

## **Regional School Unit 57**

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**RSU 57 prepares students for success in an ever-changing world.**

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The Honorable Members of the  
Education and Cultural Affairs Committee  
Maine State Legislature  
115 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

Good Afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Esteemed Members  
of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I speak today in strong support of LD 1719 – An Act Regarding Superintendent  
Agreements for Transfer Students.

As the Superintendent of Schools for RSU #57, I have the privilege of serving the  
students and families of Alfred, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, Shapleigh, and  
Waterboro in York County. In this capacity, I have also had the opportunity to work  
alongside dedicated colleagues from across the state, members of the State Board  
of Education, and representatives from Maine School Management to help shape  
and support this important legislation.

LD 1719 brings long-needed clarity and consistency to the superintendent  
agreement process for student transfers between school administrative units.

The current statute, while well-intentioned, has over time led to uncertainty,  
inconsistency, and confusion for superintendents, families, and even the  
Department of Education. LD 1719 addresses these issues directly by providing a  
clear, structured, and fair process for evaluating transfer requests.

This legislation ensures that:

Alfred

Limerick

Lyman

Newfield

Shapleigh

Waterboro

- Transfer requests are initiated and reviewed in a timely and transparent manner;
- Both superintendents involved participate in the decision-making process;
- The best interests of both the student and the school communities are prioritized;
- Families receive clear, written explanations of decisions;
- There is a well-defined and balanced appeals process if a request is denied.

Importantly, the bill maintains local control while creating accountability and due process, and avoids unnecessary complexity. It allows school leaders to act thoughtfully and collaboratively, with a shared focus on student well-being and educational equity.

I urge the Committee to advance LD 1719 as a critical step toward improving and modernizing how we handle superintendent agreements in Maine. This legislation reflects input from a broad base of stakeholders and meets a real need with clarity, balance, and care.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the students and families of Maine.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Marquis, PhD.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Maine Regional School Unit 57