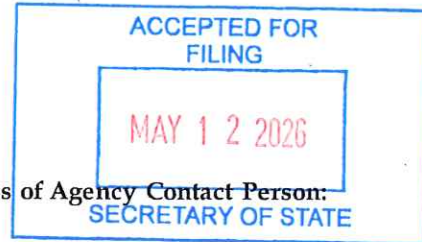


STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY
Rulemaking Commission

05-071 Ch. 54
2026-091
2026-P003

1. Agency: Education
2. Agency Umbrella Number and Unit Number: 05-071
3. Chapter Number and Rule Title: Ch. 54: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Later Start Planning Grant
4. Date(s)/Method(s) of Notice: January 21, 2026
5. Date(s)/Location(s) of Hearing(s): NA
6. Rule Action: New Rule
- 6A. Is this an emergency rule?: No



7. Name, Mailing Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address of Agency Contact Person:

Laura Cyr

23 SHS
Augusta ME 04333
Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.

EFFECTIVE DATE:
MAY 17 2026

8. If a major substantive rule under Title 5, c. 375, sub-c. 2-A, choose one of the following: Choose an item.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the attached is a true copy of the rule(s) described above and lawfully adopted by (agency name) Click or tap here to enter text. on (date) May 12 2026.

I further certify that all portions of this rule are adopted in compliance with the requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

Signature:

(Original signature, personally signed by the head of agency)

Printed Name and Title: Pender Makin, Commissioner of Education

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Attorney General on (date) 4/13/26.

Signature:

(Original signature, personally signed by Assistant Attorney General)

Printed Name: Sarah Forster, AAG
Assistant Attorney General

05-071 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

CHAPTER 54: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Later Start Planning Grant

SUMMARY: This rule governs the application for, and awarding of, funds from the Department of Education discretionary grants for planning for later start times. Grants are intended to assist in the financing of local initiatives.

1. Purpose and Scope

- A. Purpose:** Funds are awarded to support the costs of school administrative units (SAUs) which elect to develop plans to change secondary school start times to 8:30 a.m. or later pursuant to Resolve 2025, Chapter 110. The Department encourages SAUs to collaborate on late start planning initiatives.
- B. Scope:** This rule provides specific instructions applicable to all school administrative units seeking to submit applications for the grants. The rule establishes the eligibility requirements, application process, award criteria, and review process, as well as reporting requirements.

2. Definitions

- A. Economically Disadvantaged Students:** Economically disadvantaged students means students who are included in the department's count of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk or both.

3. Applications

- A. Eligible entities**
 - i. School administrative units (SAUs) that serve secondary students are eligible to apply for grant funds.
- B. Department announcement:** The application announcement by the Department based on the availability of funding.
 - i. For each funding opportunity, the Department shall establish the opening date for the acceptance of applications.
- C. Application form:** Applications for grants must be filed in accordance with this rule and any instructions provided by the Department.
- D. Allowable Use:** Grant funding must be used for the development of a plan in accordance with this rule. Allowable activities related to the development of a plan might include:
 - i. Development of community engagement opportunities
 - ii. Transportation studies

- iii. Staff collaboration or professional development related to later school start times
- iv. Coordination between SAUs

4. **Requirements:** A grant application must be filed by an eligible entity and must:

- A. Be filed in accordance with this rule, and any guidance provided by the Department in calling for applications.
- B. Include an overview that describes the anticipated timeline for plan development and completion.
- C. Include a description of proposed efforts to collaborate, when more than one SAU plans to participate.
 - i. If multiple SAUs are working in partnership, each SAU and their authorizing official shall sign the application.
- D. Include a budget which justifies and is limited to allowable uses

5. **Review and Evaluation**

A. **Awarding grants**

Grant awards will be made to applicants according to a scoring matrix which will be detailed in the request for applications. Applications will be scored at the close of the application period. Awards may not match the request fully.

