

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 339: Resolve, to Provide Funds to the Maine Indian Education School District to Develop a Wabanaki-centered Curriculum
DATE: April 22, 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 339. The Committee supports having Wabanaki-centered curriculum in Maine schools, but this is already a part of the Maine State Learning Results.

The MPA Legislative Committee is in opposition because Maine is a local control state. It is up to the local school boards to determine what curriculum is taught in the different grades. We are also opposed to having only one district create curriculum that will then be disseminated to only those schools who have Native American students – and then only teach that curriculum to the Native American students in Maine High Schools. If there is a “model” curriculum provided, then the local school districts can choose to follow this model for all their students.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass LD 339.

Please note that this testimony was submitted based off of the original bill and not additional amendments that may be presented.