

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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Opportunity Organization*

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: In Opposition of LD 543: An Act to Enhance Maine's Wildlife
Conservation Efforts and Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by
Requiring Hunter Safety Education in Schools**
DATE: February 27, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is in opposition to LD 543. As a curriculum-focused bill, LD 543 oversteps the principles of local control that guide Maine's education system and introduces unnecessary legislative interference in decisions best left to local school districts.

Maine is a local control state, meaning that individual school districts have the authority to determine how to implement curriculum within the framework of state education standards. The Maine Learning Results already provide a comprehensive structure for academic expectations, ensuring that students across the state receive a well-rounded education while allowing districts the flexibility to tailor instruction to meet the needs of their communities.

Local school boards and educators are best positioned to determine which content standards to emphasize and what additional requirements should be set for graduation beyond the minimum standards established by the Maine Department of Education. LD 543 imposes a one-size-fits-all approach that undermines this flexibility and could limit districts' ability to make curriculum decisions that reflect the needs and values of their students.

Rather than mandating curriculum changes through legislation, concerns about educational content should be addressed within the existing Maine Learning Results framework, which allows for thoughtful review and adjustment without compromising local autonomy. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose LD 543 and allow Maine's local school districts to continue exercising their authority over curriculum decisions.