

The Union Leader

"THERE IS NOTHING SO POWERFUL AS TRUTH" — DANIEL WEBSTER



RES



MANCHESTER, N.H. — MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1992

©1992, UNION LEADER CORP.

45¢ - NEWSSTAND

AG Asked To Resolve Education 'Turf' Fight

By JOHN DISTASO
Union Leader Staff

CONCORD — The Attorney General's Office has been asked to settle a turf battle between New Hampshire's two top education officials, a dispute sparked by differences over how the state should measure student performance.

State Board of Education chairman Judith O. Thayer charged last week that Commissioner of

Education Charles H. Marston took it upon himself — with the support of key lawmakers — to scrap a plan for statewide testing developed by a board-appointed committee.

She said Marston has no right under the law to do that, and she said that on behalf of herself and fellow board member Pat Genestreti, she has "told the Attorney General's Office we have questions we need to have answered." There are seven members

on the board, but only Thayer and Genestreti have spoken out.

Ultimately, Thayer and Genestreti's concern, and the fate of the state board itself, may prove to be a political issue more than a legal one — namely: who should hold sway over education, the citizens or the professionals?

In New Hampshire, despite moves to weaken it,
EDUCATION DISPUTE, Page 8

EDUCATION DISPUTE

(Continued From Page One)

the state board continues to hold policy and rule-making authority, and it has the power to hire — but not fire — the commissioner. In other states, such boards have merely advisory status.

Thayer contended Marston is motivated by a desire to protect the state's education profession from "accountability" by the people. But, she said, "This is not personal. It is a philosophical conflict on whether the citizens are in control of educational policy or whether the department has the right to make decisions originally in the scope of the board's authority."

Marston denied that he has overstepped his bounds. Of the charge that educators shun accountability, Marston said, "I hear it to the point that it becomes nauseating. It just is not true."

The commissioner said he was surprised to learn Thayer and Genestreti are unhappy. He said when he saw a story to that effect in The Union Leader a week ago, "It just blew my mind. I thought we had any differences resolved."

Marston said Thayer has led him to believe she knew that the process of developing what has become known as a "statewide curriculum framework" and assessment program was progressing — and that she was not unhappy with it.

He said he has heard no complaints directly from any board members.

Marston said Thayer and other interested board members have been involved in the lengthy, tedious process and he wants all interested parties involved.

Thayer said Marston's actions have not been so conciliatory, though.

At issue is whether the state should set out a framework describing goals for local public school curricula, and how specific or broad the curricula should be. All concerned have agreed to gear the first set of goals to what students should know at the end of the third grade.

Marston favors a general, loosely-framed set of goals and a broad followup program to measure how well the curriculum is being learned by the students. Part, but not all, of that assessment program should be testing, Marston says.

Thayer wants no curriculum sent to the local communities. She said that would be an unconstitutional unfunded mandate.

And, she said, she senses an ulterior motive by the "education lobby," which favors such a curriculum.

"Once these people implement a state curriculum," Thayer said, "then they will say they need funding, and they'll say, 'How are we going to fund it without a broadbase tax?'"

And, she charged, the curriculum is being loosely worded to protect educators from being accountable to the citizens — a charge Marston strongly denies.

Marston said the program is not an unfunded mandate. He said his committee is trying to make the learning goals broad enough to allow creativity on the local level and, secondarily, avoid that charge. And to be doubly sure, he said, he is trying to include many local education officials in the process in order to reach consensus.

The test and other parts of the assessment program will be mandated, he said, and should be accompanied by state funding. He estimated the annual cost at \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Unlike Marston, Thayer backs sending to the communities a very specific set of criteria against which learning can be measured, but not a state-generated or state-mandated curriculum. And she backs a test.

At the moment, the Marston view is prevailing. And he is not alone behind it. With him, he said, are educators, lawmakers and business people. He said he had thought Thayer and other members of the state Board of Education backed it, too.

A committee established by Marston is working feverishly on the curriculum goals and intends to bring it to the House and Senate education committees next month for approval.

A plan Thayer prefers, drawn up by a now-defunct steering committee established by the board and dominated by business and working people but with some educators, was opposed by Marston and the House Education Committee.

Marston, with the lawmakers' informal nod of approval earlier this year, set up the new committee. It is dominated by educators and others in the profession.

Thayer says her committee's plan was scrapped. Marston says it was not scrapped, per se. He said it was a useful foundation but did not go far enough because it concentrated only on testing.

But that move — the setting aside of the original steering committee's plan — is what Thayer contends Marston had no right to do.

But Marston said he told the board in advance that the standards "had to be further developed" and, "I indicated that the next step should be the convening of two additional committees."

"I thought they understood the need was obvious, they said they wanted to influence the membership of the committee and I was responsive to that," he said.

The House and Senate education committees, following a joint public hearing on the steering committee plan, "agreed that there should be additional work," said Marston.

But instead of giving the authority for such work to the board, the lawmakers gave it to Marston. A budget footnote allowing \$75,000 in pre-budgeted money to lapse into the next year's budget — specifically for "assessment" and specifically under Marston's direction — was written into the budget in the final stages of the 1991 legislative session.

Marston also said he realizes that ultimately the board will have final say on the curriculum because it has rule-making authority.

Thayer predicted that there will be a move in the Legislature to remove that authority. And, she said, "Mr. Marston realizes that if he doesn't agree with us, he can make an end run to the Legislature. He knows he has the ultimate weapon in the special interest groups."

Marston said the committee he heads is coming up with frameworks that will require students to apply what they learn, and in the end, a test will be included in a wide-ranging assessment program measuring not only "if students can master the basic skills ... they will also have to demonstrate they can apply the knowledge and skills in solving everyday problems."

"This is not just something that the education community is supporting. It is what the business community is saying, as well. But that in no way denigrates or diminishes the importance of mastering basic skills."

ANN GAGNON

1-2/EIS

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsams, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION

Flap surrounding school program is expected to end

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — The Executive Council is expected to end a bitter bidding war on Wednesday and allow the incumbent company to carry out the two-year, \$900,000 School Improvement Program.

The five-member council faces a 270-item agenda at its next meeting in Lancaster in the heart of the North County district represented by Councilor Raymond Burton, R-Bath.

A request for \$15.4 million in low-interest bonds for the expansion of St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua is also likely to win endorsement.

The hospital bid, backed by the

New Hampshire Higher Education and Health Facilities Authority, includes \$8.3 million for renovations, \$3 million to purchase parking and business office space, \$1.6 million for an addition to its Milford satellite clinic, \$2 million for capital equipment and \$500,000 to refinance debt.

Regarding the school improvement program, Gov. Judd Gregg could still negate the vote of the council if it allows the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to supply education reform programs to 18 schools through the 1992-93 school year.

But Gregg administration officials said Gregg is inclined to allow the controversy to end. The politi-

■ Gregg inclined to let Concord program win out over Arcaro's proposal.

cal spat over which program to use split members of the Board of Education and its commissioner as well as both parties in the Legislature during the 1991 session.

A management consulting firm headed by Nashua Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro — Galileo Inc. — lost out in the bidding to the alliance which has operated the program since it was started by former Gov. John Sununu.

Arcaro's company was allowed to bid for the contract after Gregg and Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, angrily pro-

tested an end-around to the bidding process allowed by the Legislature.

Supporters of the alliance's program tucked into a budget bill (HB 65) language that exempted the contract from the competitive bidding law. Lawmakers who agreed with Education Board Chairwoman Judith Thayer's sharp criticisms of the program tried without success to block the language.

Gregg overruled the statute and ordered Education Commissioner Charles Marston to conduct

bidding.

In his recommendation to the council, Marston said the alliance was the only qualified proposal offered.

"The proposal submitted by Galileo Inc. is neither comprehensive nor complete in terms of implementing the present school improvement model," Marston wrote.

Sitting on the alliance's board of directors are N.H. Federation of Teachers President Edward Phaneuf of Nashua, state Rep. Carol Holden, R-Amherst, and Mary Balsalms, president of the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers in Mont Vernon.

For months, the alliance has had the majority votes on the

council.

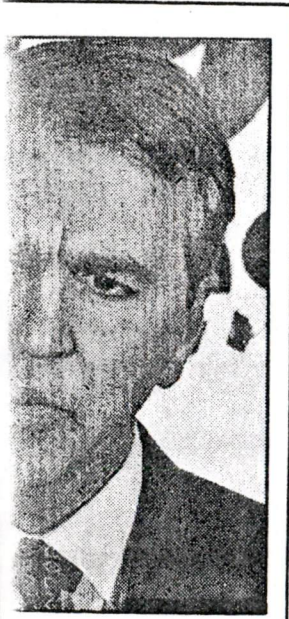
On other issues, the council will:

■ Approve \$3.4 million in economic development issues, including a \$2 million donation to the New Hampshire Business Development Corp. for small business loans and \$1 million for a research center at the University of New Hampshire.

■ Endorse the transfer of 162.8 acres of undeveloped land in Mason to the Land Conservation Investment Program for \$146,000. The donation was made by the town and the H.E. Fletcher Co. liquidating trust.

■ And approve a land conservation purchase in the town of Amherst — 119 acres for \$74,000.

EDUCATION



Gregg: Deficit May Threaten School Improvement Plan

By **DONN TIBBETTS**
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — The fate of the proposed \$900,000 continuation of the state's School Improvement Plan (SIP) is at risk because the state is facing a major deficit, Gov. Judd Gregg said yesterday.

The state Department of Education will ask Gregg and the Executive Council to approve at the Oct. 16 council meeting a \$842,200 contract for the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools to continue serving the SIP, designed to make local schools more effective.

On Aug. 6, Gregg ordered the SIP continuation to go out to bid despite the Legislature making it exempt from competitive bid requirements.

The Legislature declared that Education Commissioner Charles Marston "shall have exclusive authority over expenditures of funds appropriated for the school improvement program."

Gregg claimed that the Legislature was "unconstitutionally usurping executive branch authority."

Marston decided that of two bids received, the Alliance of Concord should continue conducting the program in 36 schools and recruit 18 more schools to participate. He called the Alliance proposal comprehensive and complete and said the bid from Galileo, Inc. of Nashua was neither.

But asked yesterday if he'll concur if the Executive Council approves the contract on Oct. 16, Gregg said:

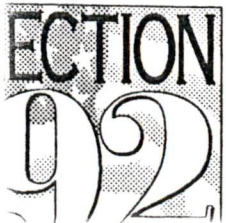
"I think all discretionary programs are at risk in that we have a major deficit here and we're going to have to review everything. With the \$10 million added to the deficit as a result of the Fiscal Committee's action (on personnel cost reductions), we have to take a hard look at all spending programs."

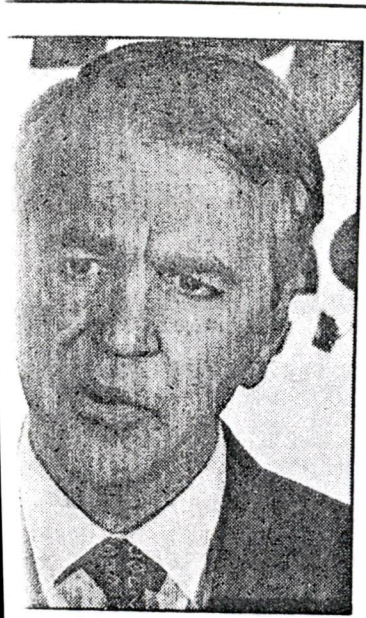
"This is a \$900,000 program and we've just had \$10 million added to our deficit by the Fiscal Committee and we've got to look everywhere as to generating that kind of savings. Any discretionary program is going to be at risk," Gregg said.

"I haven't made a firm decision. I'm not implying that SIP would be on the list. I'm just saying that we've got to take a hard look at everything."

Dupont Stands by Vote on State Jobs.

NGAS
ids





Bill Tsongas
raising funds

ELECTION
'92

problem," Tsongas said.
as to be a showing that's
idered respectable."
ongas conceded the Iowa

Gregg: Deficit May Threaten School Improvement Plan

By **DONN TIBBETTS**
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — The fate of the proposed \$900,000 continuation of the state's School Improvement Plan (SIP) is at risk because the state is facing a major deficit, Gov. Judd Gregg said yesterday.

