Friends Forever International

2026 Learn Everywhere Annual Report

“PART Ed 1405 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Ed 1405.01 Alternative Program for High School Graduation Credit Reporting Requirements. Each approved program shall annually, in September, submit to the state board a report which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

a. A brief statement explaining how the program is meeting the goals of its mission statement; and
b. The number of students enrolled in the program and the number of students awarded certificates leading to high school credits for the previous school year.”

This report has been broken down into two components by FFI in order to meet the above requirements; “A. Program Overview” and “B. Student Enrollment”.

A. Program Overview

a. Program Information from the NH DOE Website:

“Friends Forever International (FFI) is a nonprofit in Durham, NH, focused on building empathetic leaders equipped to improve themselves and in turn, their communities. FFI offers courses in eight different content areas that are underpinned by the FFI RECIPE integrating values of Resilience, Empathy, Communication, Impact, Playfulness, and Effort. FFI offers a comprehensive selection of educational courses, each offering students the opportunity to develop their motivation, knowledge, skills through experiential learning and application while gaining high school credit. Courses consist of lessons, tangible experiences, and assessments all being underpinned by their unique Individualized Leadership Plans (ILP). These programs are designed to uniquely benefit each individual participant and the collective group in tandem while advancing their knowledge. Students who successfully complete all requirements are eligible for a certificate in the course. Students can enroll in a variety of offered programs that may offer one or multiple courses.

Our purpose in offering Credit Bearing Programs to New Hampshire based students is to provide the authentic and challenging experiences we have been designing since 1986 globally to make it accessible to students locally. This can be done through partner schools and organizations where a program can be developed and carried out based on their specific needs. This can also be done through open enrollment programs which are offered at 100% scholarship regardless of financial need.

Programs occur throughout the year and are featured on our website: www.ff.international/creditbearinprograms

b. 2025- 2026 Program Details and Academic Rigor

We successfully completed 5 programs within the 2025-2026 academic year. A quick version of each program's courses and participants is shown below:

Dates	Program Title	Credits Earned	Number of Participants Enrolled
June 30, 2025 - July 7, 2026	Waves of Change	- Marine Science, 0.5 credit in Science (Biological Sciences) - Humanitarian Aid & Development, 0.5 credit in Social Studies (World History, Global Studies, or Geography) - Public Speaking, 0.5 credit in English (English General) - Team Building, 0.5 credit in Leadership (Elective General) = 2.0 credits total	7
October 5, 2025 - December 14, 2025	Gerontology	- Healthy Aging & Gerontology, 0.5 credit in Healthy Living (Health) = 0.5 credits total	2
February 21, 2026 - February 28, 2026	Art of Storytelling	- Drawing, 0.5 credit in Art (Arts Education General) - Art of Storytelling, 0.5 credit in English (English General) - Public Speaking, 0.5 credit in English (English General) - Team Building, 0.5 credit in Leadership (Elective General) = 2.0 credits total	6
June 19, 2026 - June 25, 2026	Art Afloat	- Water Sports, 0.5 credit in Physical Education (Physical Education General) - Art Within Nature, 0.5 credit in Art (Arts Education General) - Public Speaking, 0.5 credit in English (English General)	6

		- Team Building, 0.5 credit in Leadership (Elective General) = 2.0 credits total	
June 26, 2026 - July 3, 2026	Wellness Warriors	- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), 0.5 credit in Healthy Living (Health General) - Health & Fitness, 0.5 credit in Healthy Living (Health General) - Public Speaking, 0.5 credit in English (English General) - Team Building, 0.5 credit in Leadership (Elective General) = 2.0 credits total	6
			Total number of programs: 5 Number of participants enrolled: 27

Here are example activities and workshops that occurred during some of these programs:

Program	Activity
Waves of Change	- Volunteered to help build a house with Habitat for Humanity - Toured the Judd Gregg Marine Research Complex and learned about their research on ocean health, climate change, and sustainable marine ecosystems - Participated in a beach clean up with Blue Ocean Society - Met with RAIN for the Sahel and Sahara that help educate girls in Niger - Gave public speeches about their passions and motivations
Gerontology	- Volunteered multiple times over the course of two months at the Studley Home and Rochester Manor - Led activities such as games, art projects, and music for their elderly residents
Art of Storytelling	- Interviewed residents at the Edgewood Center to learn about their life stories - Wrote a creative writing piece that told a story about their resident partner - Delivered their creative writing piece to their partners and other Edgewood Center residents - Participated in a drawing session with a certified art teacher

Harvesting Change	- Camped at a reservoir where they paddleboarded and kayaked/canoed daily - Made nature sculptures out of materials found in the forest surrounding the campsite - Visited Alnoba to learn about placing art sculptures in nature for people to enjoy - Created a group art project using natural materials assisted by a local artist
Wellness Warriors	- Met with a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker to discuss Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. - Participated in a CrossFit class to encourage embracing movement, creating healthy habits, and establishing supportive connections. - Mentored youth at local summer camps to encourage positive mental health practices. - Created a wellness plan to encourage themselves to create and follow various goals related to personal health.

All of our program activities are intentionally designed to be rigorous, reflective, and uniquely challenging for the group of young people we serve. Each activity is selected not only to align with program competencies but also to address participants' individual fears, goals, interests, and skill sets.

c. Achievement of Goals:

FFI's Mission- To Help Young People Become the Best Versions of Themselves to Help their Community Become the Best Version of Itself.

