



# LEWISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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April 2, 2025

RE: LD 660

Hello Maine Delegation,

This bill asks for a level of oversight that already exists with school boards/school committees, building administration, and district administration. In addition, areas of oversight include union representation, liaison processes, policy, and local decision making that invites parent and community participation. Mechanisms already exist for parental and community access to information. These are exercised regularly through FOAA and access to each school. We can only speak for Lewiston Public Schools but we have policy that allows parents to exempt their children from activities if they choose.

It is unclear to me if there is a fiscal note attached to the proposed language. From our perspective, costs to create and maintain an online portal that will act as a single source for all student information and data would be substantial. What would the oversight be for professional development and offerings? We may be wrong in assuming this but state subsidy is issued to every school unit in Maine. Is the catchment of this bill everything every public school does? This could be interpreted as everything anyone does for professional development or training lives in a data set that there is no mechanism to create or maintain. Most professional development and offerings are proprietary and the delivery of materials is often the essence of their effectiveness through the craft and skill of those who deliver it. We are firm believers in parents knowing what is going on in schools. Being actively engaged in a student's education is one of the best indicators of student outcomes. These structures and access already exist.

We do not support this bill. This language would become another unfunded mandate that schools would have to comply with and seems to have 3rd-party interests at its core as shown in the summary below.

Sincerely,

*KJLanglais*

K. Jake Langlais, Superintendent

Summary: This bill requires school administrative units to adopt policies and procedures to ensure that the approved curriculum presented is implemented in the classroom without change, to post at least 3 years of

data regarding certain student enrollment and performance, to maintain lists regarding participation in and development of professional development programs and to create an online portal that will act as the single source for all student information and data that can be accessed by 3rd-party contractors, including curriculum materials and information regarding speakers and guests. The bill requires the Department of Education to list and make available to the public all administrator, teacher and staff professional development and instructional programs offered to schools that are paid for with state funds and maintain a list of school boards that have approved a statewide program. The bill places restrictions on the choice of academic class offerings and curriculum materials and on-site professional development programs. Certain provisions of this bill are designed to satisfy federal law related to parental access to information and protection of pupil's rights.