

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: In Support of LD 651: An Act to Stabilize Student Count
in Maine's School Funding Formula**
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. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Community unanimously supports LD 651. Under “normal” circumstances, there are student enrollment decreases in many schools throughout the state of Maine and these decreases can dramatically impact the amount of funding for those schools for the upcoming year.

In this pandemic year, the decrease in student count has caused many school districts to fear the potentially severe negative impact on the upcoming school years to come. The passing of LD 651 will tremendously help schools who experience a decrease in student enrollment by 10% in any one year by averaging the previous three years of enrollment. This averaged student count will allow for schools to more accurately budget for the upcoming school year and lessen the negative impact on education for students.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 651.