



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2023-04

An Order Directing a Statewide Response to the Impact of Social Media Platforms on New Hampshire's Youth

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's children are the future of our State and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that parents, guardians, and all adults responsible for children understand the potential ramifications and consequences of use of social media platforms by children; and

WHEREAS, research continues to find that the more time spent on social media, the potential for a higher risk of depression, anxiety and psychological distress exists in adolescents; and

WHEREAS, the importance of educating parents, guardians, and children about the negative impacts that use of social media platforms can have on a person's mental health is paramount; and

WHEREAS, understanding the impacts and providing education and resources to parents and children may assist in curtailing these negative impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services shall work collaboratively to create guidelines for a curriculum to be submitted to the State Board of Education to be included with all K-12 health education courses in the state that explains the potential negative impacts of use of social media platforms by children. These guidelines shall be submitted to the Governor within 90 days of this Order.
2. The Department of Information Technology shall work with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and the Attorney General's Office to establish a website that:
 - (a) provides a resource where parents, guardians, educators, and youth can go to learn about the potential harms of use of social media platforms by children;

- (b) provides resources and suggestions for reducing the amount of time children can spend on social media platforms;
- (c) provides an online and electronically fillable form that enables parents and others to share their concerns and experiences with children's use of social media platforms.

This website shall be established within 60 days of the issuance of this Order.

- 3. The Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General's Office shall develop plans for a communications and media campaign to (i) educate granite stater on the harms of social media and the negative impacts of the use of social platforms by children, (ii) the resources available to mitigate those harms, and (iii) solicit feedback from parents and youth on their concerns with use of social media platforms by children. These plans may include one or more community forums around the State. Such plans shall be submitted to the Governor within 30 days of the issuance of this Order.
- 4. In the process of fulfilling the directives laid out in sections 1-3 of this Order, each relevant State agency shall solicit feedback from relevant community groups and other stakeholders.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 6th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-six.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE