

Eroding Public Education

MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire Legislature introduced massive, all-encompassing legislation to ban the discussion of LGBTQ-related issues in public schools, ban school children from using their preferred pronouns, police transgender students from accessing their preferred bathrooms, ban trans students from sports teams and outlaw gender-affirming care. House Bill 619, according to NBC Boston, “aims to block gender transition procedures for minors as well as related medical procedures. The bill also includes items related to public schools. Among them, calling students in grades K-12 by the name and gender they’re enrolled as; not allowing the teaching of different pronouns and only allowing students to use the restroom that corresponds to the gender on their birth certificate.” MAGA Republicans across the country have waged massive culture war attacks on transgender student rights in public schools including their ability to play sports, use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity, and receive gender-affirming health care. According to the Arizona Mirror, transgender students have nearly double the suicide rate compared to their peers. “Suicide rates remain high among transgender students, with trans youth twice as likely to consider suicide as their peers. Studies show that gender-affirming care — which may include pronoun use consistent with the gender the person identifies with — a sense of belonging at school and acceptance from adults contributes to lower rates of suicide risk.” [[HB619](#), New Hampshire Legislature, Regular Session 2023; NBC Boston, [3/23/2023](#); Arizona Mirror, [12/28/2022](#)]

MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire Legislature introduced legislation forcibly “outing” transgender & other LGBTQ+ students to family members. Senate Bill 712, like many other attacks from MAGA Extremists, attack trans and queer youth under the guise of so-called “Parental Rights.” MAGA Republicans across the country have waged massive culture war attacks on transgender students in public schools including their ability to play sports, use their preferred pronouns, and receive gender-affirming health care. According to the New Hampshire Bulletin, “Senate Bill 272 listed a number of rights parents have over school districts relating to their children. Many of them exist in law currently, including the right to inspect the school curriculum, to opt a child out of sex education and other school materials, and to waive the requirement for vaccinations under religious or medical exemptions...but the bill also added the requirement that school employees must tell inquiring parents whether a student uses nicknames or alternative pronouns that would indicate a gender transition.” Senate Bill 712 failed 195-190 and was prevented from returning to the House in 2024. [[SB712](#), New Hampshire Legislature, Regular Session 2023; New Hampshire Bulletin, [5/18/2023](#)]

MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire Legislature introduced legislation to jail educators if they shared materials considered to be obscene under their extremist guidelines. Attempting to ban books and materials created by Queer and authors of color, MAGA Extremists introduced House Bill 514 to punish and jail educators. According to the New Hampshire Bulletin, “Since 1979, schools, museums, public libraries, and governmental agencies have been shielded from charges for distributing or providing ‘obscene’ materials, unless those materials have already been deemed by a superior court to be obscene. House Bill 514 would redefine that exemption...The change would

mean employees of K-12 schools could be subjected to charges under the obscenity law even if the materials in question had not been previously adjudicated by a state court.” Teachers could be found guilty of a Class B felony and face a prison sentence of up to 7 years if they share a book that’s considered obscene under the MAGA Extremist agenda guidelines. [HB514, New Hampshire Legislature, Regular Session 2023; New Hampshire Bulletin, [2/20/2023](#)]

MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire legislature voted to expand school vouchers. MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire legislature voted HB440, which expanded the state’s pilot program on school vouchers. As reported by the New Hampshire Center for Public Interest Journalism, “Although the program was sold as an opportunity for lower-income parents to find the best educational opportunities for their children, about 75 percent of the funds have gone to tuition payments for students who were in private and religious schools prior to the program beginning.” The bill passed the House 191- t0 185 on March 9, 2023, was voted “ought to pass with amendment” 14-10 on May 12, 2023. On June 1, 2023, it was killed, being deemed “inexpedient to legislate.” [[HB440](#), Passed House 191-185, 3/9/23, Amended by Senate, 14-10, 5/12/23; Killed as “inexpedient to legislate, 6/1/23; New Hampshire Center for Independent Journalism, [1/27/23](#)]

MAGA Extremists successfully voted to expand school vouchers. MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire legislature voted for HB367, which expanded eligibility for so-called Education Freedom Accounts, or vouchers, from 300% of poverty to 350% of poverty. Sen. Donovan Fenton criticized the bill during the debate saying, “The Education Freedom Account program in New Hampshire is like nothing we have ever seen before. From the nonexistence of accountability and transparency to the blatant lack in fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers...and yet, HB 367 wants to raise the cap for more to be spent.” The bill passed the House 187-184 on 3/9/23 and passed the Senate, 14-10 on 6/9/23, and was signed into law for the Governor on 6/27/23. [[HB367](#), passed House 187-184, 3/9/23, passed the Senate, 14-10, 6/9/23, Signed by Governor, 6/27/23; New Hampshire Journal, [6/8/23](#)]

MAGA Extremists introduced a bill to create local Education Savings Accounts. In 2022, MAGA Extremists in the New Hampshire House of Representatives introduced HB607, which would have created locally funded education savings accounts, thereby reducing funding for local public schools. The bill was killed in the House by a 187-170 vote on January 6, 2022. [[HB607](#), Table in the House, 187-170, 1/6/22]