



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

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN  
COMMISSIONER

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

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

LD 370, An Act to Raise the Minimum State Standard for Mathematics Education for a High School Diploma, proposes to change the minimum state standard for mathematics education for a high school diploma from 2 years of instruction to 3 years.

As indicated in Title 20-A, §2(2), the control and management of the public schools shall be vested in the legislative and governing bodies of local school administrative units, as long as those units are in compliance with appropriate state statutes. This policy of "local control" provides communities with a stronger voice in critical decisions in how education is to be provided.

Maine's current diploma requirements establish a statewide minimum that all school administrative units (SAUs) must meet. However, local school boards have the authority to adopt additional requirements beyond this baseline to best serve the needs of their students and communities. This flexibility allows SAUs to make decisions that align with their educational priorities, workforce needs, and the aspirations of their students.

The Department recognizes that diploma requirements play a critical role in ensuring that all students are prepared for success beyond high school. Adjustments to these requirements should be carefully considered locally in the context of their impact on student pathways, workforce and post-secondary readiness, and the capacity of schools to support all learners in meeting these expectations.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 370 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

Beth Lambert  
Chief Teaching and Learning Officer