

Jeremy Shute
Yarmouth
LD 1458

To the members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Jeremy Shute, and my wife's name is Sarah Clark. We have been Yarmouth residents since 2016, having moved back to Maine to raise our young family with the same quality of life we both enjoyed growing up here. We are both Maine School of Science and Mathematics graduates (1998).

We're writing to support LD1458.

I come from Eastport where I grew up "living in a condemned house" poor. Our local school district served the needs of many students, but did not offer MSSM's Computer Science curriculum. My experience at MSSM would eventually lead to a successful career at both Apple and Google. I've been fortunate to be able to bring my out-of-state income back to Maine's tax rolls and reinvest it through the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit. My fortunes have changed, and MSSM was where they changed.

As of 2021, the Maine DOE listed 713 schools. The MSSM is unique in concept: move the kids with the needs to the curriculum, versus attempting to offer specialized programming relevant to only a small fraction of the student body in each of 713 schools. Simply stated, the overhead of the first strategy is cheaper and the quality control is easier. It's also difficult to argue with the results: MSSM has consistently ranked in the top 10 high schools out of circa 18,000 in the country according to US News and World Report.

My success means that my kids, if they present the ability, don't lack the birthright a \$9,800 MSSM room and board "sticker price" demands. However, my family needed assistance in 1998 when MSSM was much, much cheaper. Time travel 15 years forward and my parents likely would have recoiled in horror, unable to afford even a fraction. I would remain a bored, disillusioned Valedictorian at my sending school for "free," once you discount my lowered ceiling of future success.

Supporting MSSM is not a District 1 expenditure. LD1458 supports a high quality, low cost method of serving the otherwise unmet needs of exceptional rural students from all Maine districts. It educates kids just like me who come back, roll up their sleeves, and help build Maine's future.

Please support LD1458.

Jeremy Shute
14 High Winds Dr.
Yarmouth, ME 04096