

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 1627: An Act Regarding Workforce Development, Education Reform and Talent Retention
DATE: April 24, 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.

While we recognize the value of career exploration and workforce development in preparing students for life after graduation, this bill would place an undue mandate on all middle and high schools to implement programs that may not be feasible in every community. Access to local business partnerships and career exploration opportunities varies significantly across Maine, and not all districts have the resources, staffing, or infrastructure to meet the expectations outlined in this legislation.

Furthermore, LD 1627 would establish these requirements as a condition of high school graduation. We believe this is an overreach and inconsistent with Maine's tradition of local control. Graduation requirements should reflect a balance of academic standards, local priorities, and student needs—not be tied to statewide mandates that may not be equitably implementable.

If the state wishes to encourage workforce readiness, a more appropriate approach would be to embed these concepts within the Maine Learning Results, allowing for flexibility in implementation and adaptation to local context.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1627.

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