



Maine School Superintendents Association



## TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

OFFICERS—2025-26

L.D. 2106

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### AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC RECORDS WITHOUT PROPER JUDICIAL REVIEW

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Jake Langlais. I am the superintendent of Lewiston Public Schools and also serve as the treasurer for the Maine School Superintendents Association. I am testifying on behalf of MSSA's Legislative Committee neither for nor against L.D. 2106.

Our association appreciates the bill's goals to provide clarity and guidance to public institutions around federal immigration enforcement – a goal that we understand and support. However, superintendents do have some concerns regarding enforcement of the provisions in this bill and how it will ultimately be implemented throughout Maine. Speaking solely from my perspective, there has been no immigration enforcement on Lewiston Public Schools grounds or at school buildings.

As superintendents, our primary job is making sure every student is safe – every student. We want to be very clear that we are opposed to any law enforcement actions that will disrupt learning and potentially cause harm to students and staff. Already, superintendents have been proactive on this very issue, and many have updated procedures to prepare and train staff in case they come into contact with immigration officers.

In Lewiston, I have issued very clear guidance:

- Guests cannot access schools without permission from administrators, the Superintendent, or an Assistant Superintendent.
- Any guests who would disrupt the learning environment would not be invited onto campus or into schools.

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- Judicial warrants are key documents for guests to access school spaces, requiring review by a federal judge. The Superintendent will only honor requests from guests if they are accompanied by a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. Administration will make a copy of warrants to share with the Superintendent for review, and the determination will be made by the Superintendent should a warrant be received.

We have also issued clear guidance to our frontline staff regarding how they should interact with immigration enforcement and what steps they should take. For more than a year, the Maine School Superintendents Association and legal counsel have provided similar guidance. Locally, we are committed to protecting students and doing everything we can to provide them with a safe learning environment.

Our Association appreciates that this bill seeks to strengthen and standardize these protections by providing clear and uniform legal guidance to superintendents, principals and frontline staff when they are approached by immigration enforcement officials.

These are complicated, tense situations, and administrators see some benefit in this bill to relieve the pressure on local districts to make high-stakes judgements on their own. We also appreciate that L.D. 2106 would require the Attorney General's office to develop and disseminate model policies, ensuring implementation of the law is not left to individual districts to interpret. If adopted, I would encourage leadership from Maine School Superintendents Association to have an opportunity for input.

The biggest question we have regarding this bill is implementation – and whether the bill could conceivably jeopardize the safety of school staff.

As one scenario: a federal immigration enforcement officer enters a school and is met by a secretary, who denies access to the agent because they do not have a judicial warrant. While we would all hope the law enforcement agent would abide by the law and leave and retrieve a judicial warrant, we have unfortunately seen situations that have escalated. Could this create a direct personal safety risk for a staff member who is simply trying to uphold state law? And could that staff member be considered to be obstructing law enforcement?

We also have some questions regarding how this bill may apply to other situations involving law enforcement. It appears L.D. 2106 seeks to only prohibit voluntary consent to a “law enforcement officer engaged in immigration enforcement or supporting immigration enforcement.” Our school once worked closely with a State Homicide Detective around an investigation, and officers entered our school for that reason. Through their good detective work, the crime was solved but it was discovered that some involved did not have documentation of legal status. It did not start with immigration status but this detail was later found which leads me to two questions: Would those kinds of situations/cooperation with law enforcement still be allowed? If it is not the primary law enforcement effort, could staff be found in violation of the statute or policy after the fact?

Our association believes that if this bill is passed, successful implementation is key. We appreciate that the Attorney General would develop model policies that would be shared with school districts. However, we firmly believe that those policies must be accompanied by robust and mandatory training for all frontline staff. Our schools are already discussing these procedures internally, and additional training from the state would demonstrate that Maine is serious about supporting our districts with implementation.

Thank you for time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jake Langlais, Superintendent  
Lewiston Public Schools