



AOS 77  
**Sunrise County**  
SCHOOL SYSTEM

March 9, 2026

Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is MaryEllen Day and I am the Superintendent of Schools for AOS 77. I am writing today to strongly urge you to support the recommended changes to the EPS formula.

My district is in an extremely rural and poor area of the state of Maine. We are continuing to lose subsidy because we have ocean frontage, yet the local wages do not reflect how much houses are selling for. The cost of education drives taxation higher, yet local wages cannot pay these ever growing costs while the cost of living continues to increase rapidly as well. Relying on just property values to determine wealth, or ability to pay, has hurt my district tremendously. We will be cutting at least 5 positions within my school district. This may not seem like a lot for some, but for us, these are teaching positions. We already had to do away with any extras over the last few years. Some of my schools don't have Social Emotional staff, Counselors, Phys Ed, Music, Full-time nurse, and many other programs/staffing that more affluent areas have.

People living in poverty in my area own a house or trailer and must pay taxes. They do not have low income housing or low cost rents. They are being driven from their homes. Raising the labor market index for all SAUs to a level of at least 1.0 will help ensure that we receive the correct amount of state subsidy. I hope that you will take into account the high number of students living in poverty in my area and support this change to the EPS formula. I am in hopes that these changes will help my budgets keep what we have now and not lose anymore.

Thank you for your time and attention,

MaryEllen H. Day  
Superintendent of Schools  
Sunrise County School System - AOS 77