

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



**50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217**

**Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)**

**Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>**

**Kimberly Liscomb  
Cony Middle/High  
School  
President**

**Stephen Bell  
Dexter Regional High  
School  
President-elect**

**Michael R. Burnham  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division**

**Holly D. Blair  
Executive Director  
Professional Division**

**Michael G. Bisson  
Assistant Director**

*MPA is an Equal  
Opportunity Organization*

**TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 776: An Act to Provide Free School Lunches to Special Purpose Private Schools That Receive Students from the Public School System**  
**DATE: March 31, 2025**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 Principals and Assistant Principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 776, "An Act to Provide Free School Lunches to Special Purpose Private Schools That Receive Students from the Public School System."

We fully support ensuring that public school students placed in special purpose private schools receive free school lunches, as they would if they remained in their home public schools. These students should not face additional barriers simply because their educational needs are best met in a specialized setting.

However, we seek clarification on the scope of this bill. Does LD 776 apply solely to public school students placed in special purpose private schools, or does it extend free lunch eligibility to all students attending these schools, including those who would not otherwise qualify? If the latter is the case, this could represent a significant financial commitment from the general education fund—funding that is already stretched thin and critical to supporting public schools.

While we strongly believe in equitable access to school meals for students in need, we urge careful consideration of the financial impact on public education resources. We encourage further discussion to ensure that the bill's implementation aligns with its intent and does not inadvertently divert essential funding from public schools.