

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



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

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

Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>

**Lori Smail**  
Winthrop Middle  
School  
President

**Mary Nadeau**  
Nokomis Regional High  
School  
President-elect

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

**Holly D. Blair**  
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 156: An Act to Require  
Outdoor Recess Time for Student from Grade 6 to  
Grade 8**

**DATE: February 9, 2023**

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 – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 18. We fully support the concept and reasons for this bill. Allowing students to have outside, unstructured physical activity is important and many schools throughout the state offer at least 20 minutes of this activity 3 or more times per week, if not more.

Maine is a local control state and some school boards have opted on a schedule that does not allow for this much unstructured time. The struggle with resources such as time during the school day and lack of people to monitor students during an unstructured time would have a negative effect on the schools and students.

While we do support the practice of offering an unstructured recess for all, we cannot fully support this bill because of the reasons listed above. For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 156.