

LD 2226

From Richard Modery <moderyr@glenburnschool.us>

Date Mon 3/9/2026 9:46 AM

To Cmte EDU <EDU@legislature.maine.gov>

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Committee Members,

I'm writing to provide input on LD2226 regarding the proposed changes to the Maine Essential Programs and Services Model. I understand that funding public education is challenging with many competing needs in our state. With that said, public education is a cornerstone of nearly every community in our state and significant changes to the funding model will inevitably result in some school districts benefiting from additional resources while others experiencing financial reductions. Communities negatively impacted by proposed changes to the formula will land on property tax payers as yet another burden.

There are challenges with the formula as it is but reallocating funds from one district to another only shifts the burden. I appreciate the additional \$39 million in additional state funding, which I see as a positive step. Unfortunately, this does not come close to closing the gap between the current funding model and the actual cost to school districts to provide a quality educational experience.

I have significant concerns related to changes to special education funding as those costs are largely outside local school department control. School departments are required to meet all students Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) based on the needs of the child.

I strongly encourage the committee to consider the challenges these changes will have on many local school departments. I am not opposed to adjustments in the funding model if those adjustments result in greater equity. As of this writing, I am not convinced that the proposed changes are likely to have those results.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Modery

Superintendent

Glenburn School Departments

--

Richard Modery

Superintendent

Glenburn School Department

207-942-4405