

# MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217

Fax: (207) 622-1513  
Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)

Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>

**Kimberly Liscomb**  
Cony Middle/High  
School  
President

**Stephen Bell**  
Dexter Regional High  
School  
President-elect

**Michael R. Burnham**  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division

**Holly D. Blair**  
Executive Director  
Professional Division

**Michael G. Bisson**  
Assistant Director

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Opportunity Organization*

**TO:** Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee  
**RE:** In Support of LD 165: An Act to Allow School Boards to Expel or Suspend Students Regardless of Grade Level  
**DATE:** March 13, 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 Maine Principals' Association (MPA) Legislative Committee unanimously supports the passage of LD 165.

During the 130th Legislature, the authority of building administrators to send students home for behavioral issues was revoked. While no administrator takes this decision lightly, there are situations where temporarily removing a student is necessary for their well-being, as well as for the safety of other students and staff. Since the enactment of this change, incidents of dangerous student behavior have increased, leading to a significant rise in injuries within schools.

Restoring administrators' ability to temporarily suspend students—regardless of grade level—would allow schools to implement appropriate supports for both the student in crisis and their classmates. We believe that reinstating this authority will help reduce the number of dangerous behavior incidents while ensuring all students receive the support they need.

We urge the Legislature to restore the authority that administrators once had to effectively and safely manage their schools. These trained professionals will continue to use suspension only as a last resort, prioritizing the well-being of all students and staff.

For these reasons, the MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 165.