

State of Maine Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee

RE: LD1458 Funding for the Maine State Science and Mathematics
School in Limestone

Dear Committee Members,

I am one of the founders of MSSM and have been a close supporter and involved with the school for over 30 years now. I am appalled at seeing the state flat funding the school for five years and expecting that to continue for two more. Seven years without any financial increase while the costs are going up everywhere is, I think, an embarrassment to the State. In 2019, U.S. News & World Report ranked MSSM second on its list of America's Best High Schools. A point of pride for the entire state, I would think. In 2022 that ranking dropped to 2,355th. I would urge the Committee to support the amount requested in LD1458 so that our MSSM students have what they need to be successful students and have their best chance of continuing their education with their choice of universities. It would be great to also see our ranking increase back into the top 20, at least.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Best Regards,

Art Thompson

Limestone