



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

prepared & empowered

Testimony of Dr. Ryan Scallon

In Support of LD 1312

November 14, 2025

Good afternoon. I am Dr. Ryan Scallon, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today in support of LD 1312, which has the opportunity to help ensure that students have buildings that support the amazing education that is happening in our classrooms in Portland and across Maine.

As the largest and most diverse school district in the state, we are proud to have one of the oldest public high schools in the country. However, our facilities reflect that age.

- In 2016, a review of our 16 school buildings identified over \$160 million in deferred maintenance
- That number is now significantly higher
- Critically, the challenge of deferred and on-going maintenance costs is not unique to Portland and exists across the State as seen in the Governor's Commission on School Construction which identified \$11 billion in facilities needs

LD 1312, *An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund*, proposes to explore options for establishing a dedicated source of revenue for school construction costs.

Identifying this additional funding for facilities is necessary to ensure that students have safe and warm buildings, let alone provide facilities that encourage student engagement in deep learning.

This is a chance to provide an additional, long-term funding solution. The identification of additional funds for capital projects will allow the state and local districts to partner to improve learning environments for students. This type of creative funding solution may also allow districts to use more of our general, local, budget to be targeted where it should be — supporting teachers and students to have rigorous and joyful learning environments and not on trying to maintain buildings which are beyond their useful age.

We urge the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to support the intent of LD 1312 and move forward with this opportunity to provide funding which supports our teachers and staff to have great environments to work and learn.

Thank you.