the initiative's sustainability plan. These leaders will advise strategies to appropriately align NH Scholars with higher education and business community expectations.

Membership includes K-12, Higher Education and the business community. Southern NH University President Paul LeBlanc is chairing the board. Other members include Tom Raffio (NE Delta Dental), Doug Weners (Anthem Blue Cross), Jim Roche (NH BIA), House Rep. Emma Rous, Senator Amanda Merrill, DOE Commissioner Ginny Barry, CCSNH Chancellor Dick Gustafson and Superintendents Elaine Cutler, Marge Chiaferi and Tom Brennan.