

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: In Support of LD 277: An Act to Discontinue the Use of
the SAT in Maine Schools**
DATE: March 3, 2021

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Couturier, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA recognizes the importance of measuring student growth. Having an accountability system that accurately demonstrates what the student knows and can do is exceptionally important. Having an assessment that provides accurate feedback in a timely manner for teachers is also vital to a student's education – this allows the teachers to better meet the individual needs of the students.

The original purpose of the SAT was to assess students' readiness for college. It was not designed to be aligned with high school curriculums – including the Maine Learning Results. Many colleges and universities are moving away from having a certain SAT score to be accepted into that higher education institution. Currently, the SAT is not being used as a state-wide assessment.

There are some schools who have found benefits to use the SAT and will continue to pay for their students to take the assessment – this is a local decision. For other schools, they have an assessment that provides them with the information they need to best support their students.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 277.