



# LEWISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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RE: LD 218

Hello Maine Delegation,

We do not support this bill. Each year we field nearly 200 of these kinds of requests. Some are valid and they fit and some are not valid or simply do not fit the constraints we have. In Maine, enrollment is a constant. At any point in time the metrics of classroom sizes, staffing, and resources can shift. An annual renewal of Superintendent agreements can and will place an undue burden on schools systems and the local property tax base that provides funding for each school unit.

The provisions noted in the summary of “unless a superintendent determines that the student's attendance is irregular, the student is disruptive, the student does not use best efforts to succeed in class” are just some of the many factors considered when making these determinations.

Many were hopeful there would be a strengthening of Superintendent decisions. Right now there are two levels of appeal with the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of education. We would support one layer of appeal to the Commissioner of Education. That is for another time. However, the layers of appeal protect good process and the informed decision-making of Superintendents. This bill asks shrinking or growing districts to nullify active relevant information, create challenges with the legal expectations of Child Find, truancy, and others. Logistically, this has an impact on transportation, nutrition programming, facilities, parent involvement, and many others. Some may argue that it does not because of the nature of the Superintendent agreements but we can assure you it does. We face these challenges, questions, and pressures everyday.

We do not support this bill. It takes an effort on behalf of parents and Superintendents that already exists. Having Superintendent agreements automatically renew does not account for good process or informed decision-making.

Sincerely,

*KJLanglais*

K. Jake Langlais, Superintendent

Summary: This bill repeals the provision in current law requiring superintendents to annually review transfers of students to a school administrative unit other than the one in which the student has permanent residence. The bill provides that such transfers must be automatically renewed on an annual basis unless a superintendent determines that the student's attendance is irregular, the student is disruptive, the student does not use best efforts to succeed in class or the transfer is no longer in the best interest of the student.