The state Department of Education will ask Gregg and the Executive Council to approve at the Oct. 16 council meeting a \$842,200 contract for the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools to continue serving the SIP, designed to make local schools more effective.

On Aug. 6, Gregg ordered the SIP continuation to go out to bid despite the Legislature making it exempt from competitive bid requirements.

The Legislature declared that Education Commissioner Charles Marston "shall have exclusive authority over expenditures of funds appropriated for the school improvement program."

Gregg claimed that the Legislature was "unconstitutionally usurping executive branch authority."

Marston decided that of two bids received, the Alliance of Concord should continue conducting the program in 36 schools and recruit 18 more schools to participate. He called the Alliance proposal comprehensive and complete and said the bid from Galileo, Inc. of Nashua was neither.

But asked yesterday if he'll concur if the Executive Council approves the contract on Oct. 16, Gregg said:

"I think all discretionary programs are at risk in that we have a major deficit here and we're going to have to review everything. With the \$10 million added to the deficit as a result of the Fiscal Committee's action (on personnel cost reductions), we have to take a hard look at all spending programs.

"This is a \$900,000 program and we've just had \$10 million added to our deficit by the Fiscal Committee and we've got to look everywhere as to generating that kind of savings. Any discretionary program is going to be at risk," Gregg said.

"I haven't made a firm decision. I'm not implying that SIP would be on the list. I'm just saying that we've got to take a hard look at everything."

Dupont Stands by Vote on State Jobs, Predicts Difficult Legislative Session

By **DONN TIBBETTS**
State House Bureau Chief

"If the job vacancy rates for

State: Let the bids begin for school improvements

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — State education officials took the first steps Thursday to open up for competition the controversial \$450,000-a-year school improvement program.

The Department of Education issued its request for proposals for a two-year contract, which were mailed to seven firms and will be publicly advertised this weekend.

Education Commissioner Charles Marston announced a conference of interested bidders would be held Aug. 26 and that all sealed bids must be submitted by Sept. 16.

Marston said it's not likely the grant can be awarded by Gov. Judd Gregg and the state Executive Council much before Oct. 16.

"The New Hampshire school improvement model is a state-level initiative aimed at improving school performance based on decisions made by teams of local parents, teachers, administrators and school board members," the proposal said.

Gregg directed this program to be sent out to bid last week, declaring the Legislature did "fundamental harm" by exempting this effort from competitive bidding in a companion bill to the two-year state budget (HB 65).

Attorney General John Arnold had agreed with Gregg that the budget language amounted to an improper exercise of lawmakers to authority that rested with the executive branch of government.

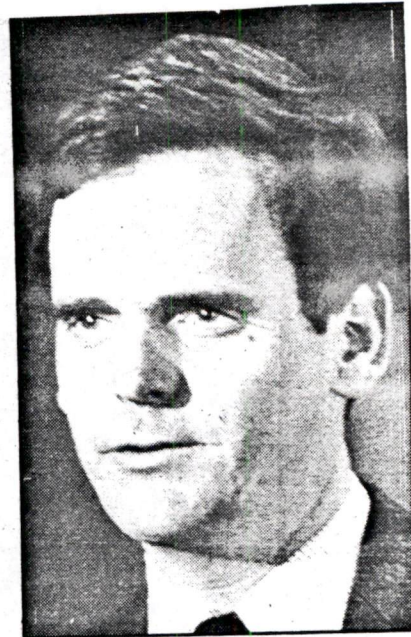
Legislative leaders said the no-bid language was meant to ensure the grant was given to the current contractor, the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord.

This legal section also directed Marston — not the Board of Education — to award the contract. Some members of the board have been critical of the current contractor because of the cost of the program and its philosophy.

Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, had urged Gregg to look into the no-bid controversy. He said a constituent of his, Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro, had tried to submit a proposal for the program and learned he couldn't.

Arcaro heads up a management consulting firm, Galileo Inc., in Nashua.

As crafted in this request for proposals, the grant will extend this program to eight new school districts in the spring of 1992 and provide continued services to the 36 schools that have been involved



GREGG ... directed that program be sent out to bid.

since the program began three years ago.

The Wilkins Elementary School of Amherst (Grades 2-4) was one of the first pilot schools in the program in July 1988.

Local schools that followed have included Pelham High School in January 1989, Hollis Area High School and the Masticola Middle School in Merrimack (Grades 6-8) in July 1989 and Nashua High and Pennichuck Junior High schools in July 1990.

Grant money may be used to produce a newsletter, give technical assistance to school districts on student testing, conduct workshops and give stipends to pay for substitute teachers covering for educators involved in the program.

State: Let the bids begin for school improvements

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — State education officials took the first steps Thursday to open up for competition the controversial \$450,000-a-year school improvement program.

The Department of Education issued its request for proposals for a two-year contract, which were mailed to seven firms and will be publicly advertised this weekend.

Education Commissioner Charles Marston announced a conference of interested bidders would be held Aug. 26 and that all sealed bids must be submitted by Sept. 16.

Marston said it's not likely the grant can be awarded by Gov. Judd Gregg and the state Executive Council much before Oct. 16.

"The New Hampshire school improvement model is a state-level initiative aimed at improving school performance based on decisions made by teams of local parents, teachers, administrators and school board members," the proposal said.

Gregg directed this program to be sent out to bid last week, declaring the Legislature did "fundamental harm" by exempting this effort from competitive bidding in a companion bill to the two-year state budget (HB 65).

Attorney General John Arnold had agreed with Gregg that the budget language amounted to an improper exercise of lawmakers to authority that rested with the executive branch of government.

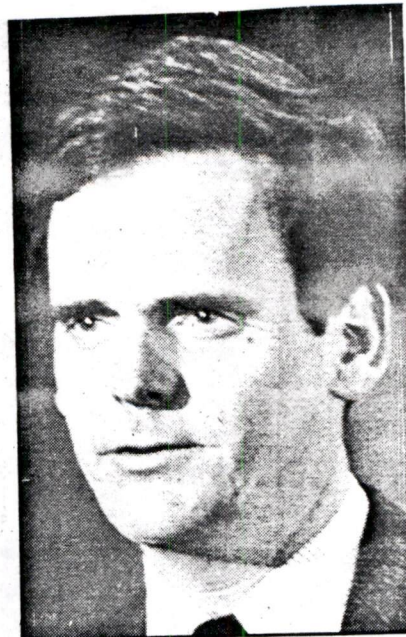
Legislative leaders said the no-bid language was meant to ensure the grant was given to the current contractor, the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord.

This legal section also directed Marston — not the Board of Education — to award the contract. Some members of the board have been critical of the current contractor because of the cost of the program and its philosophy.

Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, had urged Gregg to look into the no-bid controversy. He said a constituent of his, Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro, had tried to submit a proposal for the program and learned he couldn't.

Arcaro heads up a management consulting firm, Galileo Inc., in Nashua.

As crafted in this request for proposals, the grant will extend this program to eight new school districts in the spring of 1992 and provide continued services to the 36 schools that have been involved



GREGG ... directed that program be sent out to bid.

since the program began three years ago.

The Wilkins Elementary School of Amherst (Grades 2-4) was one of the first pilot schools in the program in July 1988.

Local schools that followed have included Pelham High School in January 1989, Hollis Area High School and the Masticola Middle School in Merrimack (Grades 6-8) in July 1989 and Nashua High and Pennichuck Junior High schools in July 1990.

Grant money may be used to produce a newsletter, give technical assistance to school districts on student testing, conduct workshops and give stipends to pay for substitute teachers covering for educators involved in the program.

State: Let the bids begin for school improvements

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — State education officials took the first steps Thursday to open up for competition the controversial \$450,000-a-year school improvement program.

The Department of Education issued its request for proposals for a two-year contract, which were mailed to seven firms and will be publicly advertised this weekend.

Education Commissioner Charles Marston announced a conference of interested bidders would be held Aug. 26 and that all sealed bids must be submitted by Sept. 16.

Marston said it's not likely the grant can be awarded by Gov. Judd Gregg and the state Executive Council much before Oct. 16.

"The New Hampshire school improvement model is a state-level initiative aimed at improving school performance based on decisions made by teams of local parents, teachers, administrators and school board members," the proposal said.

Gregg directed this program to be sent out to bid last week, declaring the Legislature did "fundamental harm" by exempting this effort from competitive bidding in a companion bill to the two-year state budget (HB 65).

Attorney General John Arnold had agreed with Gregg that the budget language amounted to an improper exercise of lawmakers to authority that rested with the executive branch of government.

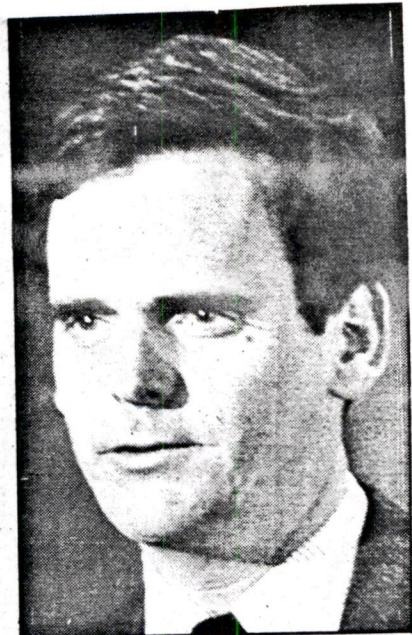
Legislative leaders said the no-bid language was meant to ensure the grant was given to the current contractor, the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord.

This legal section also directed Marston — not the Board of Education — to award the contract. Some members of the board have been critical of the current contractor because of the cost of the program and its philosophy.

Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, had urged Gregg to look into the no-bid controversy. He said a constituent of his, Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro, had tried to submit a proposal for the program and learned he couldn't.

Arcaro heads up a management consulting firm, Galileo Inc., in Nashua.

As crafted in this request for proposals, the grant will extend this program to eight new school districts in the spring of 1992 and provide continued services to the 36 schools that have been involved



GREGG ... directed that program be sent out to bid.

since the program began three years ago.

The Wilkins Elementary School of Amherst (Grades 2-4) was one of the first pilot schools in the program in July 1988.

Local schools that followed have included Pelham High School in January 1989, Hollis Area High School and the Masticola Middle School in Merrimack (Grades 6-8) in July 1989 and Nashua High and Pennichuck Junior High schools in July 1990.

Grant money may be used to produce a newsletter, give technical assistance to school districts on student testing, conduct workshops and give stipends to pay for substitute teachers covering for educators involved in the program.

State: Let the bids begin for school improvements

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

CONCORD — State education officials took the first steps Thursday to open up for competition the controversial \$450,000-a-year school improvement program.

The Department of Education issued its request for proposals for a two-year contract, which were mailed to seven firms and will be publicly advertised this weekend.

Education Commissioner Charles Marston announced a conference of interested bidders would be held Aug. 26 and that all sealed bids must be submitted by Sept. 16.

Marston said it's not likely the grant can be awarded by Gov. Judd Gregg and the state Executive Council much before Oct. 16.

"The New Hampshire school improvement model is a state-level initiative aimed at improving school performance based on decisions made by teams of local parents, teachers, administrators and school board members," the proposal said.

Gregg directed this program to be sent out to bid last week, declaring the Legislature did "fundamental harm" by exempting this effort from competitive bidding in a companion bill to the two-year state budget (HB 65).

Attorney General John Arnold had agreed with Gregg that the budget language amounted to an improper exercise of lawmakers to authority that rested with the executive branch of government.

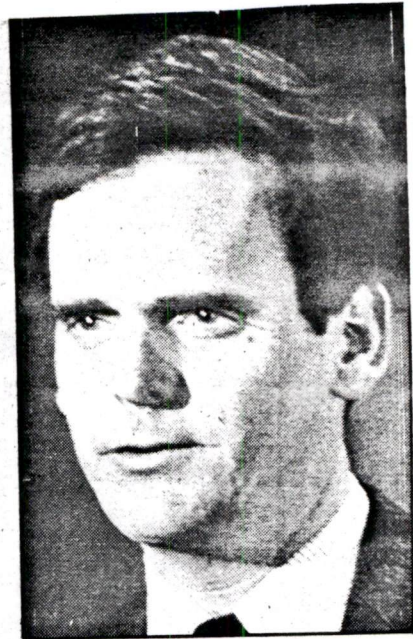
Legislative leaders said the no-bid language was meant to ensure the grant was given to the current contractor, the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord.

