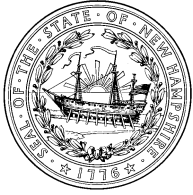


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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
***DIVISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH***

Lori A. Weaver  
 Commissioner

Katja S. Fox  
 Director

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301  
 603-271-9544 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9544  
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May 5, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
 and the Honorable Council  
 State House  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Behavioral Health, to amend an existing memorandum of understanding with the New Hampshire Department of Education (VC#200915-B001), Concord, New Hampshire, for the continued expansion of school districts' access to existing K-12 substance misuse strategies and interventions, by exercising a contract renewal option by increasing the price limitation by \$600,000 from \$562,000 to \$1,162,000 and extending the completion date from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028, effective July 1, 2026, upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Other Funds (Opioid Abatement Commission).

The original contract was approved by Governor and Council on July 10, 2024, tabled item #52.

Funds are available in the following accounts for State Fiscal Year 2027, and are anticipated to be available in State Fiscal Year 2028, upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds in the future operating budget, with the authority to adjust budget line items within the price limitation and encumbrances between state fiscal years through the Budget Office, if needed and justified.

**05-95-92-920510-33820000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS. HHS: DIVISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, BUREAU OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL SVCS, GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION**

State Fiscal Year	Class / Account	Class Title	Job Number	Current Budget	Increased (Decreased) Amount	Revised Budget
2025	102-500731	Contracts for Prog Svc	92058501	\$281,000	\$0	\$281,000
2026	102-500731	Contracts for Prog Svc	92058501	\$281,000	\$0	\$281,000
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$562,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$562,000</b>

**05-95-92-920510-39500000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: DIVISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, BUREAU OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL SVCS, OPIOID ABATEMENT TRUST FUND**

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
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State Fiscal Year	Class / Account	Class Title	Job Number	Current Budget	Increased (Decreased) Amount	Revised Budget
2027	102-500731	Contracts for Prog Svc	92053952	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
2028	102-500731	Contracts for Prog Svc	92053952	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$562,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$1,162,000</b>

**EXPLANATION**

The purpose of this request is to exercise a renewal request to support the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) continued expansion of school districts’ access to existing K–12 substance misuse prevention strategies and interventions, statewide, through Substance Misuse Prevention Strategies curriculum. This curriculum promotes positive youth development, supports student well-being, and strengthens protective factors related to substance use within participating schools and communities across New Hampshire.

Since 2020, NHED has made 77 awards to 47 unique districts across the state to participate in these programs. Historically, 12-15 districts receive awards every state fiscal year. At this point in time, programs exist in 167 schools and serve 68,316 students. Providing funding for universal and targeted prevention has enabled school districts across New Hampshire to implement evidence-based programming that strengthens protective factors and reduces risk behaviors among students. Per NH law, parents have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum (RSA 189-B). If a district chooses to use funds for targeted interventions for specific students (i.e. Seven Challenges, Check and Connect Mentoring), parental opt-in consent is required. These services have provided the technical assistance and resources for school districts to intentionally examine their substance misuse prevention programming and address the data-based needs they have by expanding access to high-quality prevention curricula, strengthening school-community partnerships, and increasing educator capacity to support positive student outcomes throughout the state.

The NHED, using funds from the state’s Opioid Abatement Commission, will work to expand the programs while using information from the schools, such as discipline referrals, number of behavioral interventions, and student absences to find areas of opportunity for improvement. NHED will continue to select appropriate evidence- based interventions. The funds have and will continue to be used for universal, schoolwide prevention strategies for all students. (i.e. substance misuse/anti-vaping awareness campaign, positive behavior expectations).

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will continue to monitor services by reviewing mid-term and final reports provided by the NHED to ensure program progress and positive outcomes.

As referenced in Section 5 of the original agreement, the parties have the option to extend the agreement for up to four (4) additional years, contingent upon satisfactory delivery of services, available funding, agreement of the parties and Governor and Council approval. The Department is exercising its option to renew services for two (2) of the four (4) years available.

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council  
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Should the Governor and Council not authorize this request, DHHS will not have the required support to successfully implement, maintain and improve programs to reduce the risk of youth substance misuse.

Area served: Statewide.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Weaver". The signature is stylized and cursive.

For:

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner

**State of New Hampshire  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Amendment #1**

This Amendment to the Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B) Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is by and between the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) and State of New Hampshire, Department of Education (“NHED”) (referred to as “Parties”).

WHEREAS, pursuant to an MOU approved by the Governor and Executive Council on July 10, 2024 (Tabled Item #52), the parties agreed to perform certain services based upon the terms and conditions specified in the MOU and in consideration of certain sums specified; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5, the MOU may be amended by mutual written agreement at any time, subject to appropriate State approval; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants and conditions contained in the MOU and set forth herein, the Parties hereto agree to amend as follows:

1. Modify the fourth “Whereas” clause contained of Form MOU 1, Interagency Memorandum of Understanding, Introduction, to read:

Whereas, DHHS desires to:

Use funds from the NH Opioid Abatement Trust Fund & Advisory Commission (Opioid Abatement) to support NH school districts with exploring the feasibility of, or expanding previously implemented substance misuse prevention strategies that will assist in reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors for students at risk for substance misuse.

