

Nicholas Thibodeau
Raymond
LD 2008

We request your support of LD 2008 – An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Clarify Sending School Administrative Unit Obligations. MSSM, a public magnet school, is a vital resource to Maine communities and one the entire state should be proud of.

The Town of Raymond has a “school choice” option for high school students. We believe it makes sense to apply these funds to MSSM’s cost of attendance for the following reasons:

- In Maine communities where there is no public high school option, students who attend MSSM as their school choice simply fall out of the calculation, meaning the burden for educating the child in the state shifts from the town to the family, with the town simply moving on with one less student to cover but the same pool of funds.
- It best supports Maine children in communities where a high school is not available.
- It represents the less expensive option for the district, with the alternative being to cover the cost of tuition at a local high school.
- This is not a diversion of resources from public schools, as MSSM is a public magnet school.
- There is already a precedent for this arrangement at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM), but it is not consistently applied across all districts, with the obscure language in the current law being cited as the reason.
- Allowing this would ensure that students have access to an excellent educational opportunity without imposing unnecessary financial burdens. It is a practical and student-centered decision that supports both their academic and personal growth.

The Maine School of Science and Mathematics is a valuable resource the state of Maine should be proud of, and support. For too long it has been funded at a level that makes its survival an annual challenge. It’s time to adopt a strategy that invests in this school and takes a small step toward treating it like other public schools.

Thank you for considering this request.