

# MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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**TO:** Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee  
**RE:** Neither For Nor Against LD 1466: An Act Related to Excusing a School from Making Up Missed Days When It Cannot Operate During a Declared State of Emergency  
**DATE:** April 25, 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's Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1466.

We acknowledge and appreciate the intent of this bill, which seeks to streamline the process by which schools are excused from making up instructional days lost due to emergencies. However, it is important to note that there is already an established process in place: districts may apply for a waiver from the Commissioner of Education when such situations arise. This current system allows for thoughtful review and flexibility based on the unique circumstances of each event.

While LD 1466 would eliminate the need for this waiver application, we believe the existing process has been effective and provides a level of oversight that ensures instructional time is preserved whenever safely possible. There are times when a state of emergency may be declared, but schools can still operate either in person or via remote instruction. Some districts may also opt to use existing snow days at the end of the school year.

We are also concerned that codifying automatic forgiveness for days missed during a declared state of emergency could create challenges. In many of these situations, access to electricity and internet may be disrupted, making remote learning impractical or inequitable. This could unintentionally result in lost instructional time without viable alternatives.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage the Committee to weigh the value of flexibility and case-by-case consideration when reviewing LD 1466.

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