



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 889

S.P. 381

In Senate, February 28, 2023

An Act to Better Support the Educational Attainment of Low and Moderate-income Communities by Providing Additional Funding to Certain School Administrative Units

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Senator: RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, RANA of Bangor, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 114-B** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 114-B**

4 **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

5 **§2661. Educational Opportunity Grant Program**

6 **1. Program created.** The Educational Opportunity Grant Program, referred to in this
7 chapter as "the program," is created within the department to provide grants to improve
8 educational opportunities for and achievement of students in low and moderate-income
9 communities.

10 **2. Use of funds.** The department shall award grants from the program to school
11 administrative units in which the average personal income of the member municipalities is
12 below the state average. Funds awarded from the program may be used only for school
13 administrative unit programs designed to raise the educational standards of all students in
14 the school administrative unit. Balances remaining in the Educational Opportunity Grant
15 Program, General Fund account at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward for
16 use by the program in the next fiscal year.

17 **3. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including
18 but not limited to rules governing procedures, criteria and priorities for awarding grants.
19 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
20 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
22 allocations are made.

23 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
24 **Educational Opportunity Grant Program N419**

25 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for grants to school administrative units in which the
26 average personal income of the member municipalities is below the state average to
27 improve educational opportunities for and achievement of students in low and moderate-
28 income communities.

29 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
30 All Other	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
31		
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$25,000,000</u>	<u>\$25,000,000</u>

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill creates the Educational Opportunity Grant Program to provide grants to school
35 administrative units in low and moderate-income communities for programs designed to
36 raise educational standards.