

Philip Dostie
TOPSHAM
LD 2008

I would like to voice my support of this bill LD 2008 An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Clarify Sending School Administrative Unit Obligations.

I am both a graduate of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and the parent of a current MSSM student. I can directly credit MSSM with my readiness and desire to pursue post-secondary education, my love of learning, and my deep appreciation for the school's dedicated faculty.

While the level of education delivered by MSSM remains exemplary, the school - like many Maine schools - suffers from chronic underfunding, made more challenging by its cumbersome funding structure. MSSM is a unique, statewide public school that serves students from across Maine and for it to continue to provide this exemplary education it's funding model needs to reflect its statewide mission. LD2008 addresses key challenges in how the State of Maine funds MSSM and clarifies the obligations of sending school administrative units. Importantly this clarification helps ensure that student access to MSSM is based on merit and interest, not local fiscal considerations

I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 2008. Providing stable funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics while clarifying sending SAU obligations is a responsible and equitable policy choice that benefits students, districts, and the state as a whole.

Respectfully and with thanks
-Philip Dostie