

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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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 1764: An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations
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 MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1674.

We recognize and appreciate the intent of this bill to provide equitable staffing for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, particularly in regions with smaller student populations. Ensuring that CTE centers can continue to meet the needs of their students—even with lower enrollment—by adjusting the teacher-to-student ratio to 1:8 is a step toward educational equity. This bill would positively impact those centers by allowing more personalized instruction and greater flexibility in program delivery.

Additionally, aligning the EPS funding formula to better support CTE centers is a commendable goal that could result in long-term improvements to student access and program sustainability.

However, we are concerned about the potential financial implications of this bill. Specifically, it requires the Department of Education to fund all additional staff necessary to meet the proposed lower staffing ratios. While this provision is beneficial in principle, the fiscal impact is currently unknown. Without a clear fiscal note, we are concerned that implementation could place a significant strain on the General Fund and potentially reduce available resources for other schools and programs statewide.

We urge the Committee to carefully consider the financial ramifications and seek clarity on the projected costs before moving forward.

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