

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



50 Industrial Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 622-0217

Email: mpa@mpa.cc

Websites:
<https://mpaprof.org>
<https://mpa.cc>

Stephen Bell
Dexter Regional High
School
President

Ben Lothrop
Limestone Community
School
President-elect

Michael R. Burnham
Executive Director
Interscholastic Division

Holly D. Blair
Executive Director
Professional Division

Michael G. Bisson
Assistant Director

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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 2052: Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use
DATE: January 22, 2026

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 Legislative Committee unanimously supports LD 2052 because it takes a thoughtful, research-based approach to an issue that school leaders are navigating daily: how to use instructional technology in ways that enhance learning while ensuring student safety and well-being. The resolve appropriately directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to develop and administer a survey of school administrative units to gather consistent, statewide information on classroom technology use, safety policies and procedures, and the mechanisms used to ensure compliance.

As school leaders, we recognize that research has raised important concerns about excessive or unstructured screen time and its potential negative impact on students. At the same time, that body of research does not always distinguish between recreational screen use and purposeful, teacher-guided instructional use within classrooms. Technology, when used intentionally and appropriately, can support differentiated instruction, accessibility, formative assessment, and engagement—particularly for students with diverse learning needs.

LD 2052 strikes the right balance by studying what is actually happening in Maine schools rather than presuming a one-size-fits-all conclusion. By collecting data directly from districts, MEPRI can help policymakers and educators better understand how technology is being used, what safeguards are already in place, and where additional guidance or support may be needed. This information will be far more valuable than anecdotal evidence or assumptions.

Most importantly, this resolve aligns with a shared goal across Maine's education community: creating the safest possible learning environment for all students. Understanding current practices and protections is a critical first step toward strengthening them, while still allowing local schools the flexibility to meet instructional needs.

For these reasons, the Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2052. Thank you for your time and consideration.