



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1332

H.P. 867

House of Representatives, March 27, 2025

**An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure
the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South
Portland, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, Senators: PIERCE of
Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §9924** is enacted to read:

3 **§9924. Community Schools Success Fund**

4 **1. Fund established.** The Community Schools Success Fund, referred to in this section
5 as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to provide grants
6 to community schools, local education providers and nonprofit organizations. The
7 commissioner shall administer the fund to provide community schools with assistance with
8 the following:

9 A. Community needs audits and community schools resources assessment;

10 B. Readiness plan assessments;

11 C. New and ongoing sustainability efforts;

12 D. Professional development and training; and

13 E. Peer support and mentoring efforts.

14 For the purposes of this section, "local education provider" means a school administrative
15 unit, a school located in an unorganized territory pursuant to chapter 119, a public charter
16 school authorized pursuant to chapter 112 and a school or program established under Part
17 4, Subpart 2.

18 **2. Grant recipients; supporting documentation.** To receive a grant under this
19 section, a potential recipient must be designated as a community school pursuant to section
20 9922 or must be a local education provider located in a school administrative unit with a
21 community school or a nonprofit organization that supports community school programs.
22 A potential recipient shall submit to the department a grant utilization plan that includes
23 the scope of work that will be supported by the grant and a description of programs
24 administered by the potential recipient that support community schools.

25 **3. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of the
26 fund, including eligibility standards for the awarding of grants from the fund under this
27 section and rules for determining the allowable uses of grants by eligible recipients, which
28 must include, but are not limited to, hiring or contracting, technical assistance, professional
29 development and training and attending statewide training and conferences. Rules adopted
30 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
31 subchapter 2-A.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill establishes the Community Schools Success Fund, a nonlapsing fund within
34 the Department of Education, to provide grants to community schools, local education
35 providers and nonprofit organizations to support community school programs.