

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1259

### AN ACT TO RESTORE A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO AUTHORIZE NEW TYPES OF SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Eileen King, deputy executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 1259.

Our associations are opposed to this bill because it is unnecessary. School Boards and superintendents do this now with neighboring districts or in regions and have the authority to create specialty programs within the district to meet the needs of students.

Some examples of regional collaboratives include:

- Western Maine Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities: a special purpose public collaboration between MSAD 72, MSAD 44 and MSAD 17. This program has saved the districts significant funds for out-of-district special education placements.
- MSAD 17 and RSU 10 have an agreement that allows vocational students to take classes at MSAD 17. This permits students to access core classes that may have been missed at the home school because of travel between sites.
- RSU 56, RSU 10, RSU 44 and RSU 58 also are engaged in discussions around a remote learning school.
- Auburn Public Schools, Lewiston Public Schools, RSU 16, and MSAD 52 collaborate on substitute teacher recruitment and training; and, cooperative food service planning and purchasing.
- The Greater Sebago Education Alliance, including public schools in Brunswick, Cape Elizabeth, Gorham, Portland, South Portland, RSU 5, RSU 6/MSAD 6, RSU 14, RSU 15/MSAD 15, Scarborough, and Westbrook work together on food service purchasing; professional development; substitute teacher recruitment and training; and, English Language services.
- In Southern Aroostook County RSU 29/MSAD 29, RSU 50, RSU 70/MSAD 70, and RSU 84/MSAD 14 collaborate on transportation maintenance; substitute teacher recruitment and training; and alternative education programming.

The list goes on and can be viewed at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/embrace/contact>.