

Megan Marquis
China Village

LD 313 - An Act To Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine- It's about time. Our traditional way of schooling supports collegiate efforts instead of trade efforts- and in my opinion, they should be supported equally. There are a large amount students in Maine who do not graduate from high school. And there's a larger percentage of students who do graduate from high school, but take a year or so off from any further education at all - to a) save up for college b) heal from a horrible academic experience. This trend ultimately impacts the eligibility of young local Mainers for any type of future career (trades or college degree pre-requisite job). If you want to be a plumber or an electrician - you need an associate's, which means two more years of schooling after high school. However, if there was a trades track that current high school students could take that could count towards their High school graduation- it could improve the collective graduation rate of Maine students AND overall employment rate of local Mainers- giving them an opportunity to stay, live and work in Maine.