

Support for An Act to Establish the Maine STEAM Matching Grant Program

Submitted by:

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About Team 2648 – Infinite Loop Robotics

- Founded in 2008, based at Messalonskee High School in Oakland.
- Serves students from Messalonskee High School, Waterville High School, Temple Academy, Upper Kennebec Valley High School, Madison High School, Skowhegan High School, and homeschool students.
- A *FIRST* Robotics Competition team that combines software development, engineering, teamwork, and creativity.
- Students gain real-world experience through project-based learning, mentorship, and competition.
- Alumni have gone on to study engineering, computer science, design, and more—and many return to Maine's workforce.
- Since 2008, alumni have attended STEAM programs at the following schools:
 - UMaine Orono
 - CMCC
 - United State Military
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - Harvey Mudd College
 - Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 - Rochester Institute of Technology
 - KVCC
 - Olin College
 - University of New Hampshire
 - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
 - Dalhousie
 - University of Maine Augusta
 - Husson College
 - University of New England
 - University of Maine Machias
 - Smith College
 - University of Ottawa
 - Clarkson University
 - University of Northwestern Ohio
 - Southern New Hampshire University
 - Dartmouth College
 - Colby College
 - Unity Environmental University
 - Colby-Sawyer College
 - University of Southern Maine
 - Maine Maritime Academy
- Current Alumni working in Maine:
 - Computer Science Teacher at Belfast High School
 - Maine State Office of Information Technology
 - Software Engineer at Aetna Health
 - Non-profit leader in Southern Maine
 - CNC Programmer at JR Metal Frames
 - Electrical Engineer at Cianbro
 - Electrical Engineer at Huhtamaki
 - Dispatcher for Maine Department of Transportation
 - Engineer at Naval Sea Systems Command
 - Outside Machinist at Bath Iron Works
 - Territory Manager at Thorndike Press
 - Engineer at UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center

- Genius at Apple
- Biologist at Friends of the
Cobbossee Watershed
- Business Engagement Lead at US
LBM
- OB/GYN Nurse at InterMed, P.A.
- Pharmacist at Walmart
- Industrial Maintenance Reliability
Technician II at Sonoco Products
Company

- Mechanical Engineer at Portsmouth
Naval Shipyard
- Owner of Bear Spring Camps
- Marketing Director at Big Rock Ski
Resort

Why This Bill Matters

The STEAM Matching Grant Program will:

- Expand access to high-impact competitive robotics programs to students currently without access
- Help schools and organizations upgrade tools, technology, and learning spaces.
- Support hands-on learning that builds student confidence and prepares them for in-demand careers.
- Encourage community partnerships and leverage local investment in student success.

What Robotics Teaches

- Leadership: Students take on roles as team leads, project managers, and public speakers.
- Time Management: Strict deadlines teach planning, prioritization, and accountability.
- STEAM Skills: Programming, mechanical engineering, electronics, CAD, and more.
- College & Career Readiness: Students graduate with portfolios, confidence, and a clear path forward.
- Business Skills: Fundraising, Budget Management, Marketing,

A Smart Investment in Maine's Future

Supporting this bill means:

- Growing Maine's technical workforce
- Keeping talented students engaged in their education
- Encouraging innovation and collaboration
- Making sure all Maine students—regardless of background—have a chance to succeed in STEAM

Please support An Act to Establish the Maine STEAM Matching Grant Program. It's a direct investment in our students, our economy, and our future.

Jamee Luce
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