

# 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 1588: An Act to Ensure  
Transparency in Student Transfer Requests**  
**DATE: May 6, 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 opposes LD 1588. This bill would require a statewide publication of student transfer approvals and denials, including the reasons for each decision. While we support transparency in public education, this level of disclosure raises serious concerns about student privacy—particularly in Maine's smaller communities. Even without explicitly naming students, the combination of circumstances, grade levels, and transfer details could make it easy to identify the individuals involved.

Student transfer decisions are often complex and deeply personal, involving family situations, academic or behavioral needs, and considerations of school resources and capacity. Requiring public disclosure of these decisions risks compromising student confidentiality and undermines the professional judgment of school administrators and superintendents.

We urge the Legislature to trust the educational professionals who are charged with acting in the best interests of students and their districts. LD 1588 would impose a burdensome and potentially harmful mandate without delivering meaningful benefits to students or families.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose LD 1588 and encourage the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass.

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