This legal section also directed Marston — not the Board of Education — to award the contract. Some members of the board have been critical of the current contractor because of the cost of the program and its philosophy.

Executive Councilor Bernard Streeter, R-Nashua, had urged Gregg to look into the no-bid controversy. He said a constituent of his, Ward 9 Alderman Jerome Arcaro, had tried to submit a proposal for the program and learned he couldn't.

Arcaro heads up a management consulting firm, Galileo Inc., in Nashua.

As crafted in this request for proposals, the grant will extend this program to eight new school districts in the spring of 1992 and provide continued services to the 36 schools that have been involved



GREGG ... directed that program be sent out to bid.

since the program began three years ago.

The Wilkins Elementary School of Amherst (Grades 2-4) was one of the first pilot schools in the program in July 1988.

Local schools that followed have included Pelham High School in January 1989, Hollis Area High School and the Masticola Middle School in Merrimack (Grades 6-8) in July 1989 and Nashua High and Pennichuck Junior High schools in July 1990.

Grant money may be used to produce a newsletter, give technical assistance to school districts on student testing, conduct workshops and give stipends to pay for substitute teachers covering for educators involved in the program.

Critics Say Gregg's Opposition To No-Bid Contracts Is Selective

CONCORD (AP) — Gov. Judd Gregg supported no-bid contracts for some groups, despite chastising the Legislature for giving authority to education officials to award a \$900,000 school grant without soliciting bids.

Critics say that proves Gregg doesn't want the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to get the funding. The governor was unavailable for comment last night.

Last Wednesday, Gregg revoked the contract authorizing the Alliance to run the school improvement program for two years. At the same meeting, the Executive Council and Gregg approved two similar no-bid contracts to provide services for disabled children.

In addition, Gregg signed a law this year, effective July 1, exempting residential treatment of children from the state's competitive bidding law. One exempted contract involves Gregg's brother, Cy Gregg, according to a report yesterday in *The Tele-*

graph of Nashua.

At the meeting, Gregg told Education Commissioner Charles Marston to rebid the school improvement program grant. He chastised the Legislature for giving Marston "exclusive authority" to award the contract.

Yet without debate, the council approved no-bid contracts of \$469,020 to the Wediko Children's Services of Boston and \$938,040 for the Spurwink School III of Newport.

Critics say that proves Gregg and other Republican conservatives really just oppose the Alliance for Effective Schools and public schools in general.

"This just highlights that the no-bid rhetoric was just a smokescreen, that the governor does not support a public school agenda but one for the private schools and the privileged," said Dennis Murphy of the National Education Association of New Hampshire.

BIDDING, Page 14

BIDDING

(Continued From Page One)

"He wants to trash a program which has the support of virtually every stakeholder in education today, from the superintendents to the principals, teachers and parents."

Gregg insisted he was disturbed not with the group but with the no-bid process, arguing the Legislature violated the state constitution.

Some councilors applauded Gregg's move, saying the Legislature shouldn't direct state grants to specific programs.

"We probably approved those special education contracts without comment because there is no other agency interested in bidding on them," Councilor Earl Rinker, R-Auburn, told *The Telegraph*. "As a practical matter, there isn't that much attention paid to these kind of sole-source contracts because only one provider wants to deliver the service."

The Spurwink School's board of directors include the governor's brother and House Democratic

Leader Mary Chambers, D-Etna.

Chambers and Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, sponsored the bill giving the group home contracts no-bid status for one year.

Marston supported the bill. He said it would be too disruptive for disabled clients to change programs each year and move from their group homes.

"There simply must be continuity in such a program (for) this to succeed, so we felt the no competitive bid language was worthy of support in this instance," Marston said.

As for the school improvement program grant, Marston said it will take at least seven weeks to put the program out to bid and recommend a grant be awarded.

Thirty-six schools are participating in the 3-year-old program, in which they are studied to determine how they can be made more effective. Training is to be provided to parents, children and school authorities to help them make the improvements.

Critics Say Gregg's Opposition To No-Bid Contracts Is Selective

CONCORD (AP) — Gov. Judd Gregg supported no-bid contracts for some groups, despite chastising the Legislature for giving authority to education officials to award a \$900,000 school grant without soliciting bids.

Critics say that proves Gregg doesn't want the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to get the funding. The governor was unavailable for comment last night.

Last Wednesday, Gregg revoked the contract authorizing the Alliance to run the school improvement program for two years. At the same meeting, the Executive Council and Gregg approved two similar no-bid contracts to provide services for disabled children.

In addition, Gregg signed a law this year, effective July 1, exempting residential treatment of children from the state's competitive bidding law. One exempted contract involves Gregg's brother, Cy Gregg, according to a report yesterday in The Ele-

graph of Nashua.

At the meeting, Gregg told Education Commissioner Charles Marston to rebid the school improvement program grant. He chastised the Legislature for giving Marston "exclusive authority" to award the contract.

Yet without debate, the council approved no-bid contracts of \$469,020 to the Wediko Children's Services of Boston and \$938,040 for the Spurwink School III of Newport.

Critics say that proves Gregg and other Republican conservatives really just oppose the Alliance for Effective Schools and public schools in general.

"This just highlights that the no-bid rhetoric was just a smokescreen, that the governor does not support a public school agenda but one for the private schools and the privileged," said Dennis Murphy of the National Education Association of New Hampshire.

BIDDING, Page 14

BIDDING

(Continued From Page One)

"He wants to trash a program which has the support of virtually every stakeholder in education today, from the superintendents to the principals, teachers and parents."

Gregg insisted he was disturbed not with the group but with the no-bid process, arguing the Legislature violated the state constitution.

Some councilors applauded Gregg's move, saying the Legislature shouldn't direct state grants to specific programs.

"We probably approved those special education contracts without comment because there is no other agency interested in bidding on them," Councilor Earl Rinker, R-Auburn, told The Telegraph. "As a practical matter, there isn't that much attention paid to these kind of sole-source contracts because only one provider wants to deliver the service."

The Spurwink School's board of directors include the governor's brother and House Democratic

Leader Mary Chambers, D-Etna.

Chambers and Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, sponsored the bill giving the group home contracts no-bid status for one year.

Marston supported the bill. He said it would be too disruptive for disabled clients to change programs each year and move from their group homes.

"There simply must be continuity in such a program (for) this to succeed, so we felt the no competitive bid language was worthy of support in this instance," Marston said.

As for the school improvement program grant, Marston said it will take at least seven weeks to put the program out to bid and recommend a grant be awarded.

Thirty-six schools are participating in the 3-year-old program, in which they are studied to determine how they can be made more effective. Training is to be provided to parents, children and school authorities to help them make the improvements.

Critics Say Gregg's Opposition To No-Bid Contracts Is Selective

CONCORD (AP) — Gov. Judd Gregg supported no-bid contracts for some groups, despite chastising the Legislature for giving authority to education officials to award a \$900,000 school grant without soliciting bids.

Critics say that proves Gregg doesn't want the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to get the funding. The governor was unavailable for comment last night.

Last Wednesday, Gregg revoked the contract authorizing the Alliance to run the school improvement program for two years. At the same meeting, the Executive Council and Gregg approved two similar no-bid contracts to provide services for disabled children.

In addition, Gregg signed a law this year, effective July 1, exempting residential treatment of children from the state's competitive bidding law. One exempted contract involves Gregg's brother, Cy Gregg, according to a report yesterday in *The* ele-

graph of Nashua.

At the meeting, Gregg told Education Commissioner Charles Marston to rebid the school improvement program grant. He chastised the Legislature for giving Marston "exclusive authority" to award the contract.

Yet without debate, the council approved no-bid contracts of \$469,020 to the Wediko Children's Services of Boston and \$938,040 for the Spurwink School III of Newport.

Critics say that proves Gregg and other Republican conservatives really just oppose the Alliance for Effective Schools and public schools in general.

"This just highlights that the no-bid rhetoric was just a smokescreen, that the governor does not support a public school agenda but one for the private schools and the privileged," said Dennis Murphy of the National Education Association of New Hampshire.

BIDDING, Page 14

BIDDING

(Continued From Page One)

"He wants to trash a program which has the support of virtually every stakeholder in education today, from the superintendents to the principals, teachers and parents."

Gregg insisted he was disturbed not with the group but with the no-bid process, arguing the Legislature violated the state constitution.

Some councilors applauded Gregg's move, saying the Legislature shouldn't direct state grants to specific programs.

"We probably approved those special education contracts without comment because there is no other agency interested in bidding on them," Councilor Earl Rinker, R-Auburn, told *The Telegraph*. "As a practical matter, there isn't that much attention paid to these kind of sole-source contracts because only one provider wants to deliver the service."

The Spurwink School's board of directors include the governor's brother and House Democratic

Leader Mary Chambers, D-Etna.

Chambers and Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, sponsored the bill giving the group home contracts no-bid status for one year.

Marston supported the bill. He said it would be too disruptive for disabled clients to change programs each year and move from their group homes.

"There simply must be continuity in such a program (for) this to succeed, so we felt the no competitive bid language was worthy of support in this instance," Marston said.

As for the school improvement program grant, Marston said it will take at least seven weeks to put the program out to bid and recommend a grant be awarded.

Thirty-six schools are participating in the 3-year-old program, in which they are studied to determine how they can be made more effective. Training is to be provided to parents, children and school authorities to help them make the improvements.

Critics Say Gregg's Opposition To No-Bid Contracts Is Selective

CONCORD (AP) — Gov. Judd Gregg supported no-bid contracts for some groups, despite chastising the Legislature for giving authority to education officials to award a \$900,000 school grant without soliciting bids.

Critics say that proves Gregg doesn't want the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to get the funding. The governor was unavailable for comment last night.

Last Wednesday, Gregg revoked the contract authorizing the Alliance to run the school improvement program for two years. At the same meeting, the Executive Council and Gregg approved two similar no-bid contracts to provide services for disabled children.

In addition, Gregg signed a law this year, effective July 1, exempting residential treatment of children from the state's competitive bidding law. One exempted contract involves Gregg's brother, Cy Gregg, according to a report yesterday in The Tele-

graph of Nashua.

At the meeting, Gregg told Education Commissioner Charles Marston to rebid the school improvement program grant. He chastised the Legislature for giving Marston "exclusive authority" to award the contract.

Yet without debate, the council approved no-bid contracts of \$469,020 to the Wediko Children's Services of Boston and \$938,040 for the Spurwink School III of Newport.

Critics say that proves Gregg and other Republican conservatives really just oppose the Alliance for Effective Schools and public schools in general.

"This just highlights that the no-bid rhetoric was just a smokescreen, that the governor does not support a public school agenda but one for the private schools and the privileged," said Dennis Murphy of the National Education Association of New Hampshire.

BIDDING, Page 14

BIDDING

(Continued From Page One)

"He wants to trash a program which has the support of virtually every stakeholder in education today, from the superintendents to the principals, teachers and parents."

Gregg insisted he was disturbed not with the group but with the no-bid process, arguing the Legislature violated the state constitution.

Some councilors applauded Gregg's move, saying the Legislature shouldn't direct state grants to specific programs.

"We probably approved those special education contracts without comment because there is no other agency interested in bidding on them," Councilor Earl Rinker, R-Auburn, told The Telegraph. "As a practical matter, there isn't that much attention paid to these kind of sole-source contracts because only one provider wants to deliver the service."

The Spurwink School's board of directors include the governor's brother and House Democratic

Leader Mary Chambers, D-Etna.

Chambers and Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, sponsored the bill giving the group home contracts no-bid status for one year.

Marston supported the bill. He said it would be too disruptive for disabled clients to change programs each year and move from their group homes.

"There simply must be continuity in such a program (for) this to succeed, so we felt the no competitive bid language was worthy of support in this instance," Marston said.

As for the school improvement program grant, Marston said it will take at least seven weeks to put the program out to bid and recommend a grant be awarded.

Thirty-six schools are participating in the 3-year-old program, in which they are studied to determine how they can be made more effective. Training is to be provided to parents, children and school authorities to help them make the improvements.

