



## AUGUSTA SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

40 Pierce Drive, Suite 3  
Augusta, Maine 04330-9105  
Phone: 207-626-2468 Fax: 207-626-2444  
[www.augustaschools.org](http://www.augustaschools.org)

**Michael Tracy, Jr., CAS**  
Superintendent

**Christina Wotton, Ed. D.**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Shelby Thibodeau, M.A.**  
Director of Special  
Education

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Testimony of Michael Tracy Jr., Superintendent of Augusta Schools  
In Support of LD 1705: "An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight"  
April 17, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint  
Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Michael Tracy Jr., and I serve as the Superintendent of Augusta Schools. I am writing today in strong support of LD 1705, with a particular focus on the need to fully fund the adult education subsidy as required by law.

Adult education is a vital service that supports individuals who are working to complete their high school education, improve language and literacy skills, gain workforce credentials, and pursue further education or employment. These programs open doors to opportunity for people of all backgrounds and strengthen communities across Maine.

In Augusta, our adult education program—Augusta Adult and Community Education—provides a wide range of essential services to hundreds of adult learners each year. The program plays a key role in helping individuals gain skills and stability, yet it continues to face financial challenges due to years of underfunding at the state level. The gap between what is calculated by the state's subsidy formula and what is actually received has created a persistent strain on staff and resources.

LD 1705 proposes a practical and necessary solution: a transparent process for assessing program needs, accountability for unspent funds, and a full appropriation that reflects the true cost of providing these critical services. Fully funding adult education is not only a legal obligation—it's a strategic investment in Maine's people and workforce.

I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 1705 and ensure that adult education programs like ours in Augusta—and across the state—have the resources they need to meet the needs of their communities.

Thank you for your time and commitment to adult education.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Tracy Jr.  
Superintendent, Augusta Public Schools  
40 Pierce Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330