

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Lauren Nichols and I graduated from Maine School of Science and Mathematics(MSSM) in 1999. Thank you for your generous support of the bill approved in the 2023 Maine Legislature that provided a much needed one year increase in funding.

I am writing to ask for your continued support of the one of a kind education MSSM provides. Please support LD2118 but **ONLY with the amendment**. Supporting LD2118 without the amendment would handcuff MSSM to the public school funding formula which would not be good for the school or the star students that attend.

MSSM is only now recovering from the flat funding since 2017. This return to the glory of being ranked as the #2 best high schools in the country can only be realized with your continued monetary support. We the MSSM community are beyond proud to be called Maine's Jewel and are recognized as elite students showcasing Maine excellence. I know I am proud to be a graduate. Without MSSM, I'm not sure I would have gone to Smith College and graduated with a degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry. And more recently gone on to complete my MBA at Boston University, graduating with High Honors. Neither of these institutions of higher learning had the same impact that MSSM had on my education or my person-hood.

I am now a proud member of the MSSM foundation and Chair of the Grants committee. I will now and in the future donate money and time to this institution, I cannot say I will do the same to the other institutions of which I am an alum. MSSM changed the trajectory of my life and continues to do so to this day. But in order to continue to produce some of Maine's brightest and best students we need to invest and make it possible for all to be able to attend. Thank you and I hope I can count on your support for LD2118 with the amendment.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Nichols  
Bangor, ME