

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 576 - L.D. 1458

**An Act to Increase Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8202, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 486, §1, is further amended to read:

**2. Tuition; room and board; funding.** Students from this State may attend the school free of tuition charges and free of the cost of room and board. Additional funding for students from this State may be provided within amounts appropriated for that purpose as follows.

A. The amount must be paid in 4 equal quarterly payments during the year of attendance. The first payment must be made by July 31st. The amount of tuition and other costs paid for all students is limited to the amount appropriated for this purpose. To be eligible for state funding under this paragraph, a student must have resided in Maine with a parent, other relative or guardian for at least 6 months immediately preceding application to the school.

B. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, effective July 1, 1996 and to the extent funds are not appropriated for this purpose, the student or the student's parent or guardian shall pay to the school the cost of room and board for the school year. In the case of financial need, the State shall pay to the school the difference between the cost of room and board and the student's or the student's family's ability to pay that cost. The board of trustees shall adopt rules governing the determination of financial need and the cost and schedule of payment of room and board under this paragraph. The determination of financial need must be based on a nationally recognized public or private school financial needs assessment system. A student may use scholarship funds in place of payment for all or part of the cost of room and board and any other fees or expenses incurred as a result of that student's enrollment at the school.

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8205, sub-§16-B** is enacted to read:

**16-B. Sustainability report.** To submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters a sustainability report by February

1st of each year beginning February 1, 2024 and annually thereafter. The report must include a plan for and updates on student recruitment efforts, the rate of student attrition, graduation rate, a budget for and explanation of mental health services available to students and a discussion of the school's Limestone location;

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>