



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

October 28, 2024

Dear Commission Member,

On behalf of Governor Janet Mills, thank you for your willingness to serve on the Governor's Commission on School Construction. We have important work to do. As you know, the gap between school infrastructure needs and available funding is widening and will only worsen in the years ahead. Your expertise, guidance, and perspective are essential to examining alternatives to this situation and making recommendations to resolve it.

Students and teachers in Maine deserve safe, healthy, comfortable, quiet, technology-friendly, functional buildings. We also must be cognizant of the impact of both the costs and the benefits associated with these facilities on families, communities, and taxpayers.

As a Commission, our goal is to identify potential solutions by mid-April. This will require us to work quickly and intensively over the next five months. Below is a preliminary meeting schedule and general information. Included in today's email, please find a link to a shared folder with helpful materials for your review in advance of our first meeting on November 15th.

In general, the Commission will meet monthly in Augusta. Several special meetings will be scheduled for purposes such as stakeholder engagement, school site visits, discussions with legislators, and deeper analysis of specific topics. To accomplish our work by mid-April 2025, we will begin our work in mid-November. I understand that not all members will be able to attend all meetings and the option to attend remotely may be needed. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's circumstances and appreciate your understanding and participation as collectively we tackle this responsibility.

Once again, on behalf of Governor Mills and the entire DOE team, please know that we greatly appreciate your assistance in tackling this consequential and complicated issue. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pender Makin'.

Pender Makin
Commissioner of Education

Meetings

The Commission will hold six regular meetings. Unless otherwise notified, these meetings will be held in the Augusta Capitol Complex, Burton Cross Office Building, Room 103. Tentative meeting dates and times are as follows:

November 15, 2024 1:00 - 3:30

December 20, 2024 1:00 - 3:30

January 17, 2025 1:00 - 3:30

February 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:30

March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:30

April 11, 2025 1:00-3:30

The Commission will hold additional meetings at its discretion, such as meetings with stakeholders, school site visits, and other meetings to more closely analyze issue and options. Details on dates and special meetings will be provided as soon as possible.

Team

Supporting the Commission are staff from the Governor's Office and the Department of Education (DOE) including:

Joseph Marro, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Pender Makin, Commissioner, Maine Department of Education

Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities Major Capital School Construction Program, DOE

Chelsey Fortin-Trimble, Associate Commissioner of Policy and Programs, DOE

Chloe Teboe, Director of Communications, DOE

Abigail Hopkins, Consultant, School Facilities, DOE

Contacts

We are working to establish a general point of contact for questions. If you have immediate questions, please feel free to contact Georgette Valliere at georgette.valliere@maine.gov