



**Maine Education Association**

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**Testimony  
In Support Of  
LD 74: An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline  
Mallory Cook, Training and Early Educator Engagement Director, Maine Education  
Association  
Before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee  
February 27, 2025**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Mallory Cook, and I have the pleasure of serving the nearly 24,000 members of the Maine Education Association as the Director of Training and Early Educator Engagement. I am here today to testify in support of LD 74: An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline.

When we stood before you last session, we expressed concerns about implementing the proposed social studies standards due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the short review timeline, and the volume of recommended changes. As you may know, districts are not obligated to adopt the updated standards upon publication. Consequently, if following best practices, districts are likely not using the most recent revised standards in their respective content areas, as they have not yet had the time to develop action plans around these standards.

To illustrate this, before my work at MEA, I had the pleasure of working at the Hermon School Department. In this role, each department spent years collaborating with the Great Schools Partnership to derive performance indicators from the content standards, develop common rubrics and scoring criteria in student and stakeholder-friendly language, and create common formative and summative assessments. We refined these assessments to ensure they measured the intended indicators and standards. Only then did we begin working with grade-level teams to refine our unit planning, considering how our daily learning experiences would be sequenced, paced, and differentiated to meet our end goals. This process took years.

After implementing a unit, the Great Schools Partnership provided assessment refinement tools, unit refinement tools, and other resources that grade-level or departmental teams could use to reflect on student engagement and formative and summative assessment data. These tools

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enabled us to adjust for the next time we implemented the instructional tools. For those who have taught, it is rarely the first or second time that a lesson or unit is best executed; it is almost always after the third time. Each subsequent semester or year, the tools are refined and improved, enhancing the student experience.

Extending the standards review period supports practices like these, promoting stability and consistency within schools. This allows instructors and students to adapt to the standards without worrying about significant changes disrupting their process.

A longer review cycle will provide districts with more opportunities to invest in and offer professional learning for educators who may face new requirements due to adopted changes. The most recent proposed social studies standards introduced significant content changes. Our primary concern is ensuring that educators receive the necessary professional learning supports to implement these changes effectively. Reflecting on my experience in Hermon, integrating such changes into our established standards, performance indicators, assessments, and units would have taken years, and this does not account for the extensive training our teachers would have needed to incorporate the new content and skills into the curriculum with fidelity.

Finally, we hope that a longer review cycle will encourage more public comments from key stakeholders when the review process begins. As more districts implement the current standards and make data-driven improvements based on student outcomes, we anticipate increased participation in these discussions. This will allow stakeholders to share insights on necessary improvements and aspects of the standards that should be maintained. Such engagement will ensure the steering committee has a comprehensive understanding of how the standards are being implemented across the state.

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.