



126th Maine Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rebecca J. Millett
Senate Chair

Representative W. Bruce MacDonald
House Chair

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cross State Office Building, Room #202

1. Call to Order [9:00 a.m.]

(Sen. Millett, Senate Chair and Rep. MacDonald, House Chair)

- ❖ Introduction of Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members and Staff
- ❖ Overview of Work Session agenda items

2. Presentation of “Case Studies of Improving Schools” Preliminary Report prepared by Lawrence O. Picus & Associates [9:15 a.m.]

(Dr. Allan Odden)

- ❖ Overview of the “Case Studies of Improving Schools” Preliminary Report
- ❖ Committee discussion of questions or policy issues related to the case studies report

3. Presentation of “Analysis of Maine School Administrative Unit Funding and Tax Rates Under Alternative Evidence Based Model Simulations” Report prepared by Lawrence O. Picus & Associates [9:45 a.m.]

(Dr. Lawrence Picus, Dr. Allan Odden and Dr. Michael Goetz)

- ❖ Overview of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Picus & Associates on the fiscal year 2012-13 school funding data used in the report
- ❖ Review of the “Analysis of Maine School Administrative Unit Funding and Tax Rates Under Alternative Evidence Based Model Simulations” report
- ❖ Committee questions on policy issues and decisions related to the report, including implications of alternative models for school administrative units and tribal schools in Maine

4. Lunch Break [12:00 p.m. or at discretion of Presiding Chair]

5. Panel Discussion with Members of the Independent Review Advisory Committee on the “Analysis of Maine School Administrative Unit Funding and Tax Rates Under Alternative Evidence Based Model Simulations” Report [1:00 p.m.]

(Nancy Perkins, Chair, State Board of Education; Steve Pound, State Board of Education; Dr. David Silvernail, Maine Education Policy Research Institute; Superintendent Gary Smith, RSU 18 (Oakland))

- ❖ Feedback on the model simulations presented by Picus & Associates, including alternative approaches related to the components of the current school funding formula and the method for distributing state subsidy to fund school administrative units during fiscal year 2012-13

6. Discussion of Alternative Approaches to Maine’s Essential Programs & Services (EPS) School Funding Laws and Further Analysis of Alternative Model Simulations [2:00 p.m.]

(Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members and Staff; Lawrence O. Picus & Associates)

- ❖ Committee discussion of policy issues related to the Picus & Associates’ analyses of alternative approaches to the current school funding formula and method for distributing state subsidy to fund school administrative units
- ❖ Committee discussion of further analysis of alternative model simulations (Note: Picus & Associates can produce other alternative model simulations at the request of the Committee)

7. Break [3:30 p.m. or at discretion of Presiding Chair]

8. Discussion of Policy Choices, Initial Recommendations and Timeline for Part 2 Report Deliverables for the Independent Review of the EPS School Funding Laws [3:45 p.m.]

(Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members and Staff; Lawrence O. Picus & Associates; Wendy Cherubini, Senior Analyst, OPEGA)

- ❖ Committee discussion of policy choices and initial recommendations for consideration in recalibrating the EPS model based on comparisons of alternative model simulations to the current EPS school funding laws
- ❖ Review of timeline related to the transmittal of the Part 2 report deliverables and related agenda items for the December 10, 2013 meeting
- ❖ Announcements

9. Adjournment [5:00 p.m.]

(Sen. Millett, Senate Chair and Rep. MacDonald, House Chair)