

## 2025 Legislative Summary

Issue	Summary	House	Senate
<b>STUDENT HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING CRISIS</b>			
Categorical Funding	Provide additional funding for districts to hire social workers, paras, and other staff to help students mental/behavioral health, similar to how we did this for MLL. Not likely to pass this year but an absolutely vital piece of the puzzle.	5532	256
Student Safety and Behavioral Health Committee	The first step to securing better policies and support for student behavior and mental health is requiring each district to form a committee with teacher and ESP union reps. These committees review policies and report to the school committee annually, ensuring real support for students—not just shifting the burden to teachers.	5165	235
Cell Phone Policy	Requires each district to establish a cell phone policy with language that ensures teachers won't become the "phone police."	5598	771
Paraprofessional Grant	Working with the Institute of Labor Studies and Research to create an apprenticeship-like program where paras can take PD to become behavior specialists or RBTs and increase their income.		

<b>STATE FUNDING</b>			
Education Finance K-12	Fighting for more K-12 education funding, especially for districts who took a cut. Charters got a 7% increase, districts got a 2% increase, so working to balance that more equitably.	5076 Article 1 Appropriations	
	Bill to increase funding for districts cut by funding formula.	5749	
Higher Ed	We will be fighting for more funding for CCRI and URI for our negotiations there to win fair contracts.	5076 Article 1 Appropriations	
Revenue for RI	Raises taxes on filers in the top 1% (above \$625,000 per year)	5473	329

<b>PENSION</b>
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Penalty reduction to 3%	Reduces the penalty for early retirement to 3% each year. A more achievable goal than the Rule of 90 but achieves similar results. A significant lift this year.	5407	420
135 days for parental/medical leave	Allows teachers to miss up to 45 days unpaid in a year for parental/medical leave and still have that year count towards their pension. Especially helpful for members without a lot of sick time.	5279	454
Increase accrual rate	Increases the pension accrual rate based on years of service. A significant lift this year.	5762	659
5 to 3 for retirees between '12 and '24	People who retired between 2012 and 2024 got left out of our 5 to 3 win last year. This would fix that.	5318	257
Teacher survivor benefits	Would increase teacher survivor benefits.	5472	249
Rule of 90	Restores Rule of 90. Not likely to pass this year	5198	450

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION			
Bargaining unit lists	Requires each public sector employer to provide a list of Bargaining Unit info multiple times a year. Absolutely vital to our data/member organizing/political organizing/dues monitoring/etc.	5266	127
Labor Board updates	Makes the labor board a whole lot more efficient and gives it more teeth.	5187	124
Charter school neutrality	Requires charter schools to stay neutral in union organizing efforts. Based off Illinois law. Not likely to pass this year.	5840	912

SUPPORTING SAFE HEALTHY SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS			
Library (Freedom to Read)	Increases protections for libraries and librarians from getting sued by people who want to censor books.	5726	238
Assault weapons	Bans assault-style weapons	5436	359
Healthy School Meals for All	Creates statewide program to provide free, healthy breakfast and lunch to all public school students. A significant lift this year.	5742	430

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\*updated April 2025 – we monitor and review movement of bills: introduction, hearings, considerations throughout the session every week in order to take action. Therefore, in addition to the above categories, this list may not reflect every piece of legislation NEARI supports.