

**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: Neither For Nor Against LD 1527: An Act to Promote
the Community School Program**
DATE: May 1, 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 1527. The Maine Principals' Association has always been a proponent and advocate for a Community School Program. We believe that this bill is the next step to making the concept of community schools much more readily available to many more communities across our state. We support the bill's expectation for the Department of Education to provide an application process, procedures and criteria for implementation of community schools throughout our state.

The only reason we cannot fully support this bill is the timeline. We do not think an October 1, 2023, deadline is reasonable. While we support Community Schools, we want to make sure that this process is thorough and well-thought out with stakeholders involved in the process. If the bill can be amended to extend the date and who is involved in the process can involve stakeholders, the MPA can fully support LD 1527.