



MACTE Statement neither for nor against LD 680

The Maine Association of Career Technical Education (MACTE) is an association of the 27 Career and Technical Centers and Regions in the State of Maine. MACTE is regularly engaged in a dialog with state and community-based stakeholders regarding the direction of CTE in Maine. Student participation in CTE and our essential economic development mission in the State are critical in shaping the State's workforce of today and tomorrow. Given the potentially wide-reaching implications of this proposal the planning process should thoughtfully and broadly consider what would be defined as a viable state-wide outcome. It is less than ideal that today marks MACTE's entrance into the conversation regarding the need and/or desirability of creating a comprehensive CTE high school in Maine. To be clear MACTE has had no role in this conversation or process to date. MACTE always supports the furtherance of any thoughtful process which furthers a collective vision and strategic plan that invests wisely on behalf of Maine students, communities and businesses. MACTE has important questions about this process and its intended outcomes. MACTE believes that it will be critical to address these questions prior to a Planning Process so that clear, realistic and actionable outcomes may attend the work of the Commission.

Specifically, MACTE would offer the following questions:

1. How will the Commission develop a plan for a regional plan which does not disrupt the fragile enrollment regions which currently exist?

- 1A Given our geographically large but modest population how would the investment in a comprehensive CTE magnet high school system improve

access and service for most Maine students? A review of the area shows Bath Regional high school and CTE Center is 5.6 miles away from the proposed location.

2. If the new magnet school is designated as a CTE Center or Region would it receive funding through the current CTE EPS formula, a process which is currently significantly underfunded given the schools it currently serves?
3. Would the magnet school have the ability to recruit students from both CTE Centers and Regions as well as traditional 9-12 high school populations?
4. Is the proposed school seen as a one-time event or would this process become the de-facto method for the creation of a state-wide system of comprehensive CTE high schools?
5. Will the Commission be charged with addressing some of the critical funding, equipment, course credit and enrollment issues which currently inhibit Maine's CTE Centers and Regions?
6. Would any special funding, enrollment abilities, construction and renovation funding, teacher recruitment and retention planning be available to all centers and regions as a result of the Commission's work?
7. Would the Commission examine the current system/structure of CTE education and make recommendations to leverage this network of schools to achieve the same desired results as a comprehensive high school

MACTE thanks the Committee for its partnership and for the opportunity to participate in this critical dialog as we shape the environment for Maine's workforce both today and into the future.