The Learn Everywhere initiative has enabled us to expand our mission to meet the unique needs of New Hampshire students. Through this program, we empower young people to pursue personal growth, strengthen their communities, and make meaningful progress toward their high school diploma. Combining experiential learning, leadership development, and community engagement, the program consistently demonstrates its effectiveness in meeting these objectives. Our model blends academic coursework with real-world application, offering students opportunities to engage with content beyond traditional classroom settings. Residential, overnight programs at our Durham, NH campus or other flexible locations, paired with virtual sessions, ensure accessibility and adaptability to diverse learning styles and preferences.

d. Communication with Schools:

One of our primary goals has been to establish strong relationships with schools across the state. We have achieved this by fostering open communication and

building trust. For instance, when a student enrolls in a program, we share the following information with the school contacts provided by the parent or student (such as the ELO Coordinator, Guidance Counselor, and Principal):

- Notification of their enrollment with the credit they hope to gain (before the program begins)
- Finalized competency report with what was earned (after the program and assessments have been completed)

During this period, we remain in close contact to answer questions, share resources, and prepare for each student's individualized programming. We also receive referrals—often from school counselors and coordinators—which inform the design of tailored educational experiences for every participant.

Maintaining this level of communication and relationship-building will continue to be central to our work.

e. <u>What Participants are Saying:</u>

The following quotes are selected from surveys submitted by the participants of 2024-2025 programs.

- *"Since coming home, I've noticed I am more confident and willing to try new things. I also feel more comfortable speaking up, working with others, and stepping out of my comfort zone because of what I experienced in the FFI program."*
- *"I have definitely noticed I'm more confident about asking questions and speaking up for myself along with giving myself a bit more time to breathe instead of pushing until I break."*
- *"I am more empathetic towards others and more outgoing."*
- *"I feel that I fully understood how much of an impact I could actually make."*
- *"I feel I learned how to be a good public speaker, storyteller. I learned how to be an effective leader and an effective team member."*
- *"I feel like I learned a lot of other people's views and that sometimes stepping up and speaking out isn't as bad as I thought to be, along with learning some new things that I enjoyed that I never expected to originally."*
- *"I learned a number of extremely important things during my FFI program. But I think the biggest thing I learned is how I want life to look like and what I want to strive towards. Being a teenager is extremely messy and complicated, and it can be difficult to figure out what your goals are and who you are when the world is constantly moving, seems like it's falling apart, and throwing obstacles at you. But at FFI, I learned skills like mindfulness, self-confidence, communication, resilience, playfulness, empathy, and the list goes on. All of those skills and experiences, and*

building meaningful connections with my teammates and feeling accepted and pushed to be my best at the same time, gave me so much more trust in myself and the world. I can recognize things I want to do and change, whether that be using my phone less, drinking more water, getting to bed early, or getting involved with my community and working with others! And I don't feel isolated in my struggles, even if the world is messy and overwhelming. I don't feel as incapable and unheard."

- *"I felt that I learned about mental health and how other people go through struggles. And I'm not the only one; I learned that I can ask for help, and it's not a bad thing."*
- *"My FFI program was very different from my normal learning experience. Since I am homeschooled and take online classes, I usually learn independently. FFI gave me the chance to learn outdoors, work with a team, make new friends, and participate in hands-on activities. It helped me build social skills, confidence, and connections in ways that an online classroom couldn't."*
- *"In a classroom setting, I don't usually have the opportunity to build things like leadership, social skills, or communication skills, and build meaningful relationships with my peers or teachers. Everything is so focused on getting through the class as fast as possible and teaching the academic material that everything else slips through the cracks. A lot of kids go to class hungry and thinking about things going on at home, and there's a ton of tension and not a lot of room to process what's happening or have space. Whereas at FFI, skills like public speaking, communication, team building, and leadership were main focuses. This made the experience so much more meaningful and fulfilling. My needs felt met, and I was fully invested in what I was learning and felt connected to my team members, rather than isolated and juggling ten things at once."*

f. <u>What Parents/ Guardians are Saying:</u>

The following quotes are selected from surveys submitted by the parents/guardians of the participants. Completing this survey was optional.

- *"He is always talkative and he was not much of a planner haha he is always last minute! He went outside his comfort zone and tried all kinds of new things!! I love hearing the stories and memories he made!! He definitely is utilizing his time more wisely and he even goes to sleep better!"*
- *"It helped build his confidence."*
- *"I am so glad he got this experience!! It definitely helped boost him in many ways!! It was great to see all the updates and see him so involved in something he enjoys!!"*

B. Student Enrollment

In total, we had 4 residential and 1 session-based credit-bearing program opportunities.

a. Numbers Overview

In the 2025-2026 academic year we served…

- **27 students enrolled**
- **23 students awarded certificates**
- In **4 residential programs** and **1 session-based** program,
- From **7 NH counties**
- **14** different sending **high schools** including public and charter, and **1** homeschool student
- Each student earned **0.5-2.0 credits per program** (depending on the program).
- We issued **51 credits** in **11 unique courses.**

b. Looking Forward

We continued serving students across the state into the 2026-2027 academic year. As of August 28, 2026, we have already facilitated one unique program that allows students to travel to Northern Ireland to learn about its culture and history.

Of the participants from the 2025-2026 academic year, **86%** expressed their intention to complete a Community Action Project and/or participate in another FFI program. Additionally, **71%** stated they would not have been able to afford their program without financial support. As we look ahead, we are excited to further engage both alumni and new participants in developing their skills as empathetic leaders.

Friends Forever International is grateful for the opportunity to provide New Hampshire students with academically rigorous and meaningful experiences that bring them closer to earning their diploma. We are committed to continuing this work throughout the current academic year and beyond, striving to remain the gold standard for the Learn Everywhere program in New Hampshire and across the nation.