

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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

**Fax: (207) 622-1513
Email: 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: In Support of LD 343: An Act to Invest in an Educational
Technician Training Program to Address Shortages in
Public Schools**
DATE: April 20, 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 unanimously supports the passing of LD 343. We are excited to support a credentialing program to train additional education technicians. This is the first step to addressing the educator shortage in Maine. The schools who have been involved with higher education institutions to provide this opportunity have experienced a significant positive impact and offering this program is going to expand the opportunities even further to more school districts.

We are equally supportive of the program if it offers online classes. This will allow for those who do not live near EMCC the opportunity to obtain their credentials while working in Maine schools. This makes the program available to the entire state!

If we could suggest offering this possibility throughout the whole Maine Community College System, we would fully support that as well!

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote unanimously Ought to Pass on LD 343.