

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



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

**Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto: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 1626: An Act to Improve  
Professional Development for Educational Technicians  
and School Support Staff**  
**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 Maine Principals' Association's Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1626.

We strongly support the principle that educational technicians and school support staff should receive high-quality, ongoing professional development. These individuals are essential to the success of our schools, playing a critical role in supporting students, teachers, and the overall learning environment. Providing them with annual training—aligned with district policies and student needs—is key to ensuring consistency, safety, and effectiveness across Maine's public schools.

However, we have concerns regarding the potential impact of this bill on local school districts. Implementing mandatory professional development for all school support staff may result in significant costs, particularly for districts already operating under tight budget constraints. Additionally, the provisions of this bill could intersect with existing collective bargaining agreements—raising issues related to compensation, workload, and scheduling.

While we support the intent of LD 1626 and the goal of equitable training opportunities for all school personnel, we urge the Committee to consider the fiscal and contractual implications of mandating these requirements statewide. Without additional funding or flexibility, this could become an unfunded mandate that places additional strain on local budgets.

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