Critics Say Gregg's Opposition To No-Bid Contracts Is Selective

CONCORD (AP) — Gov. Judd Gregg supported no-bid contracts for some groups, despite chastising the Legislature for giving authority to education officials to award a \$900,000 school grant without soliciting bids.

Critics say that proves Gregg doesn't want the Alliance for Effective Schools of Concord to get the funding. The governor was unavailable for comment last night.

Last Wednesday, Gregg revoked the contract authorizing the Alliance to run the school improvement program for two years. At the same meeting, the Executive Council and Gregg approved two similar no-bid contracts to provide services for disabled children.

In addition, Gregg signed a law this year, effective July 1, exempting residential treatment of children from the state's competitive bidding law. One exempted contract involves Gregg's brother, Cy Gregg, according to a report yesterday in The Ele-

graph of Nashua.

At the meeting, Gregg told Education Commissioner Charles Marston to rebid the school improvement program grant. He chastised the Legislature for giving Marston "exclusive authority" to award the contract.

Yet without debate, the council approved no-bid contracts of \$469,020 to the Wediko Children's Services of Boston and \$938,040 for the Spurwink School III of Newport.

Critics say that proves Gregg and other Republican conservatives really just oppose the Alliance for Effective Schools and public schools in general.

"This just highlights that the no-bid rhetoric was just a smokescreen, that the governor does not support a public school agenda but one for the private schools and the privileged," said Dennis Murphy of the National Education Association of New Hampshire.

BIDDING, Page 14

BIDDING

(Continued From Page One)

"He wants to trash a program which has the support of virtually every stakeholder in education today, from the superintendents to the principals, teachers and parents."

Gregg insisted he was disturbed not with the group but with the no-bid process, arguing the Legislature violated the state constitution.

Some councilors applauded Gregg's move, saying the Legislature shouldn't direct state grants to specific programs.

"We probably approved those special education contracts without comment because there is no other agency interested in bidding on them," Councilor Earl Rinker, R-Auburn, told The Telegraph. "As a practical matter, there isn't that much attention paid to these kind of sole-source contracts because only one provider wants to deliver the service."

The Spurwink School's board of directors include the governor's brother and House Democratic

Leader Mary Chambers, D-Etna.

Chambers and Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, sponsored the bill giving the group home contracts no-bid status for one year.

Marston supported the bill. He said it would be too disruptive for disabled clients to change programs each year and move from their group homes.

"There simply must be continuity in such a program (for) this to succeed, so we felt the no competitive bid language was worthy of support in this instance," Marston said.

As for the school improvement program grant, Marston said it will take at least seven weeks to put the program out to bid and recommend a grant be awarded.

Thirty-six schools are participating in the 3-year-old program, in which they are studied to determine how they can be made more effective. Training is to be provided to parents, children and school authorities to help them make the improvements.

Gregg Orders Bid Specs Prepared for SIP

AG Says He Is Unaware of Any Opinion Allowing Legislature to Exempt Bid Process

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Bid specifications for the state's School Improvement Program are being prepared by Education Commissioner Charles Marston, per order of Gov. Judd Gregg, despite the fact the Legislature has ruled the current vendor should continue the \$900,000 program and it should not go out to bid.

Attorney General John Arnold said yesterday that he is unaware of any opinion from his office indicating the Legislature could exempt the bidding process.

The Legislature directed that the \$450,000 per year allotted for the program "be used only to continue the present SIP" administered by the Alliance for Effective Schools since its inception in 1986, and that the SIP "shall be exempt from the competitive bid process."

On Aug. 7, Gregg said lawmakers unconstitutionally over-stepped their authority and he ordered that the SIP go out to bid.

Marston contends that a current AG opinion and earlier ones justified bid process exemption where it is "clearly the intent of the Legislature."

But Arnold told The Union Leader yesterday, "I have been unable to turn up any opinion from my predecessors on this issue."

Marston yesterday stood by his claim to the contrary.

"I am unaware of any inconsistent position which we are now taking," said Arnold.

"From a practical standpoint, I don't think anybody questions — and that includes the Legislature — the Governor and Executive Council's authority to approve or disapprove that contract regardless of whether there is legislative authority to have exempted it from competitive bidding or not," said Arnold.

"So, what you end up with, is basically a stalemate, with Governor and Council saying, look, we're not going to approve this and the Education Commissioner saying, if the SIP is going to continue, how are we going to do it," Arnold said.

"From a practical standpoint, the only way it's going to happen is if (Marston) complies with the wishes of Governor and Council," said Arnold.

With a five-year record of administering the program and winning popular support from teachers, school districts and parents, the Alliance for Effective Schools should have a leg-up in fully meeting the requirements of the request-for-proposal bid specifications now being prepared by Marston.

That is not a guarantee the alliance will win the pact to continue the SIP. The bid evaluation process will be the key. Marston agreed with that assessment.

Meanwhile, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, maintained yesterday that the Legislature did not act unconstitutionally when it exempted the SIP from the bidding process.

"The Governor's right when he says the SIP has a lot of support. All five executive councilors say it is good. We saw no negative discussion in the House. There just seems to be a few people who

don't want the SIP but they are in very powerful positions," said Hager.

Asked if she was saying that if "everybody" feels positive about a program that makes it o.k. for the Legislature to dictate a vendor continue without bid, she replied, "I suppose you can say that and on a common sense level I'm not sure I can refute it, but wasn't that part of the problem with Pike for hundreds of years? It was the ongoing contractor and the state kept giving them contracts for highway paving."

"If the state school board and the governor were saying the SIP was a wonderful program we wouldn't have thought of the exemption in the budget. It was obviously dreamed up because the state board is trying to shut down the SIP and there are a lot of people who want to keep it intact," she said.

It was Hager's Appropriations Committee that stripped the board of education funding from the state operating budget this year but ultimately the money was restored.

Gregg Orders Bid Specs Prepared for SIP

AG Says He Is Unaware of Any Opinion Allowing Legislature to Exempt Bid Process

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Bid specifications for the state's School Improvement Program are being prepared by Education Commissioner Charles Marston, per order of Gov. Judd Gregg, despite the fact the Legislature has ruled the current vendor should continue the \$900,000 program and it should not go out to bid.

Attorney General John Arnold said yesterday that he is unaware of any opinion from his office indicating the Legislature could exempt the bidding process.

The Legislature directed that the \$450,000 per year allotted for the program "be used only to continue the present SIP" administered by the Alliance for Effective Schools since its inception in 1986, and that the SIP "shall be exempt from the competitive bid process."

On Aug. 7, Gregg said lawmakers unconstitutionally over-stepped their authority and he ordered that the SIP go out to bid.

Marston contends that a current AG opinion and earlier ones justified bid process exemption where it is "clearly the intent of the Legislature."

But Arnold told The Union Leader yesterday, "I have been unable to turn up any opinion from my predecessors on this issue."

Marston yesterday stood by his claim to the contrary.

"I am unaware of any inconsistent position which we are now taking," said Arnold.

"From a practical standpoint, I don't think anybody questions — and that includes the Legislature — the Governor and Executive Council's authority to approve or disapprove that contract regardless of whether there is legislative authority to have exempted it from competitive bidding or not," said Arnold.

"So, what you end up with, is basically a stalemate, with Governor and Council saying, look, we're not going to approve this and the Education Commissioner saying, if the SIP is going to continue, how are we going to do it," Arnold said.

"From a practical standpoint, the only way it's going to happen is if (Marston) complies with the wishes of Governor and Council," said Arnold.

With a five-year record of administering the program and winning popular support from teachers, school districts and parents, the Alliance for Effective Schools should have a leg-up in fully meeting the requirements of the request-for-proposal bid specifications now being prepared by Marston.

That is not a guarantee the alliance will win the pact to continue the SIP. The bid evaluation process will be the key. Marston agreed with that assessment.

Meanwhile, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, maintained yesterday that the Legislature did not act unconstitutionally when it exempted the SIP from the bidding process.

"The Governor's right when he says the SIP has a lot of support. All five executive councilors say it is good. We saw no negative discussion in the House. There just seems to be a few people who

don't want the SIP but they are in very powerful positions," said Hager.

Asked if she was saying that if "everybody" feels positive about a program that makes it o.k. for the Legislature to dictate a vendor continue without bid, she replied, "I suppose you can say that and on a common sense level I'm not sure I can refute it, but wasn't that part of the problem with Pike for hundreds of years? It was the ongoing contractor and the state kept giving them contracts for highway paving."

"If the state school board and the governor were saying the SIP was a wonderful program we wouldn't have thought of the exemption in the budget. It was obviously dreamed up because the state board is trying to shut down the SIP and there are a lot of people who want to keep it intact," she said.

It was Hager's Appropriations Committee that stripped the board of education funding from the state operating budget this year but ultimately the money was restored.

Gregg Orders Bid Specs Prepared for SIP

AG Says He Is Unaware of Any Opinion Allowing Legislature to Exempt Bid Process

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Bid specifications for the state's School Improvement Program are being prepared by Education Commissioner Charles Marston, per order of Gov. Judd Gregg, despite the fact the Legislature has ruled the current vendor should continue the \$900,000 program and it should not go out to bid.

Attorney General John Arnold said yesterday that he is unaware of any opinion from his office indicating the Legislature could exempt the bidding process.

The Legislature directed that the \$450,000 per year allotted for the program "be used only to continue the present SIP" administered by the Alliance for Effective Schools since its inception in 1986, and that the SIP "shall be exempt from the competitive bid process."

On Aug. 7, Gregg said lawmakers unconstitutionally over-stepped their authority and he ordered that the SIP go out to bid.

Marston contends that a current AG opinion and earlier ones justified bid process exemption where it is "clearly the intent of the Legislature."

But Arnold told The Union Leader yesterday, "I have been unable to turn up any opinion from my predecessors on this issue."

Marston yesterday stood by his claim to the contrary.

"I am unaware of any inconsistent position which we are now taking," said Arnold.

"From a practical standpoint, I don't think anybody questions — and that includes the Legislature — the Governor and Executive Council's authority to approve or disapprove that contract regardless of whether there is legislative authority to have exempted it from competitive bidding or not," said Arnold.

"So, what you end up with, is basically a stalemate, with Governor and Council saying, look, we're not going to approve this and the Education Commissioner saying, if the SIP is going to continue, how are we going to do it," Arnold said.

"From a practical standpoint, the only way it's going to happen is if (Marston) complies with the wishes of Governor and Council," said Arnold.

With a five-year record of administering the program and winning popular support from teachers, school districts and parents, the Alliance for Effective Schools should have a leg-up in fully meeting the requirements of the request-for-proposal bid specifications now being prepared by Marston.

That is not a guarantee the alliance will win the pact to continue the SIP. The bid evaluation process will be the key. Marston agreed with that assessment.

Meanwhile, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, maintained yesterday that the Legislature did not act unconstitutionally when it exempted the SIP from the bidding process.

"The Governor's right when he says the SIP has a lot of support. All five executive councilors say it is good. We saw no negative discussion in the House. There just seems to be a few people who

don't want the SIP but they are in very powerful positions," said Hager.

Asked if she was saying that if "everybody" feels positive about a program that makes it o.k. for the Legislature to dictate a vendor continue without bid, she replied, "I suppose you can say that and on a common sense level I'm not sure I can refute it, but wasn't that part of the problem with Pike for hundreds of years? It was the ongoing contractor and the state kept giving them contracts for highway paving."

"If the state school board and the governor were saying the SIP was a wonderful program we wouldn't have thought of the exemption in the budget. It was obviously dreamed up because the state board is trying to shut down the SIP and there are a lot of people who want to keep it intact," she said.

It was Hager's Appropriations Committee that stripped the board of education funding from the state operating budget this year but ultimately the money was restored.

Gregg Orders Bid Specs Prepared for SIP

AG Says He Is Unaware of Any Opinion Allowing Legislature to Exempt Bid Process

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Bid specifications for the state's School Improvement Program are being prepared by Education Commissioner Charles Marston, per order of Gov. Judd Gregg, despite the fact the Legislature has ruled the current vendor should continue the \$900,000 program and it should not go out to bid.

Attorney General John Arnold said yesterday that he is unaware of any opinion from his office indicating the Legislature could exempt the bidding process.

