

# 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 673: An Act to Better Support the Educational Attainment of Low-income and Moderate-income Communities by Providing Additional Funding the Certain School Administrative Units  
**DATE:** April 29, 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 673. While the intent of this bill—to provide financial support for districts serving low-income and moderate-income communities—is commendable, the grant-based approach it proposes is not the most equitable way to achieve this goal.

Grant programs often create disparities in resource allocation, as funds are awarded to districts rather than directly to the schools that serve the highest-need communities. This structure does not guarantee that the intended schools will receive the necessary support, leaving gaps in funding where it is needed most. Furthermore, not all districts have equal access to grant-writing resources, meaning that schools in the most under-resourced areas may struggle to secure funding, exacerbating existing inequities.

Rather than implementing a competitive grant program, we believe a more effective solution would be to modify the existing school funding formula to better address the needs identified in this bill. A funding formula adjustment would ensure that resources are distributed equitably and consistently to the schools that need them, without requiring districts to apply for competitive grants that may not be accessible to all.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose LD 673 in its current form and instead consider a more sustainable, equitable approach to funding schools serving low-income and moderate-income communities.