

I am a parent of a 2009 MSSM graduate. I can personally attest to the importance MSSM has played in my son's life. He would have run out of math by the time he was a junior in high school in his sending school. He went to MSSM and his eyes were open even wider. The best part is he went away to do his schooling and came back to his great State of Maine and currently works serving his state at the Department of Transportation.

When my son ^{started} ~~went to~~ MSSM it was \$4500 a year for room and board. We, as middle class citizens had all we could do to afford to pay for his room and board. MSSM has been flat-funded since 2017. Moreover, the cost to attend MSSM has increased significantly and is now \$9,800. I don't know how middle class families can afford it. We should be working to do whatever we can as a state to help encourage high-achieving students to attend MSSM, a place where they can thrive. Seeing the room and board cost eliminated will reduce a significant barrier for entry to countless Maine families, the very families that MSSM was designed to serve.

This bill will help the brightest and best so that they can go on and continue to help the great State of Maine. Please support LD1458 and increase funding to MSSM.

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