The Legislature directed that the \$450,000 per year allotted for the program "be used only to continue the present SIP" administered by the Alliance for Effective Schools since its inception in 1986, and that the SIP "shall be exempt from the competitive bid process."

On Aug. 7, Gregg said lawmakers unconstitutionally over-stepped their authority and he ordered that the SIP go out to bid.

Marston contends that a current AG opinion and earlier ones justified bid process exemption where it is "clearly the intent of the Legislature."

But Arnold told The Union Leader yesterday, "I have been unable to turn up any opinion from my predecessors on this issue."

Marston yesterday stood by his claim to the contrary.

"I am unaware of any inconsistent position which we are now taking," said Arnold.

"From a practical standpoint, I don't think anybody questions — and that includes the Legislature — the Governor and Executive Council's authority to approve or disapprove that contract regardless of whether there is legislative authority to have exempted it from competitive bidding or not," said Arnold.

"So, what you end up with, is basically a stalemate, with Governor and Council saying, look, we're not going to approve this and the Education Commissioner saying, if the SIP is going to continue, how are we going to do it," Arnold said.

"From a practical standpoint, the only way it's going to happen is if (Marston) complies with the wishes of Governor and Council," said Arnold.

With a five-year record of administering the program and winning popular support from teachers, school districts and parents, the Alliance for Effective Schools should have a leg-up in fully meeting the requirements of the request-for-proposal bid specifications now being prepared by Marston.

That is not a guarantee the alliance will win the pact to continue the SIP. The bid evaluation process will be the key. Marston agreed with that assessment.

Meanwhile, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, maintained yesterday that the Legislature did not act unconstitutionally when it exempted the SIP from the bidding process.

"The Governor's right when he says the SIP has a lot of support. All five executive councilors say it is good. We saw no negative discussion in the House. There just seems to be a few people who

don't want the SIP but they are in very powerful positions," said Hager.

Asked if she was saying that if "everybody" feels positive about a program that makes it o.k. for the Legislature to dictate a vendor continue without bid, she replied, "I suppose you can say that and on a common sense level I'm not sure I can refute it, but wasn't that part of the problem with Pike for hundreds of years? It was the ongoing contractor and the state kept giving them contracts for highway paving."

"If the state school board and the governor were saying the SIP was a wonderful program we wouldn't have thought of the exemption in the budget. It was obviously dreamed up because the state board is trying to shut down the SIP and there are a lot of people who want to keep it intact," she said.

It was Hager's Appropriations Committee that stripped the board of education funding from the state operating budget this year but ultimately the money was restored.

Gregg Orders Bid Specs Prepared for SIP

AG Says He Is Unaware of Any Opinion Allowing Legislature to Exempt Bid Process

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Bid specifications for the state's School Improvement Program are being prepared by Education Commissioner Charles Marston, per order of Gov. Judd Gregg, despite the fact the Legislature has ruled the current vendor should continue the \$900,000 program and it should not go out to bid.

Attorney General John Arnold said yesterday that he is unaware of any opinion from his office indicating the Legislature could exempt the bidding process.

The Legislature directed that the \$450,000 per year allotted for the program "be used only to continue the present SIP" administered by the Alliance for Effective Schools since its inception in 1986, and that the SIP "shall be exempt from the competitive bid process."

On Aug. 7, Gregg said lawmakers unconstitutionally over-stepped their authority and he ordered that the SIP go out to bid.

Marston contends that a current AG opinion and earlier ones justified bid process exemption where it is "clearly the intent of the Legislature."

But Arnold told The Union Leader yesterday, "I have been unable to turn up any opinion from my predecessors on this issue."

Marston yesterday stood by his claim to the contrary.

"I am unaware of any inconsistent position which we are now taking," said Arnold.

"From a practical standpoint, I don't think anybody questions — and that includes the Legislature — the Governor and Executive Council's authority to approve or disapprove that contract regardless of whether there is legislative authority to have exempted it from competitive bidding or not," said Arnold.

"So, what you end up with, is basically a stalemate, with Governor and Council saying, look, we're not going to approve this and the Education Commissioner saying, if the SIP is going to continue, how are we going to do it," Arnold said.

"From a practical standpoint, the only way it's going to happen is if (Marston) complies with the wishes of Governor and Council," said Arnold.

With a five-year record of administering the program and winning popular support from teachers, school districts and parents, the Alliance for Effective Schools should have a leg-up in fully meeting the requirements of the request-for-proposal bid specifications now being prepared by Marston.

That is not a guarantee the alliance will win the pact to continue the SIP. The bid evaluation process will be the key. Marston agreed with that assessment.

Meanwhile, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, maintained yesterday that the Legislature did not act unconstitutionally when it exempted the SIP from the bidding process.

"The Governor's right when he says the SIP has a lot of support. All five executive councilors say it is good. We saw no negative discussion in the House. There just seems to be a few people who

don't want the SIP but they are in very powerful positions," said Hager.

Asked if she was saying that if "everybody" feels positive about a program that makes it o.k. for the Legislature to dictate a vendor continue without bid, she replied, "I suppose you can say that and on a common sense level I'm not sure I can refute it, but wasn't that part of the problem with Pike for hundreds of years? It was the ongoing contractor and the state kept giving them contracts for highway paving."

"If the state school board and the governor were saying the SIP was a wonderful program we wouldn't have thought of the exemption in the budget. It was obviously dreamed up because the state board is trying to shut down the SIP and there are a lot of people who want to keep it intact," she said.

It was Hager's Appropriations Committee that stripped the board of education funding from the state operating budget this year but ultimately the money was restored.

Gregg Says Adult-Child Ratio Is Key to Spending for Schools

CONCORD (AP) — The ratio of adults to children is more likely to indicate how much a community will spend on schools than the community's wealth, Gov. Judd Gregg says in defense of New Hampshire's reliance on property taxes to fund schools.

"The facts are, there is very little relationship between income levels of a community and property taxes," Gregg said in an interview published yesterday. "Some of your wealthiest towns, income wise, are moderate- to low-property-tax communities because they have a high industrial base."

"Property values really represent a fairly minor part of effort, dollars put into education. A much higher factor is the number of adult voters," Gregg told The Telegraph of Nashua.

The state will use the argument to defend itself against a lawsuit filed in June by five poor school districts seeking to force more state spending on education. The districts contend that the state's reliance on property taxes discriminates against children in poor towns.

But Gregg said there is no "significant relationship" between the level of property taxes in a community and the amount of money spent on public education.

Gregg said he and Attorney General John Arnold want legislative approval for money to update a 1983 statistical report on education.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart," said Gregg, a lawyer. "Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit, in my opinion, and that's because they have few facts to support their opinion."

The Legislative Fiscal Committee last week voted down Arnold's request for money to update the 1983 study. Gregg said income-tax supporters on the committee want to leave the state defenseless, to pressure the Legislature to enact a broad-based tax.

New Hampshire and Alaska are the only states with neither a general sales nor a general income tax, but a relentless fiscal squeeze has boosted support for an income tax in New Hampshire.

House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, predicts that the committee will reverse its decision and approve the money next month.

But Rep. Douglas Hall, a committee member and income-tax supporter, said he won't support giving Gregg the money until the governor admits the case has merit.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart. Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit . . ."

Gov. Judd Gregg

"The quality of education across the state isn't equal," said Hall, R-Chichester. "At least the governor should be made to come to grips with that reality because it's not political."

The lawsuit, filed by Allentown, Claremont, Franklin, Lisbon and Pittsfield, said there is a wide disparity between the quality of education in poor and wealthy communities. The communities blame the state for doing little to correct the inequities.

The state commissioned the study, "Spending and Taxation for Public School Education in New Hampshire," to fight a similar lawsuit in 1985, but the suit was dropped.

Citing data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the study found that at least 33 other states had a greater variation in local education budgets than New Hampshire.

"In other words, New Hampshire was in the top third of states in equality of expenditure," the report said. "By national standards, there is only a narrow variation in educational expenditure among New Hampshire school districts."

The report also found that property values weren't the best index for predicting how much a community spent on schools. More important were the number of registered voters in relation to the number of school children and the ratio of adults to school children.

"The age composition of a community appears to be a factor that is more closely associated with spending and revenue than is tax base," the report found.

Wealthier communities did not necessarily spend more on schools, the report found.

"It is clear that the highest tax-base districts and the lowest tax-base districts differ in many ways besides their tax-base per pupil. They are different kinds of communities both in location and population," the study said.

AG To Ask Panel Again For Education Suit Money

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Attorney General John Arnold intends to re-submit to the Legislature's Fiscal Committee his previously rejected request for \$50,000 to hire experts to defend the state in an education funding suit.

"I'm resubmitting it to the next meeting," Arnold said yesterday. The joint Senate-House panel is tentatively set to meet Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Meanwhile, Fiscal Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, said yesterday that she is unaware the request will be resubmitted, although she did tell House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, the item could be resubmitted "and there are no rules that would foreclose that action, but I'm not suggesting that course of action be taken."

"But no one has specifically talked with me about doing that" since Aug. 6, said Hager.

"From my perspective, I would hope that the members of the committee would have had a chance to reflect on their vote and have determined that responsible government requires favorable approval of our request," said Arnold.

"They may have their strong personal views on how education is funded in New Hampshire and they, as legislators, certainly have the authority to deal with that in a proper forum, but to deny defense in an action in which the state is a defendant, to make a political statement, is inappropriate," said Arnold.

"It's my hope the committee will come to that realization," he said. "The funding issue is important enough to merit further discussion."

In an unprecedented action on Aug. 6, the Fiscal Committee voted 6-2 to turn thumbs down on Arnold's request for \$50,000 to hire experts for the state's defense against a school district class-action suit in Merrimack County Superior Court that alleges the state's property tax method of financing education is unconstitutional.

"I talked with AG Arnold after our meeting Aug. 6, and he indicated then he didn't think he would resubmit the request because he thought it was political," said Hager.

"If I were the governor or the AG, I would call at least the chairman of Fiscal and maybe all the members and discuss the issue, but they haven't done that," said Hager.

One of those voting with the majority, Rep. Douglas Hall, R-Chichester, contends that it is wrong for Gov. Gregg to actively campaign against the suit and lobby school boards to deny funding to bring the case. "I do not believe that you should have done this," Hall told Gregg.

Arnold said he didn't know if Hall's allegations had any substance, "but certainly all politicians express their opinion on issues that involve the state, and the governor is no exception to that."

"At this point, I am not aware of any conduct by the governor that would interfere with the state's defense in this suit," Arnold replied to a question as to whether Gregg's conduct was improper or whether it complicated defense of the suit.

Gregg contends that the majority of the Fiscal panel voted against the funding, because the panel seeks enactment of a state income tax. Arnold said there is no requirement that a governor has to muzzle his own personal feelings toward a suit.

"I'm not commenting specifically on Rep. Hall's allegations, but with respect to the governor being able to express his opinion on legal matters pending before the state, there is no problem and it doesn't complicate the state's defense," Arnold said.

"Going around and lobbying school boards is more than voicing an opinion," said Hager.

Attorney General requests for special litigation funds needed only governor and council approval until 1989 when the law was amended to additionally require Fiscal Committee approval.

Requests for added funds in the Public Service Co. litigation prompted the law change. "It was after millions of dollars were being spent in the PSNH suits that the amendment occurred," said Hager.

"I want the suit defended, and I'm not trying to prevent the suit from being defended," said Hager.

Gregg Says Adult-Child Ratio Is Key to Spending for Schools

CONCORD (AP) — The ratio of adults to children is more likely to indicate how much a community will spend on schools than the community's wealth, Gov. Judd Gregg says in defense of New Hampshire's reliance on property taxes to fund schools.

"The facts are, there is very little relationship between income levels of a community and property taxes," Gregg said in an interview published yesterday. "Some of your wealthiest towns, income wise, are moderate- to low-property-tax communities because they have a high industrial base."

"Property values really represent a fairly minor part of effort, dollars put into education. A much higher factor is the number of adult voters," Gregg told *The Telegraph of Nashua*.

The state will use the argument to defend itself against a lawsuit filed in June by five poor school districts seeking to force more state spending on education. The districts contend that the state's reliance on property taxes discriminates against children in poor towns.

