

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PLEASE SUPPORT

LD 414, An Act to Create Parity Between Private Schools and Public Schools Regarding Career and Technical Education Tuition Rates

- **Town Academies lose 1/3 tuition if student attends CTE.**
 - 20-A, section 5809 results in a school losing 1/3 of its state set tuition (MAT) when a student attends a CTE, even if only for several classes.
- **CTE is priority for ME Independent Schools.**
 - Section 5809 creates a disincentive for Independent Schools promoting CTE.
- **Town Academies severely impacted.**
 - Applies to any school (public and private) that receives publicly assisted students paid with MAT, but Town Academies bear the brunt.
 - E.g. 2021 losses: Lincoln Academy (\$162,230), Fryeburg Academy (\$214,149), Foxcroft Academy (\$40,000), Erskine Academy (\$240,512).
- **LD 414 repeals section 5809 as it treats Independent Schools unfairly.**
 - A public school that sends a (non-tuitioned) student to a CTE does not lose any of its EPS funding.
- **CTEs are 100% funded through EPS.**
 - State makes no distinction between students from Town Academies and public school students in the funding of CTEs.
 - State does not consider the number of public school students that attend a CTE when determining and distributing State subsidy to a public school district.
- **LD 414 does not seek any State funds.**
 - Bill only seeks to maintain the full tuition from sending towns for all students.
- **Sending Districts receive unexpected windfall when tuitioned student attend CTE.**
 - This windfall is at the expense of the Town Academy and is only available to select districts that send students to tuition receiving schools.
- **State Subsidy to Public School Districts is different than MAT.**
 - Superintendent Ray argued that his District only gets \$4000 per student, which is much less than the MAT. This fails to account for the local distribution which funds public schools.
- **DOE argues that LD 414 will result in sending school districts increasing their school budgets and “paying twice” for CTE costs.**
 - DOE claims that schools budget for its students to attend CTE when we find that is predominantly not the case.
 - DOE claims that because the “state currently funds 100% of the EPS model for CTE, all school units participate in this cost through the mill expectation.”
 - Exactly, every school district funds EPS and its local schools, and therefore why should only certain school districts receive a windfall.