

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 2052

RESOLVE, TO STUDY THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS
AND STUDY SAFEGUARDS RELATED TO ITS USE

January 22, 2026

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Robbie Feinberg, Director of Communications and Government Relations for Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association and I am offering testimony in support of L.D. 2052, Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use.

Since Maine first added 1-to-1 laptops for students back in 2001, our state has been seen as a leader in implementing technology in its classrooms.

School leaders have seen how access to technology has had a transformational impact on the education of many Maine students. In many rural schools, students now have access to online Early College courses, allowing them to develop knowledge in new subjects and pursue interests and passions. Students are learning computer science, building robots, and even using virtual-reality software to be introduced to places and careers that they would not otherwise have access to.

At the same time, school leaders firmly recognize the growing evidence of the negative impacts of aspects of technology on our students and their mental health. A recent study found that about half of U.S. teenagers spent more than 4 hours per day on screens – and those with higher screen time reported higher rates of anxiety and depression. 17 percent of Maine high schoolers say they have been cyberbullied over the past year.

As a state, we are spending millions of dollars on devices for our students, and more and more, our communities are asking about their effectiveness and safety. MSSA and MSBA believe that L.D. 2052 would provide a much-needed opportunity for Maine to come together to assess the state of technology in our classrooms and look at potential future action to strengthen student privacy and safety. Our associations look forward to being a part of this work.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.