But Gregg said there is no "significant relationship" between the level of property taxes in a community and the amount of money spent on public education.

Gregg said he and Attorney General John Arnold want legislative approval for money to update a 1983 statistical report on education.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart," said Gregg, a lawyer. "Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit, in my opinion, and that's because they have few facts to support their opinion."

The Legislative Fiscal Committee last week voted down Arnold's request for money to update the 1983 study. Gregg said income-tax supporters on the committee want to leave the state defenseless, to pressure the Legislature to enact a broad-based tax.

New Hampshire and Alaska are the only states with neither a general sales nor a general income tax, but a relentless fiscal squeeze has boosted support for an income tax in New Hampshire.

House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, predicts that the committee will reverse its decision and approve the money next month.

But Rep. Douglas Hall, a committee member and income-tax supporter, said he won't support giving Gregg the money until the governor admits the case has merit.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart. Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit . . ."

Gov. Judd Gregg

"The quality of education across the state isn't equal," said Hall, R-Chichester. "At least the governor should be made to come to grips with that reality because it's not political."

The lawsuit, filed by Allentown, Claremont, Franklin, Lisbon and Pittsfield, said there is a wide disparity between the quality of education in poor and wealthy communities. The communities blame the state for doing little to correct the inequities.

The state commissioned the study, "Spending and Taxation for Public School Education in New Hampshire," to fight a similar lawsuit in 1985, but the suit was dropped.

Citing data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the study found that at least 33 other states had a greater variation in local education budgets than New Hampshire.

"In other words, New Hampshire was in the top third of states in equality of expenditure," the report said. "By national standards, there is only a narrow variation in educational expenditure among New Hampshire school districts."

The report also found that property values weren't the best index for predicting how much a community spent on schools. More important were the number of registered voters in relation to the number of school children and the ratio of adults to school children.

"The age composition of a community appears to be a factor that is more closely associated with spending and revenue than is tax base," the report found.

Wealthier communities did not necessarily spend more on schools, the report found.

"It is clear that the highest tax-base districts and the lowest tax-base districts differ in many ways besides their tax-base per pupil. They are different kinds of communities both in location and population," the study said.

AG To Ask Panel Again For Education Suit Money

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Attorney General John Arnold intends to re-submit to the Legislature's Fiscal Committee his previously rejected request for \$50,000 to hire experts to defend the state in an education funding suit.

"I'm resubmitting it to the next meeting," Arnold said yesterday. The joint Senate-House panel is tentatively set to meet Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Meanwhile, Fiscal Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, said yesterday that she is unaware the request will be resubmitted, although she did tell House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, the item could be resubmitted "and there are no rules that would foreclose that action, but I'm not suggesting that course of action be taken."

"But no one has specifically talked with me about doing that" since Aug. 6, said Hager.

"From my perspective, I would hope that the members of the committee would have had a chance to reflect on their vote and have determined that responsible government requires favorable approval of our request," said Arnold.

"They may have their strong personal views on how education is funded in New Hampshire and they, as legislators, certainly have the authority to deal with that in a proper forum, but to deny defense in an action in which the state is a defendant, to make a political statement, is inappropriate," said Arnold.

"It's my hope the committee will come to that realization," he said. "The funding issue is important enough to merit further discussion."

In an unprecedented action on Aug. 6, the Fiscal Committee voted 6-2 to turn thumbs down on Arnold's request for \$50,000 to hire experts for the state's defense against a school district class-action suit in Merrimack County Superior Court that alleges the state's property tax method of financing education is unconstitutional.

"I talked with AG Arnold after our meeting Aug. 6, and he indicated then he didn't think he would resubmit the request because he thought it was political," said Hager.

"If I were the governor or the AG, I would call at least the chairman of Fiscal and maybe all the members and discuss the issue, but they haven't done that," said Hager.

One of those voting with the majority, Rep. Douglas Hall, R-Chichester, contends that it is wrong for Gov. Gregg to actively campaign against the suit and lobby school boards to deny funding to bring the case. "I do not believe that you should have done this," Hall told Gregg.

Arnold said he didn't know if Hall's allegations had any substance, "but certainly all politicians express their opinion on issues that involve the state, and the governor is no exception to that."

"At this point, I am not aware of any conduct by the governor that would interfere with the state's defense in this suit," Arnold replied to a question as to whether Gregg's conduct was improper or whether it complicated defense of the suit.

Gregg contends that the majority of the Fiscal panel voted against the funding, because the panel seeks enactment of a state income tax. Arnold said there is no requirement that a governor has to muzzle his own personal feelings toward a suit.

"I'm not commenting specifically on Rep. Hall's allegations, but with respect to the governor being able to express his opinion on legal matters pending before the state, there is no problem and it doesn't complicate the state's defense," Arnold said.

"Going around and lobbying school boards is more than voicing an opinion," said Hager.

Attorney General requests for special litigation funds needed only governor and council approval until 1989 when the law was amended to additionally require Fiscal Committee approval.

Requests for added funds in the Public Service Co. litigation prompted the law change. "It was after millions of dollars were being spent in the PSNH suits that the amendment occurred," said Hager.

"I want the suit defended, and I'm not trying to prevent the suit from being defended," said Hager.

Gregg Says Adult-Child Ratio Is Key to Spending for Schools

CONCORD (AP) — The ratio of adults to children is more likely to indicate how much a community will spend on schools than the community's wealth, Gov. Judd Gregg says in defense of New Hampshire's reliance on property taxes to fund schools.

"The facts are, there is very little relationship between income levels of a community and property taxes," Gregg said in an interview published yesterday. "Some of your wealthiest towns, income wise, are moderate- to low-property-tax communities because they have a high industrial base."

"Property values really represent a fairly minor part of effort, dollars put into education. A much higher factor is the number of adult voters," Gregg told The Telegraph of Nashua.

The state will use the argument to defend itself against a lawsuit filed in June by five poor school districts seeking to force more state spending on education. The districts contend that the state's reliance on property taxes discriminates against children in poor towns.

But Gregg said there is no "significant relationship" between the level of property taxes in a community and the amount of money spent on public education.

Gregg said he and Attorney General John Arnold want legislative approval for money to update a 1983 statistical report on education.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart," said Gregg, a lawyer. "Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit, in my opinion, and that's because they have few facts to support their opinion."

The Legislative Fiscal Committee last week voted down Arnold's request for money to update the 1983 study. Gregg said income-tax supporters on the committee want to leave the state defenseless, to pressure the Legislature to enact a broad-based tax.

New Hampshire and Alaska are the only states with neither a general sales nor a general income tax, but a relentless fiscal squeeze has boosted support for an income tax in New Hampshire.

House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, predicts that the committee will reverse its decision and approve the money next month.

But Rep. Douglas Hall, a committee member and income-tax supporter, said he won't support giving Gregg the money until the governor admits the case has merit.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart. Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit . . ."

Gov. Judd Gregg

"The quality of education across the state isn't equal," said Hall, R-Chichester. "At least the governor should be made to come to grips with that reality because it's not political."

The lawsuit, filed by Allentown, Claremont, Franklin, Lisbon and Pittsfield, said there is a wide disparity between the quality of education in poor and wealthy communities. The communities blame the state for doing little to correct the inequities.

The state commissioned the study, "Spending and Taxation for Public School Education in New Hampshire," to fight a similar lawsuit in 1985, but the suit was dropped.

Citing data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the study found at least 33 other states had a greater variation in local education budgets than New Hampshire.

"In other words, New Hampshire was in the top third of states in equality of expenditure," the report said. "By national standards, there is only a narrow variation in educational expenditure among New Hampshire school districts."

The report also found that property values weren't the best index for predicting how much a community spent on schools. More important were the number of registered voters in relation to the number of school children and the ratio of adults to school children.

"The age composition of a community appears to be a factor that is more closely associated with spending and revenue than is tax base," the report found.

Wealthier communities did not necessarily spend more on schools, the report found.

"It is clear that the highest tax-base districts and the lowest tax-base districts differ in many ways besides their tax-base per pupil. They are different kinds of communities both in location and population," the study said.

AG To Ask Panel Again For Education Suit Money

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Attorney General John Arnold intends to re-submit to the Legislature's Fiscal Committee his previously rejected request for \$50,000 to hire experts to defend the state in an education funding suit.

"I'm resubmitting it to the next meeting," Arnold said yesterday. The joint Senate-House panel is tentatively set to meet Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Meanwhile, Fiscal Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, said yesterday that she is unaware the request will be resubmitted, although she did tell House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, the item could be resubmitted "and there are no rules that would foreclose that action, but I'm not suggesting that course of action be taken."

"But no one has specifically talked with me about doing that" since Aug. 6, said Hager.

"From my perspective, I would hope that the members of the committee would have had a chance to reflect on their vote and have determined that responsible government requires favorable approval of our request," said Arnold.

"They may have their strong personal views on how education is funded in New Hampshire and they, as legislators, certainly have the authority to deal with that in a proper forum, but to deny defense in an action in which the state is a defendant, to make a political statement, is inappropriate," said Arnold.

"It's my hope the committee will come to that realization," he said. "The funding issue is important enough to merit further discussion."

In an unprecedented action on Aug. 6, the Fiscal Committee voted 6-2 to turn thumbs down on Arnold's request for \$50,000 to hire experts for the state's defense against a school district class-action suit in Merrimack County Superior Court that alleges the state's property tax method of financing education is unconstitutional.

"I talked with AG Arnold after our meeting Aug. 6, and he indicated then he didn't think he would resubmit the request because he thought it was political," said Hager.

"If I were the governor or the AG, I would call at least the chairman of Fiscal and maybe all the members and discuss the issue, but they haven't done that," said Hager.

One of those voting with the majority, Rep. Douglas Hall, R-Chichester, contends that it is wrong for Gov. Gregg to actively campaign against the suit and lobby school boards to deny funding to bring the case. "I do not believe that you should have done this," Hall told Gregg.

Arnold said he didn't know if Hall's allegations had any substance, "but certainly all politicians express their opinion on issues that involve the state, and the governor is no exception to that."

"At this point, I am not aware of any conduct by the governor that would interfere with the state's defense in this suit," Arnold replied to a question as to whether Gregg's conduct was improper or whether it complicated defense of the suit.

Gregg contends that the majority of the Fiscal panel voted against the funding, because the panel seeks enactment of a state income tax. Arnold said there is no requirement that a governor has to muzzle his own personal feelings toward a suit.

"I'm not commenting specifically on Rep. Hall's allegations, but with respect to the governor being able to express his opinion on legal matters pending before the state, there is no problem and it doesn't complicate the state's defense," Arnold said.

"Going around and lobbying school boards is more than voicing an opinion," said Hager.

Attorney General requests for special litigation funds needed only governor and council approval until 1989 when the law was amended to additionally require Fiscal Committee approval.

Requests for added funds in the Public Service Co. litigation prompted the law change. "It was after millions of dollars were being spent in the PSNH suits that the amendment occurred," said Hager.

"I want the suit defended, and I'm not trying to prevent the suit from being defended," said Hager.

Gregg Says Adult-Child Ratio Is Key to Spending for Schools

CONCORD (AP) — The ratio of adults to children is more likely to indicate how much a community will spend on schools than the community's wealth, Gov. Judd Gregg says in defense of New Hampshire's reliance on property taxes to fund schools.

"The facts are, there is very little relationship between income levels of a community and property taxes," Gregg said in an interview published yesterday. "Some of your wealthiest towns, income wise, are moderate- to low-property-tax communities because they have a high industrial base."

"Property values really represent a fairly minor part of effort, dollars put into education. A much higher factor is the number of adult voters," Gregg told The Telegraph of Nashua.

The state will use the argument to defend itself against a lawsuit filed in June by five poor school districts seeking to force more state spending on education. The districts contend that the state's reliance on property taxes discriminates against children in poor towns.

But Gregg said there is no "significant relationship" between the level of property taxes in a community and the amount of money spent on public education.

Gregg said he and Attorney General John Arnold want legislative approval for money to update a 1983 statistical report on education.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart," said Gregg, a lawyer. "Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit, in my opinion, and that's because they have few facts to support their opinion."

The Legislative Fiscal Committee last week voted down Arnold's request for money to update the 1983 study. Gregg said income-tax supporters on the committee want to leave the state defenseless, to pressure the Legislature to enact a broad-based tax.

