

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 607: An Act to Require the Approval of Superintendent Agreements Regarding Transfers of Students Between School Administrative Units
DATE: April 2, 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 607. This bill would significantly undermine the ability of superintendents and building administrators to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of students and their schools by removing their authority to deny student transfers based on educational and logistical considerations.

Currently, superintendents have the ability to review and approve or deny transfer requests based on factors such as school capacity, available resources, and the individual needs of students. This ensures that transfer decisions are made with careful consideration of both the student's well-being and the overall stability of the school system. LD 607 would eliminate this discretion, allowing transfers to occur simply because a parent or student wants one, without regard for the broader impact on schools and districts.

At its core, this bill functions as a school choice measure that could have drastic negative effects on public schools. Unchecked student transfers could lead to imbalances in enrollment, staffing challenges, and financial strain on districts that lose students—and, consequently, the per-pupil funding that follows them. Public schools are designed to serve their local communities, and allowing transfers without administrative oversight could create disparities in resources and educational opportunities across districts.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose LD 607. Maintaining local decision-making with the superintendent is essential to ensuring that student transfers occur in a way that is fair, sustainable, and beneficial to both students and schools.