

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217

Fax: (207) 622-1513  
Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)

Website:  
<http://www.mpa.cc>

**Paula Callan**  
Messalonskee  
High School  
President

**Lori Smail**  
Ames and Weymouth  
Elementary Schools  
President-elect

**Michael R. Burnham**  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division

**Holly D. Couturier**  
Executive Director  
Professional Division

**Michael G. Bisson**  
Assistant Director

*MPA is an Equal  
Opportunity Organization*

**TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 1318: An Act to Increase  
High School Graduation Rates for Students  
Experiencing Education Disruption**  
**DATE: April 26, 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's Professional Division, representing more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA is neither for nor against LD 1318. Upon discussing this bill with the MPA Legislative Committee, there are many parts of this bill that already take place in Maine public high schools. They already work with students who may need to seek a high school diploma from the state. They work with students who have had an educational disruption by looking at their transcripts and creating a plan to fill in the learning gaps that those students may be experiencing. The principals and guidance councilors lean in to do whatever they can to make sure that courses are accepted or waived if the student passed a comparable course in another high school. Because they are willing to do whatever it takes to help those students be successful and graduate, we feel that parts of this bill are unnecessary because they are already taking place.

We do fully support the aligning of definitions with other states as well as include immigrant and migrant students.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 1318.