

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 1207: An Act to Maintain the Current Level of Education Funding
DATE: April 13, 2021

Senator Rafferty, 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. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee supports LD 1207. There are many school districts throughout the state of Maine who are going to begin the 2021-2022 school year with a decrease in student population due to the pandemic. This bill will allow for schools to maintain the current funding rather than experience what could be a dramatic decrease. We are expecting students whose families have opted for an alternative form of education to have those students return to the public schools once they are able to be fully open and in person. Keeping the funding at the same rate, for just this one year, will allow for them to better accommodate for the students returning to school.

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1207.