New Hampshire and Alaska are the only states with neither a general sales nor a general income tax, but a relentless fiscal squeeze has boosted support for an income tax in New Hampshire.

House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, predicts that the committee will reverse its decision and approve the money next month.

But Rep. Douglas Hall, a committee member and income-tax supporter, said he won't support giving Gregg the money until the governor admits the case has merit.

"Statistically, we can tear this case apart. Substantively, the facts are on our side. You can't even make a plausible scenario for their case to prevail. It's a diatribe rather than a legitimate suit . . ."

Gov. Judd Gregg

"The quality of education across the state isn't equal," said Hall, R-Chichester. "At least the governor should be made to come to grips with that reality because it's not political."

The lawsuit, filed by Allentown, Claremont, Franklin, Lisbon and Pittsfield, said there is a wide disparity between the quality of education in poor and wealthy communities. The communities blame the state for doing little to correct the inequities.

The state commissioned the study, "Spending and Taxation for Public School Education in New Hampshire," to fight a similar lawsuit in 1985, but the suit was dropped.

Citing data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the study found at that least 33 other states had a greater variation in local education budgets than New Hampshire.

"In other words, New Hampshire was in the top third of states in equality of expenditure," the report said. "By national standards, there is only a narrow variation in educational expenditure among New Hampshire school districts."

The report also found that property values weren't the best index for predicting how much a community spent on schools. More important were the number of registered voters in relation to the number of school children and the ratio of adults to school children.

"The age composition of a community appears to be a factor that is more closely associated with spending and revenue than is tax base," the report found.

Wealthier communities did not necessarily spend more on schools, the report found.

"It is clear that the highest tax-base districts and the lowest tax-base districts differ in many ways besides their tax-base per pupil. They are different kinds of communities both in location and population," the study said.

AG To Ask Panel Again For Education Suit Money

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Attorney General John Arnold intends to re-submit to the Legislature's Fiscal Committee his previously rejected request for \$50,000 to hire experts to defend the state in an education funding suit.

"I'm resubmitting it to the next meeting," Arnold said yesterday. The joint Senate-House panel is tentatively set to meet Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Meanwhile, Fiscal Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hager, R-Concord, said yesterday that she is unaware the request will be resubmitted, although she did tell House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, the item could be resubmitted "and there are no rules that would foreclose that action, but I'm not suggesting that course of action be taken."

"But no one has specifically talked with me about doing that" since Aug. 6, said Hager.

"From my perspective, I would hope that the members of the committee would have had a chance to reflect on their vote and have determined that responsible government requires favorable approval of our request," said Arnold.

"They may have their strong personal views on how education is funded in New Hampshire and they, as legislators, certainly have the authority to deal with that in a proper forum, but to deny defense in an action in which the state is a defendant, to make a political statement, is inappropriate," said Arnold.

"It's my hope the committee will come to that realization," he said. "The funding issue is important enough to merit further discussion."

In an unprecedented action on Aug. 6, the Fiscal Committee voted 6-2 to turn thumbs down on Arnold's request for \$50,000 to hire experts for the state's defense against a school district class-action suit in Merrimack County Superior Court that alleges the state's property tax method of financing education is unconstitutional.

"I talked with AG Arnold after our meeting Aug. 6, and he indicated then he didn't think he would resubmit the request because he thought it was political," said Hager.

"If I were the governor or the AG, I would call at least the chairman of Fiscal and maybe all the members and discuss the issue, but they haven't done that," said Hager.

One of those voting with the majority, Rep. Douglas Hall, R-Chichester, contends that it is wrong for Gov. Gregg to actively campaign against the suit and lobby school boards to deny funding to bring the case. "I do not believe that you should have done this," Hall told Gregg.

Arnold said he didn't know if Hall's allegations had any substance, "but certainly all politicians express their opinion on issues that involve the state, and the governor is no exception to that."

"At this point, I am not aware of any conduct by the governor that would interfere with the state's defense in this suit," Arnold replied to a question as to whether Gregg's conduct was improper or whether it complicated defense of the suit.

Gregg contends that the majority of the Fiscal panel voted against the funding, because the panel seeks enactment of a state income tax. Arnold said there is no requirement that a governor has to muzzle his own personal feelings toward a suit.

"I'm not commenting specifically on Rep. Hall's allegations, but with respect to the governor being able to express his opinion on legal matters pending before the state, there is no problem and it doesn't complicate the state's defense," Arnold said.

"Going around and lobbying school boards is more than voicing an opinion," said Hager.

Attorney General requests for special litigation funds needed only governor and council approval until 1989 when the law was amended to additionally require Fiscal Committee approval.

Requests for added funds in the Public Service Co. litigation prompted the law change. "It was after millions of dollars were being spent in the PSNH suits that the amendment occurred," said Hager.

"I want the suit defended, and I'm not trying to prevent the suit from being defended," said Hager.

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

'No meat there'

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

'No meat there'

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

No meat there

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

'No meat there'

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

'No meat there'

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

'No meat there'

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

'No meat there'

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attempts by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer summer jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

No meat there

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

Business backs School Improvement

Study finds plan puts N.H. in vanguard of educational reform

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD - New Hampshire's business leaders have come to the defense of the public/private School Improvement Program, which may put them in conflict with Gov. Judd Gregg and state Board of Education chairwoman Judith O. Thayer.

Thayer has tried to cut off funding for the three-year-old program, which is designed to find ways to improve schools on the local level by bringing in consultants to get teachers and members of the local community to work on changes.

To determine the effectiveness of the School Improvement Program, business leaders hired a national consultant, who concluded that it put New Hampshire "way ahead of the game" in educational reform.

The state Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund paid for the study by Michael A. Bailin, president of Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia. Based on the study's support of the program, the business association will lobby the Legislature and Gregg to save it, said the association president, John A. Crosier.

'New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game.'

MICHAEL A. BAILIN
President of Public/Private Ventures

The House has put \$700,000 for the program in the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts June 1. The Senate may change the figures when it rewrites the budget this week. The program raises about \$200,000 a year from private contributions and local school districts to supplement the state money.

Stiff opposition

The preservation effort will face stiff opposition from conservatives on the Board of Education.

"The schools have a direct pipeline to the taxpayers' wallets," said Pat Genestreti, one board member, "and I'm tired of programs that don't work, and this is one of them." Genestreti contended that schools should concentrate more on improvement of academics, and that

the same changes could have been made if school officials read how-to books or asked executives from local firms to volunteer their management skills.

Politicking over the School Improvement Program has been intense. Many observers say its outcome will be a test for Thayer, who has promoted many conservative educational changes with Gregg's backing and faces attacks by legislators to strip the board of its rule-making authority. (She declined, through a department spokeswoman, to be interviewed for this story.)

Whatever the outcome, the lobbying created a coalition out of groups usually in conflict: educators and business leaders.

"We fervently hope the educational community of the state will listen to and support what the business community, in its own way, feels is a necessary change of focus," Crosier said last week.

The business association's decision represents a shift in the degree in which the business community participates in debates over education, said Lewis Feldstein, president of the charitable fund. Business leaders, he said, often "complained, but had a problem in figuring out how to play a role in improving education."

Business leaders regularly gripe that graduates are not qualified for the minimum reading, math and getting-along-with-people skills that employers need. Teachers often resent business leaders who complain about educational quality, then do little more for local schools than offer specialist jobs to youths or allow specialists to teach a class or two.

Dispute a catalyst

The dispute over the School Improvement Program provided the catalyst, Feldstein said. Thirty-one schools participate out of the more than 400 in the state, and the first 10 schools have just completed their three-year training period.

Last year, Genestreti, a retired vice president from Simplex Wire and Cable Co., of Portsmouth, interviewed 20 people from schools that participate in the program and found 18 of them gave "favorable" reports. Nevertheless, he recommended elimination of the program, contend-

ing "results to date do not match the monies invested."

Feldstein, Crosier and other business leaders then approached Kimon S. Zachos, a Manchester lawyer and former deputy House speaker, and asked him to evaluate the program. Feldstein persuaded Bailin to conduct the study, Zachos said. The study was important so that supporters could have an objective analysis of the program, Feldstein said. A copy was provided to the Globe last week.

"New Hampshire, in comparison with other communities whose school improvement efforts we have studied, is way ahead of the game," Bailin concluded. He added that if the program did not exist "it probably would have to be invented to move the school improvement process forward. And if it were to be abandoned, I think you would find that it would have to be reinvented."

Because the first 10 schools had completed their three years of setting up the program, Bailin said it was hard to measure it with concrete yardsticks, such as student test results. However, a survey of five schools found 2 of 3 parents - an average of 66 percent - perceived the quality of education was better. A similar poll of staffers in the five schools found an average of 65 percent perceived that the students were doing better work.

Zachos' task force concluded that the program "is well designed and well run. First results are promising. The program gives promise of providing the capacity to improve all schools."

No meat there

Genestreti disagreed. Bailin's firm "tried its best to make the program look good," he said, "but there's just no meat there."

He contended that the program, which involves consulting with schools, spent too much on staff and consultants.

"For a tenth of the money, you could take one program and work on it intensively," he said.

Genestreti said he believed the state could better spend its money on assessing students' academic performance.

But Kathryn Eneguess, a business association education specialist, said that the business group was supporting the School Improvement Program because both improvement and assessment is needed.

"The experience of the business community," she said, "is that in order to make large organizational change, you need two things. You need to have a process that involves all of the individuals at the lowest level, which in this case is the teacher level, and you need to involve accountability methods from that lowest level all the way to the top.

"We don't feel they are mutually exclusive, but in fact that they enhance each other."

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

Installed including your antenna

DANVERS
1 Andover St. (Rt. 114)
(802) 777-7700

SALEM, NH
6 Raymond Ave.
(603) 893-2700

PHONE STORES

Frank Giuffrida's

WILLTOP

CHEER SHOP

1 NIEL WEBSTER HWY.
NORTH NASHUA, N.H.

WILLTOP'S FAMOUS

IRLON TIPS \$2.49 LB.

BOTTOM ROUND RUMP or STEAK ROASTS \$1.99 LB.

HYGRADE - 1 LB. PKG. MEAT FRANKS 89¢

HOMEMADE BRAND - 3 LB. PKG. POTATO SALAD \$1.78

PREMIUM - 1/2 GALLON TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE \$1.79

SWEET - FLORIDA CORN 5/99¢

TENDER ASPARAGUS 99¢ LB.

FRESH SQUASH SUMMER & ZUCCHINI 59¢

CAMPBELL'S - 12 OZ. PKG. MUSHROOMS \$1.19

WED. MAY 16 - TUE. MAY 21, 1991
RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES
TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS

JOIN THE REVOLUTION!

... from across the sea comes the most dynamic breakthrough in professional hair care ever, the Graham Webb International Product Line.



GRAHAM WEBB
INTERNATIONAL

studio 6
HAIR & SKIN

150 Broad Street Nashua, NH 03063 • (603) 889-9222

CANDY HARD CIDER HARD AS NAILS HARD AS NAILS

UL, 5/17/91

School Quality Program Offered With Guarantee

Five school districts in New Hampshire have agreed to participate in a pilot Excellence in Education Management Program its designer has offered to New Hampshire on a "satisfaction guaranteed" contract.

Jerry Arcaro, a designer of the Galileo Project from Nashua, has proposed signing a contract with the state of New Hampshire to conduct a pilot program in the five districts over a four-year period.

The entire project will cost \$750,000 — payable only upon satisfactory completion of the job, said Arcaro.

"I give a guarantee and a performance bond," said Arcaro of the proposal that was delivered to Gov. Judd Gregg recently.

School districts earmarked for the pilot four-year program include Amherst, Center Barnstead, Gilford, Lebanon and White Mountain Regional.

Former Lebanon Superintendent Paul Rice told the state Board of Education last February the project would tie together other incentives at the local level and give the district the ability to measure academic performance of students without interfering with individual school uniqueness.

Arcaro hopes to bid on money the Legislature is considering for school improvement. During the past three years, those funds have been given to the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools without going through a bid process. The alliance sponsors the School Improvement Program, now used by 31 schools in the state.

