



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner

Christine Brennan  
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301  
TEL. (603) 271-3495  
FAX (603) 271-1953

May 20, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
New Hampshire State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Education (the "NH DOE") to amend the Scope of Services contemplated under the NH DOE "ReKINDling Curiosity" program (the "Program") in order to increase the enrollment of children's summer camps who are unable to coordinate or facilitate transportation services to and from said camps.

As has been communicated and agreed upon, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on student social, emotional, and mental health, the State of New Hampshire will utilize GEER I funds to provide opportunities for positive childhood experiences at New Hampshire-approved overnight and day youth recreation camps. However, the requirement in our cover letter that said camps provide transportation to and from such camp opportunities has proved to be a barrier for many camps to enroll in the Program. It has also proven to be a barrier to families, who have the ability to transport their children to camp, but cannot pay for the camp without the camper support fee. Therefore, the requirement that camps provide the means of transportation to and from said camps has been removed from the qualifications for eligibility for enrollment in the Program.

This program will continue to be effective upon Governor approval through September 30, 2022 through 100% federal funds.

#### **EXPLANATION**

The intent of the Program is to help pay for the youth recreation camp fees of students from disabled and low-income households to improve student social, emotional, and mental wellness and support continued development of the whole child, especially by alleviating student anxiety and trauma resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These experiences will help New Hampshire students return to in-person school with a rekindled curiosity, excited and anticipating a return

to academic instruction in the fall. The Program has experienced less enrollment from camp organizations than anticipated due to the requirement for the camp to provide a means of transportation, whether direct from the camp or through organization with the families, and therefore the DOE is removing the transportation requirement from the eligibility criteria for the Program.

The action requested herein is to amend the Scope of Services for the Program to remove the requirement that the camp organize the means by which the families are afforded transportation for their child(ren) to and from their camp of choice.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education

I hereby approve this request pursuant to RSA 4:45, RSA 21-P:43, and Section 4 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, and 2020-16, 2020-17 and 2020-18, 2020-20, 2020-21, 2020-23, 2020-24, 2020-25, 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-04, 2021-05, 2021-06, and 2021-08 and suspend the Manual of Procedures 150, V., B., 1., requirement.

MAY 24, 2021

Date



Governor Christopher T. Sununu