



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

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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 1314, An Act to Establish a Minimum Salary for Educational Specialists, Educational Technicians and School Teaching Professionals, proposes that to institute a minimum hourly wage for educational specialists, educational technicians and other school teaching professionals equal to 200% of the state minimum hourly wage starting with the school years after June 30, 2024. The funding for these positions would be distributed by the Department of Education and would be based on self-reported, certified data from school administrative units (SAUs).

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 does not collect the needed detail of salary data for these positions. As such, we are not able to account for the ways LD 1314 may impact State education funding and SAU budgets. It is also important to note that anytime the state share for education is adjusted to provide an increase in one area, other areas see a decrease of funding. Individual component adjustments to the EPS formula always have positive and negative impacts on SAUs. Given the finite amount of funding, a calculation to increase one segment will necessarily decrease another segment.

The Maine education community continues to struggle with an educator workforce shortage. Our ed techs 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.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 1314 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Gravelle".
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Paula Gravelle
Director of School Finance