

# EDUCATE MAINE



Testimony by Jason Judd, Ed.D., Executive Director, Educate Maine

To The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on  
Thursday, January 29, 2026, 10:00am

## **In Support of**

**LD 2008: An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Clarifying Sending School Administrative Unit Obligations**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

I am writing to express my support for LD 2008: An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Clarifying Sending School Administrative Unit Obligations. Educate Maine is a business-led education organization focused on increasing education attainment. Our mission is to ensure that Maine people are prepared to succeed in education and careers, and that all Maine people reach their highest educational potential. Today's testimony is connected to my experience as a graduate of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) and as the Executive Director of Educate Maine.

I grew up in Athens, a small town in Somerset County. I had a wonderful experience in the local schools and was particularly interested in mathematics and science. I was able to attend the Maine School of Science and Mathematics as a high school junior and senior. This residential and academic institution changed the trajectory of my life. The school offered me rigorous coursework in science, mathematics, and Humanities as well as many other experiences that I could not access at my sending school. I was well-prepared for success in post-secondary education and have completed three college degrees since my time at MSSM. This experience helped me become a passionate advocate for Maine's education system.

As Executive Director of Educate Maine, I work closely with Maine's PK-12 schools, higher education institutions, and employers. Many of the conversations I have with members of the employer community are focused on developing the future workforce. They are deeply concerned about the future STEM workforce and are vocal champions about the importance of STEM education in Maine. MSSM is an important institution to develop Maine's workforce. The school has supported thousands of young people to be well-prepared for success in higher education and the workforce. The majority of the alumni are working at Maine employers. They are giving back to our communities and growing our economy. It is time that we invest in the school, so students continue to have access to this incredible education.

I encourage members of this committee to support this bill to strengthen one of Maine's most outstanding institutions.