

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



50 Industrial Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 622-0217

Email: mpa@mpa.cc

Websites:
<https://mpaprof.org>
<https://mpa.cc>

Kimberly Liscomb
Cony Middle/High
School
President

Stephen Bell
Dexter Regional High
School
President-elect

Michael R. Burnham
Executive Director
Interscholastic Division

Holly D. Blair
Executive Director
Professional Division

Michael G. Bisson
Assistant Director

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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 1624: An Act to Provide
Funding for Summer School Programming
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 1624.

We acknowledge the critical need for high-quality summer programming to support students who require additional academic help in order to be fully prepared for the following school year. Summer learning opportunities can prevent retention, narrow achievement gaps, and ensure that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

We also appreciate the bill's intention to provide additional support to higher-poverty communities. Targeting resources to the districts with the greatest need is an important and equitable approach to supporting Maine's students.

However, we do have concerns. The bill does not specify a funding source, and we are worried that the financial burden may fall on the General Fund. Without dedicated funding, schools may face additional strain on already limited resources, potentially compromising other essential services.

We are also concerned about staffing challenges. In recent years, schools have struggled to find sufficient staff for summer programming, and ongoing uncertainty about funding has led many school employees to be informed that their positions may not be available in the coming year. Even if this bill is enacted, districts may not have the personnel available to effectively implement the programs.

For these reasons, while we support the intent of LD 1624, we encourage careful consideration of the bill's funding structure and implementation challenges.

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