

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 1129: An Act to Enact the Curriculum Transparency Act
DATE: May 11, 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 in strong opposition of LD 1129. Educators are trained on individualizing lessons for their students based on their needs and many times lesson plans change on a daily basis depending on the students' understanding and demonstration of learning. It is unrealistic to think that all lesson plans will be posted for the entire school year by October 1. This is setting teachers up for failure if they change a lesson plan on a given day to best meet the needs of their students, but it was not changed on the website.

Second, this LD requires the district to post their curriculum on the district website. This already takes place in most, if not all Maine schools.

Data HAS to be used in order for us to be able to meet the needs of the students. Trauma and social-emotional issues are more prevalent in schools today. We have to meet these needs before we can attempt to teach students in a manner in which they learn. Brain research states that a brain that is under duress for a long period of time goes into a fight or flight mode, making the frontal cortex not available for learning. We have to teach them how to cope with stressful situations. We need to get their basic needs met, or we will never be able to teach them and we certainly cannot teach them based off our gut – we need to have data.

Professional development is key to growing our teachers and we need to stay up to date on the latest research in order to best meet the needs of our students. Recording professional learning and then making it available to the public for three years is unrealistic. It is up to the building administrator to meet with the staff who are supposed to be present at any PD learning but cannot attend for whatever reason. We do not need to take attendance nor make it public who took what for their own professional growth. We do not require this of any other profession – why education?

While we encourage individual conversations regarding curriculum at the local level, what is being requested in this LD is not reasonable. It undermines the educational professionals who are trained in the development of lesson plans to meet the learning targets set by the local school board. Trust the professionals who were hired by the local school boards to do their job. For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass LD 1129.