

**Testimony of Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools, Kittery School District
In Support of LD 1719 – An Act Regarding Superintendent Transfer Agreements
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
May 6, 2025**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Eric Waddell, and I serve as Superintendent of Schools for the Kittery School District. I appreciate the opportunity to share this testimony in strong support of LD 1719 – An Act Regarding Superintendent Transfer Agreements.

As presented, LD 1719 effectively addresses the concerns that many lawmakers have heard from their constituents. At the same time, it does not place superintendents in a difficult or untenable position. Rather, it provides a clear, balanced framework that guides transfer decisions in a thoughtful and consistent manner.

The bill acknowledges that a school administrative unit's (SAU's) ability to host a student through a superintendent transfer agreement may change from year to year, due to factors such as enrollment, staffing, or available resources. Importantly, LD 1719 ensures that transfer decisions are not made arbitrarily or capriciously, but are based on legitimate, justifiable considerations.

From a superintendent's perspective, LD 1719 is both comprehensive and reasonable. It honors the need for local control while ensuring a fair and transparent process for students and families.

LD 1719—a reasonable and effective student transfer bill—has my most enthusiastic support, and I respectfully urge the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass."

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing commitment to Maine's public schools.

Sincerely,
Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools
Kittery School District

Eric Waddell
Kittery School Dist.
LD 1719