2. Modify Form MOU 1, Interagency Memorandum of Understanding, Section 1, Part A. only, to read:

1. DHHS agrees to:

- A. Pay NHED the amount of \$1,162,000 for the services described in the attached MOU Exhibit A, State Agency Responsibilities, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Payment shall be provided from: 100% Other Funds. (Opioid Abatement).

3. Modify Form MOU 1, Interagency Memorandum of Understanding, Section 5, to read:

5. The Memorandum of Understanding is effective July 1, 2024, upon Governor and Executive Council approval through 6/30/2028. The Parties may extend the MOU for up to two (2) years upon satisfactory delivery of services, available funding, agreement of the parties, and approval of the Governor and Executive Council.

4. Modify Exhibit A – State Agency Responsibilities, Section 1, Responsibilities of DHHS, Section 1.1., to read:

- 1.1. DHHS agrees to:

- 1.1.1. Provide funding from the Opioid Abatement funds to NHED to support NH school districts with exploring or expanding substance misuse prevention strategies that will assist in reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors for students at risk for substance misuse.

5. Modify Exhibit A – State Agency Responsibilities, Section 2, Responsibilities of NHED, Section 2.1., to read:

- 2.1. NHED agrees to:

- 2.1.1. Use the funding provided by the DHHS from the Opioid Abatement funds to support NH school districts with exploring the feasibility of or expanding previously implemented substance misuse prevention strategies and providing access to

adequate training and materials to implement strategies that will assist in reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors for students at risk for substance misuse.

- 2.1.2. Perform the steps of exploration and expansion including:
  - 2.1.2.1. Mobilizing a school and/or district-level team to engage in exploration/expansion of substance misuse prevention strategies;
  - 2.1.2.2. Examining school and community data;
  - 2.1.2.3. Evaluating and increasing community partnerships;
  - 2.1.2.4. Assessing and aligning other school/district initiatives;
  - 2.1.2.5. Completing the NH Schoolwide Substance Misuse Prevention Fidelity Tool and other relevant substance misuse fidelity tools, and
  - 2.1.2.6. Determining next steps in adopting or expanding services.
- 2.1.3. Utilize universal and targeted prevention strategies, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.1.3.1. Lifeskills Training (LST).
  - 2.1.3.2. Positive Action.
  - 2.1.3.3. Good Behavior Game (GBG).
- 2.1.4. Provide technical assistance to NH school district grant recipients on ways to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors of substance use disorders for youth through implementation of universal and targeted prevention strategies within a prevention curriculum.
- 2.1.5. Provide a mid-term and final summary on the progress of the use of funds to the Opioid Abatement Commission and to the DHHS. Data provided in these summaries must be aggregated and not include any personally identifiable information or other confidential information. Data provided is self-reported by districts and must capture the following anticipated outcomes:
  - 2.1.5.1. The number of schools and districts that have engaged in each step of the substance misuse prevention strategies exploration and expansion process, as specified in 2.1.2., and their completion of associated implementation tasks;
  - 2.1.5.2. The number of universal prevention and targeted intervention strategies supported by awarded funds;
  - 2.1.5.3. The number of staff trained in substance misuse prevention strategy implementation, and the number of students impacted by implemented strategies;
  - 2.1.5.4. The number of community partners that districts collaborate with to support implementation of selected strategies;
  - 2.1.5.5. The number of local policies and/or procedures revised or established as a result of the grant;
  - 2.1.5.6. Fidelity to best practices in schoolwide substance misuse prevention at all implementing school sites, as measured through administration of the Schoolwide Substance Misuse Prevention Fidelity Tool, and other relevant fidelity tools; and

2.1.5.7. Make funds available to local education agencies for program implementation and maintenance through an application process.

All terms and conditions of the MOU and prior amendments not modified by this Amendment remain in full force and effect. This Amendment shall be effective July 1, 2026, or upon Governor and Council approval, whichever is later.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands as of the date written below,

State of New Hampshire  
Department of Health and Human Services

5/8/2026

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Katja S. Fox*

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Name: Katja S. Fox

Title: Director

New Hampshire Department of Education

Signed by:

*Caitlin Davis*

167F88939EBA4A9

Name: Caitlin Davis

Title: Commissioner

5/8/2026

Date

The preceding Amendment, having been reviewed by this office, is approved as to form, substance, and execution.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

5/8/2026

Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Robyn Guarino*

Name: Robyn Guarino

Title: Attorney

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was approved by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire at the Meeting on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date of meeting)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Date

Name:

Title: