



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN  
COMMISSIONER

April 20, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Senate Chair  
Representative Brennan, House Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

LD 974, An Act to Establish Minimum Pay for Educational Technicians and Other School Support Staff, proposes that beginning October 1, 2023 and every January 1st thereafter, a school administrative unit (SAU) must establish a minimum wage for educational technicians that is equal to 133% of the minimum wage established in the Maine Revised Statutes, and a minimum wage for other school support staff that is equal to 125% of the minimum wage.

The Department of Education, and the Mills Administration, agree that minimum salary is still too low for Maine educators. The Maine education community continues to struggle with an educator workforce shortage. Our ed techs and other school support staff are a valuable resource to our education field, and increasing the minimum salary for these positions is an important aspect of growing and strengthening the Maine educator workforce.

Title 20-A, §15671 outlines several definitions for various levels of school staff as related to the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding formula. The Department of Education does not collect the needed detail of salary data for these positions. As such, we are not able to account for the ways LD 974 may impact State education funding and SAU budgets.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 974 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Gravelle".

Paula Gravelle  
Director of School Finance