Arcaro said his program is guaranteed to prepare youth for a competitive job market by using a team approach that incorporates state standards, student objectives and teacher designs. The process guarantees a consistent education regardless of the economic status of the community, said Arcaro.

Previously, Arcaro sold his program to major corporations but decided to expand into the education field because of a need for quality student outcomes.

"Today, everybody points their finger at the school but it isn't the fault of the teacher, the parent or the school — it's the fault of the process. And for the process to work, the community must realize the school system is part of a total community," said Arcaro.

So initially, the Galileo Project calls for establishment of a Community Quality Council comprised of school administrators, teachers, parents, business and civic representatives and

citizens. They will learn about quality tools and provide support to restructure the school system, Arcaro said.

"It's a waste of money to work on an individual school basis. Feeder schools — the elementary and junior high schools — develop the educational foundation and without an excellent foundation it's almost impossible for a high school to correct problems. We must work from elementary through high school so the program all goes in at once," said Arcaro.

Arcaro guarantees a school department will reduce its costs a minimum of 5 percent over four years — a saving that could total millions in large school districts.

"A lot of extra work is being done today to make up for ineffective training in the early grades," said Arcaro, who is working on the project with Myron Trybus, former dean of Thayer School at Dartmouth College who was assistant secretary of commerce for science and technology.

Trybus recently retired from the Xerox Corporation as a senior vice president of quality. He is the founder of America Quality Institute in California.

Arcaro said the project uses computer-based assessment models to determine deficiencies in the process. Those problems are immediately erased. "We don't wait until the end of the school year to correct a problem," he said.

The Galileo Project has received rave reviews from the U.S. Department of Education whose Richard T. LaPointe called it "a very sound idea, based on proven practice in Japanese industry as well as numerous private and public entities in the United States."

The project applies the idea in a very practical way to the education arena, said LaPointe. "It is based on new and effective management styles as well as the essential involvement of those directly affected by the education process via the quality teams. Although the quality teams, in my opinion, are the heart of the multi-dimensional process, they would not succeed without the quality and cross-functional management components in place and functioning well," he said.

Arcaro has received the promise of free products and technical support from Xerox Corporation, the Tandy Corporation of Dallas, Novell Inc. and Wicat, a software house in Utah.

Technical support has also been offered by Lou Rhodes from the American Association of School Administrators, the Mt. Edgecomb High School District in Alaska and the Alpine School District in Utah.

Education Board Member Questions Study Backing Improvement Program

By CAROL CARTER
Union Leader Staff

A study bolstering the controversial School Improvement Program was released this week by the Business and Industry Association in the wake of a Legislative proposal to give the program nearly \$1 million for the next two years.

Some members of the State Board of Education have questioned the program's measurable results despite a glowing report commissioned by the BIA listing the School Improvement Program "among the best efforts in the country to improve public education."

"The question crying for an answer is what are New Hampshire students getting for this money? The answer seems to be very little," said Board of Education member Pat Genestreti of the \$1.5 million allocated to assist 31 of the state's 455 schools these past three years.

Nearly half of those funds were consumed by staff salaries, fringe benefits, consultant fees and studies, Genestreti noted of the independent program sponsored by the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools.

Gov. Judd Gregg's budget recommends \$300,000 for SIP in the first year of the biennium and no funding the second year.

The House of Representatives wants to appropriate \$900,000 for SIP for two years and the Senate is still negotiating, said Kathy Eneguess, vice president of the state Business and Industry Association, which recently commissioned the \$30,000 private study of SIP.

Genestreti, 67, a retired vice president of Simplex Wire and Cable of Newington, and other board members who have voiced disapproval of SIP at previous board meetings, said SIP has wasted tax dollars on programs that should be a routine part of school operations.

Pointing to the BIA-commissioned survey of five of the 31 participating schools, Genestreti noted schools reported achieving one or more of the following:

- Designed a new report card.
- Developed a new retention policy.
- Developed discipline codes and a homework policy.
- Wrote down a curriculum.
- Produced school columns for the local newspaper.
- Kept the school cleaner by laying gravel in the playground.
- Had extra phones installed for teachers to talk privately with parents.
- Installed a bathroom and added locks to bathroom stalls.

"Am I unreasonable to ask if these aren't activities which any well-managed school would normally perform without SIP? Is this a worthy production for three years and \$1.5 million?" asked Genestreti.

But SIP was applauded this week by the BIA. "New Hampshire can take great pride in this program which is gaining recognition as among the best efforts in the country to improve public education," said the BIA Task Force chaired by attorney Kimmon Zachos of Manchester of results from a survey conducted by Public/Private Ventures (PPV) of Philadelphia.

Genestreti said data collected in the BIA-commissioned survey dealt almost entirely with "perceptions" of improvements. "The report is long on 'perceptions,' 'feelings' and 'thoughts' but lacks evidence of concrete, measurable results," said Genestreti.

The BIA Task Force disagreed with Genestreti's findings, calling SIP "an extremely well-de-

signed, carefully implemented effort . . . that has the capacity to improve the effectiveness of entire schools.

"The task force is unanimous in its belief that the SIP's capacity to secure change in each school — indeed in each classroom — is central to improving New Hampshire's public schools," said the summary of the task force findings.

The task force excused the lack of measurable change in student output, saying it is too early in the three-year improvement program to expect significant changes. But the program's operation is "very promising," the task force noted.

Thomas Clow, principal of Parker-Varney Elementary School in Manchester, cautions about expecting a "quick fix" from SIP.

"This is a long-term improvement process we're involved in. We're looking at a major restructuring of our school depending on the decisions of our team," said the principal, whose school joined SIP last year.

Under SIP guidelines, schools select a 12-member team to help facilitate program priorities developed through a detailed profile of the school. For example, Parker-Varney wants to improve three top areas: the math curriculum, the school environment and communications between teachers and parents, said Clow.

Legislative leadership who are considering appropriating more funds for SIP all have copies of the PPV report, said Eneguess. For the past three years, the program has received \$450,000 annually in state tax dollars, \$97,000 from local school district tax money and \$93,000 from private grants.

The state funds are handed to the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools without going through the bid process, according to a spokesman at the State Board of Education.

Fred Place, president of the National Education Association-New Hampshire, is secretary-treasurer of the Alliance for Effective Schools.

Genestreti said he doesn't question the motives or concepts of SIP but feels the program's lack of results and accountability raises the issue of whether state funds could be used more effectively in other programs.

Genestreti said he will mail his analysis of the BIA report to members of the State Board of Education for review before their June 5 meeting.

In that analysis, Genestreti notes the PPV "made a valiant effort but after six weeks and 42 pages the best they could produce is a very bland embrace of SIP's underlying principles with a few favorable comments about enthusiasm, perceived improvements and approval of the SIP concept."

Genestreti admits he is puzzled by the BIA response to the PPV report. "I respect the BIA and I'm surprised we are so far apart on this report," said Genestreti.

Public/Private Ventures said they based their report on studies of SIP programs in nine other states, two cities and one county. PPV reported that other states require evaluation of the local efforts while New Hampshire doesn't have a mechanism to measure program success.

But former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education Chester E. Finn Jr. cast a wary eye on the report, calling the BIA and Public/Private Ventures "establishment groups."

"It's all the same crowd — one hand is washing the other," said Finn.

According to Finn, establishing a school improvement program in the absence of goals, accountability and testing is "silly."

Education Board Member Questions Study Backing Improvement Program

By CAROL CARTER
Union Leader Staff

A study bolstering the controversial School Improvement Program was released this week by the Business and Industry Association in the wake of a Legislative proposal to give the program nearly \$1 million for the next two years.

Some members of the State Board of Education have questioned the program's measurable results despite a glowing report commissioned by the BIA listing the School Improvement Program "among the best efforts in the country to improve public education."

"The question crying for an answer is what are New Hampshire students getting for this money? The answer seems to be very little," said Board of Education member Pat Genestreti of the \$1.5 million allocated to assist 31 of the state's 455 schools these past three years.

Nearly half of those funds were consumed by staff salaries, fringe benefits, consultant fees and studies, Genestreti noted of the independent program sponsored by the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools.

Gov. Judd Gregg's budget recommends \$300,000 for SIP in the first year of the biennium and no funding the second year.

The House of Representatives wants to appropriate \$900,000 for SIP for two years and the Senate is still negotiating, said Kathy Eneguess, vice president of the state Business and Industry Association, which recently commissioned the \$30,000 private study of SIP.

Genestreti, 67, a retired vice president of Simplex Wire and Cable of Newington, and other board members who have voiced disapproval of SIP at previous board meetings, said SIP has wasted tax dollars on programs that should be a routine part of school operations.

Pointing to the BIA-commissioned survey of five of the 31 participating schools, Genestreti noted schools reported achieving one or more of the following:

- Designed a new report card.
- Developed a new retention policy.
- Developed discipline codes and a homework policy.
- Wrote down a curriculum.
- Produced school columns for the local newspaper.
- Kept the school cleaner by laying gravel in the playground.
- Had extra phones installed for teachers to talk privately with parents.
- Installed a bathroom and added locks to bathroom stalls.

"Am I unreasonable to ask if these aren't activities which any well-managed school would normally perform without SIP? Is this a worthy production for three years and \$1.5 million?" asked Genestreti.

But SIP was applauded this week by the BIA. "New Hampshire can take great pride in this program which is gaining recognition as among the best efforts in the country to improve public education," said the BIA Task Force chaired by attorney Kimmon Zachos of Manchester of results from a survey conducted by Public/Private Ventures (PPV) of Philadelphia.

Genestreti said data collected in the BIA-commissioned survey dealt almost entirely with "perceptions" of improvements. "The report is long on 'perceptions,' 'feelings' and 'thoughts' but lacks evidence of concrete, measurable results," said Genestreti.

The BIA Task Force disagreed with Genestreti's findings, calling SIP "an extremely well-de-

signed, carefully implemented effort . . . that has the capacity to improve the effectiveness of entire schools.

"The task force is unanimous in its belief that the SIP's capacity to secure change in each school — indeed in each classroom — is central to improving New Hampshire's public schools," said the summary of the task force findings.

The task force excused the lack of measurable change in student output, saying it is too early in the three-year improvement program to expect significant changes. But the program's operation is "very promising," the task force noted.

Thomas Clow, principal of Parker-Varney Elementary School in Manchester, cautions about expecting a "quick fix" from SIP.

"This is a long-term improvement process we're involved in. We're looking at a major restructuring of our school depending on the decisions of our team," said the principal, whose school joined SIP last year.

Under SIP guidelines, schools select a 12-member team to help facilitate program priorities developed through a detailed profile of the school. For example, Parker-Varney wants to improve three top areas: the math curriculum, the school environment and communications between teachers and parents, said Clow.

Legislative leadership who are considering appropriating more funds for SIP all have copies of the PPV report, said Eneguess. For the past three years, the program has received \$450,000 annually in state tax dollars, \$97,000 from local school district tax money and \$93,000 from private grants.

The state funds are handed to the New Hampshire Alliance for Effective Schools without going through the bid process, according to a spokesman at the State Board of Education.

Fred Place, president of the National Education Association-New Hampshire, is secretary-treasurer of the Alliance for Effective Schools.

Genestreti said he doesn't question the motives or concepts of SIP but feels the program's lack of results and accountability raises the issue of whether state funds could be used more effectively in other programs.

Genestreti said he will mail his analysis of the BIA report to members of the State Board of Education for review before their June 5 meeting.

In that analysis, Genestreti notes the PPV "made a valiant effort but after six weeks and 42 pages the best they could produce is a very bland embrace of SIP's underlying principles with a few favorable comments about enthusiasm, perceived improvements and approval of the SIP concept."

Genestreti admits he is puzzled by the BIA response to the PPV report. "I respect the BIA and I'm surprised we are so far apart on this report," said Genestreti.

Public/Private Ventures said they based their report on studies of SIP programs in nine other states, two cities and one county. PPV reported that other states require evaluation of the local efforts while New Hampshire doesn't have a mechanism to measure program success.

But former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education Chester E. Finn Jr. cast a wary eye on the report, calling the BIA and Public/Private Ventures "establishment groups."

"It's all the same crowd — one hand is washing the other," said Finn.

According to Finn, establishing a school improvement program in the absence of goals, accountability and testing is "silly."