

JANET T. MILLS GOVERNOR STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 23 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

> PENDER MAKIN COMMISSIONER

May 13, 2021

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Co-chair Representative Michael Brennan, Co-chair Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Committee,

LD 334, <u>An Act To Help Maine Students Catch Up and Keep Up by Providing Remedial and</u> <u>Compensatory Assistance in Response to Education Disruption</u>, as amended establishes a tuition waiver opportunity to the Maine Community College System for two years for any Maine high school graduate who graduated in 2020 or 2021; requires school administrative units (SAUs) to provide summer academic programs for students needing additional instructional support in English and Math based on local assessments; and provides financial support for a tutor administrator for any SAU that will provide tutoring services beginning in the Summer of 2021 and throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Over the past several months, SAUs have been preparing to offer comprehensive summer programming for their students. As of May 15, SAUs have obligated approximately \$16,300,000 of their Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to support summer programming. More specifically, SAUs have leveraged their formula allocations from the ESEA: Titles I, IV, and V; applied for Title I grant funding which was earmarked by the Department for summer educational programming; and utilized their formula allocations from the federal education relief funding provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.

The Department looks forward to continued conversations around LD 334 and will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by: Chelsey Fortin-Trimble

Chelsey Fortin-Trimble Director of Policy and Government Affairs

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