



NASHUA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gateway to Opportunity

On 11.9.2023, the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) released updated school designations according to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is the nation's education law committed to equal opportunity for all students. In fall 2022, NHED fully resumed school designations after a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two of the three designations are identified every three years to detect schools showing the greatest challenges with academic achievement and student performance.

As NHED noted in its release, Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools are performing among the lower five percent of all schools in the state receiving Title I, Part A funds, as well as high schools with a four-year graduation rate less than 67 percent, regardless of Title I status.

Dr. Norman W. Crisp Elementary School was among 19 New Hampshire schools designated as a CSI school. As a result of the designation, Dr. Crisp Elementary now has access to funding and support for the development and implementation of school improvement programming, which is already well underway.

“We welcome added funds to amplify the teaching of math, reading, and writing in our school,” said Colleen Hussey, Principal of Dr. Norman W. Crisp Elementary School. “Math classes are emphasizing not just mathematical practices but also focusing on fewer topics in greater depth. With core reading instruction, we are emphasizing the study of more complex texts, phonics, and vocabulary. We are also working closely with families to support learning at home.”

Moving forward, Nashua School District administrative leaders are committed to working with Dr. Crisp administrative and teaching staff to lift academic expectations and exit the CSI designation as soon as possible.

In addition, NHED identified 75 schools as Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools and three Nashua schools were among the 75: Amherst Street Elementary School, Mount Pleasant Elementary School, and Charlotte Avenue Elementary School. Under the law, the 75 schools are required to work to establish a plan in improve academic achievement for a specific subgroup of students.

To learn more about the ESSA and school improvement designations, please visit the links below:

[11 9 2023 NHED Press Release: Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools for 2023](#)

[NH ESSA School Identification](#)

[Every Student Succeeds Act](#)