

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*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 1128: An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools
DATE: April 5, 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 700 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals, CTE directors and assistant directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against 1128. Currently Maine schools have access to free breakfast and free lunch which are grant funded. We fully support offering free milk to those students who bring their lunch from home.

The concerns raised that are not addressed by this bill is funding. Free lunch and breakfast are grant funded, does this include free milk? It is unclear if the local school districts are going to have to pay this additional cost. The other concern we had was in regard to other beverages such as chocolate milk, juice, bottled water, etc. and whether or not this bill would cover those additional costs as well.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 1128.