

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 176: An Act to Facilitate a
Grade 9 – 16 Project**
DATE: February 8, 2022

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association, representing more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The Maine Principals' Association is neither for nor against LD 176. While our committee believes that a Grade 9 – 16 school project is conceptually a good idea, this should be a local decision for high schools and institutions of higher education. A concern we have is the general proximity between the schools – there many high schools who do not have access to a college and/or university. Another concern we have is in regard to graduation status for those students who do not go on to a college and/or university.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 176.