

Brent H. Colbry
Superintendent of Schools

Andrew W. McAuliff
Assistant Superintendent

Darrell G. Mitchell
Business Administrator

April 1, 2013

TO: Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members

My name is Brent Colbry, Superintendent of Schools in RSU 54 in the Skowhegan area. I am here today to support LD533, LD889, LD1057 and LD1056.

There are a number of us here today from RSU 54 in Skowhegan. We have a common message for the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

That message is, regardless of an individual's personal philosophy on Charter Schools, there have been significant unintentional consequences for some school districts as a result of the current charter school funding legislation. School Districts in close proximity to new charter schools, in our case, the Cornville Regional Charter School and Maine Academy of Natural Science, have been disproportionately affected by the loss of state, local and federal funding. Our District has had to forward over \$430,000 of state and local dollars to the charters this year, and we expect that number will exceed \$650,000 in FY14.

We have experienced no decrease in expenses in our local budget due to the transfer of the 50 students who are attending the charter schools this year.

We expect no reduction in our expenses for next year when an estimated 70 students will be attending these charter schools in FY14.

The loss of over \$1 Million over this two year period has been devastating to our local schools. This revenue simply cannot be replaced through increased taxes on our local citizens. These monies are and will come from the elimination of staff, programs, supplies, extracurricular activities, books, technology for the remaining 2,600+ students in our district.

We are reeling from the combination of the curtailments, the proposed Maine State Retirement shift, an 11% health insurance increase and the effects of the payment of tuition to the charter schools.

We realize that many other school systems in Maine are experiencing the same types of financial issues. We believe that the additional charter school impact on some school districts, like ours, has a disproportionate negative effect on those communities. We believe this has been an unintentional and unforeseen consequence of the charter school legislation.

Simply put, we do not feel that this current funding system is just, equitable or fair to our communities and students. In the quest to provide alternative student experiences for some students, we do not believe the intent of the law was meant to diminish the educational opportunities of others. That is what has been the real and painful result of the current legislation in RSU 54.

I ask that you give serious consideration to the current bills before you, which attempt to help to reduce that impact on the thousands of public school children that are being adversely affected by the current law.

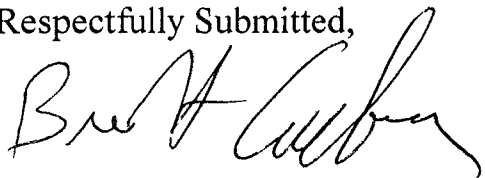
We respectfully ask that the Committee give serious consideration to providing substantive relief to these districts that are being, or will be, penalized in this manner.

For a more detailed explanation of the charter school impact, please see the attached sheets detailing the FY13 and projected FY14 financial impact on RSU 54.

The RSU 54 Board of Directors and myself would welcome the opportunity to provide the committee with any additional information that might be useful as part of your deliberations.

I thank you for your attention and concern for all of Maine's children.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent H. Colbry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brent" being the most prominent part.

Brent H. Colbry
Superintendent of Schools of RSU 54

RSU 54/MSAD 54
CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL IMPACT
2012-2013

(FROM ED279)

	<u>GRADES K-2</u>	<u>GRADES 3-8</u>	<u>GRADES 9-12</u>
<u>Per Student Allocations:</u>			
Base Allocation	\$ 6,371.00	\$ 6,371.00	\$ 6,721.00
K-2 Targeted	\$ 637.10	-	-
Assessment Targeted	\$ 43.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 43.00
Technology Targeted	\$ 98.00	\$ 98.00	\$ 296.00
Transportation	<u>\$ 556.00</u>	<u>\$ 556.00</u>	<u>\$ 556.00</u>
Minimum Cost Per Pupil:	\$ 7,705.10	\$ 7,068.00	\$ 7,616.00
Economically Disadvantaged Student	<u>\$ 955.65</u>	<u>\$ 955.65</u>	<u>\$ 1,008.15</u>
Sub Total:	\$ 8,660.75	\$ 8,023.65	\$ 8,624.15
Limited English Proficient Student	\$ 4,459.70	\$ 4,459.70	\$ 4,704.70
Sub Total:	\$ 13,120.45	\$ 12,483.35	\$ 13,328.85
Special Education Student	<u>\$ 6,477.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,477.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,277.61</u>
Maximum Cost Per Pupil:	\$ 19,597.45	\$ 18,960.35	\$ 21,606.46
K-6 Average:	42 students	\$ 8,786.83	per student
9-12 Average:	8 students	<u>\$ 7,674.25</u>	per student
Average:	50 students	\$ 8,608.84	per student

Total current 2012-2013 cost = \$430,441.81

This will be adjusted in June based upon the February count

3% Charter Commission Fee = \$13,451.30

1% SAU Administration Costs = \$4,304.42

**RSU 54/MSAD 54
ESTIMATED IMPACT
USING CURRENT ED279 INFORMATION
2013-2014**

	Maximum Enrollment for <u>2012-2013</u>	Maximum Enrollment for <u>2013-2014</u>
Cornville Regional Charter School (CRCS)	60	90
Maine Academy of Natural Science (MEANS)	50	82

Estimated Potential Cost for 2013-2014:

70% of Enrollment at CRCS	63 students (K-7) at \$8,786.83 average	=	\$ 553,570.20
19% of Enrollment at MEANS	13 students (9-12) at \$7,674.25 average	=	<u>\$ 99,765.25</u>
			\$ 653,335.45

**This would be a .43 mil average increase for RSU 54 member towns.
This would mean a 4.77% increase in local appropriations for the 6 towns
ranging from \$22,671 in Mercer to \$439,564 in Skowhegan.**