

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 81: An Act to Foster Innovation in Maine Schools by Updating the Requirements of School Innovation Waivers
DATE: March 18, 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 support of LD 81, which seeks to foster innovation in Maine schools by updating the requirements for school innovation waivers.

This bill is a positive step forward in allowing schools greater flexibility to implement creative and effective educational approaches. By eliminating some of the restrictive requirements for obtaining innovation waivers, LD 81 empowers schools to develop and expand practices that have been proven to enhance student learning. Schools across Maine are already finding new and effective ways to engage students, and this legislation ensures that those successful strategies can be more easily adopted and shared.

Additionally, LD 81 aligns innovation with demonstrated student success, ensuring that schools are able to focus on what works best for their communities. Reducing bureaucratic barriers allows educators to prioritize meaningful improvements in teaching and learning, rather than being hindered by unnecessary administrative hurdles.

By supporting this bill, we are fostering a culture of continuous improvement in Maine schools, giving them the tools and flexibility needed to adapt to the changing needs of students. We urge the committee to support LD 81 and help schools continue to innovate for the benefit of all Maine students.