B. **Priority for awarding grants**

The Department will administer the grants in accordance with State procurement procedures. The Department will prioritize distribution across the state. This includes attention to:

- i. Geographic distribution across the state
- ii. Variation in SAU size
- iii. Economically disadvantaged students

C. **Form of agreement for grant**

Awards will be made by means of a standardized State agreement subject to approval by the Department.

6. **Reporting Requirements**

- A. At the close of the project funding, SAUs receiving grant awards must deliver a report to the Department containing:
 - i. Total project costs and use of funds
 - ii. A description of the collaborative planning process used, and community or stakeholder engagement activities
 - iii. An analysis of findings and potential courses of action?

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Resolves 2025, Chapter 110

05-071 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Resolves 2025, Chapter 110

Statement of Factual and Policy Basis and Summary of Comments/Responses

Maine Department of Education

Department of Education Chapter 54: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Later Start Planning Grant

Factual and Policy Basis:

As a result of Resolves 2025, Chapter 110, the Maine Department of Education proposed a new rule to govern the application for, and awarding of, funds from Department of Education discretionary grants for planning for later start times. Grants are intended to assist in the financing of local initiatives.

Comments and Responses:

A public comment period was held from January 21-February 27, 2026. The deadline for submission of comments was February 27, 2026, at 5 pm. The Department of Education received no comments, and the adopted rule has not changed from the proposed rule.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Rulemaking Fact Sheet

(see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1))

Agency: Education

Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address of Agency Contact Person:

Laura Cyr at laura.cyr@maine.gov.

23 SHS

Augusta, ME 04333

207-46-8791

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Chapter Number and Rule Title: Chapter 54: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Later Start Planning Grant

Type of Rule: Routine Technical

Statutory Authority: Resolves 2025, Chapter 110

Public Hearing(s) *(include day, date, time, and location):* NA

Comment Deadline(s) *(include day, date, and time):* February 27, 2026

Principal Reason(s) or Purpose for Proposing this Rule *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(A)]:*

Resolve 2025, Chapter 110

Is Material Incorporated by Reference into the Rule *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8056(2-A)]?* No

Analysis and Expected Operation of the Rule *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(B) & (D)]:*

This rule governs the application for, and awarding of, funds from the Department of Education discretionary grants for planning for later start times.

Brief Summary of Relevant Information Considered During Development of the Rule (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon) *[see 5 M.R.S. §§ 8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]:*

Grant management process, stakeholder feedback, financial management standards

Estimated Fiscal Impact of the Rule *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(C)]:*

NA

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

Economic Impact, Whether or Not Quantifiable in Monetary Terms *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(A)]:*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Individuals, Major Interest Groups and Types of Businesses Affected and How They Will Be Affected *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(B)]:*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Benefits of the Rule *[see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(C)]:*

Format Revised 12/18/2025

Click or tap here to enter text.

Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Maine Administrative Procedure Act Checklist

Agency: Education

Chapter Number and Rule Title: 54: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Later Start Planning Grant

Proposed Rule

1. Was this rule listed on the most recent regulatory agenda? Yes
An amendment to the Regulatory Agenda will be filed.
2. Date of notification of:
 - A. Anyone on mailing list January 14, 2026
 - B. Any trade, industry or professional group January 14, 2026
 - C. Any trade publications January 14, 2026
3. Date Notice of Rulemaking Proposal (MAPA-3) sent to Secretary of State: January 14, 2026
4. Date Rulemaking Fact Sheet sent to Executive Director of Legislative Council: January 14, 2026
5. Date of publication in Secretary of State's rulemaking ad.: January 21, 2026
6. Date(s) of hearing(s): NA
Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Comment deadline(s): February 27, 2026
Click or tap here to enter text.

Adopted Rule

8. Was the comment deadline extended or the comment period reopened? NA
 - A. If yes, date of second notice publication in Secretary of State's rulemaking ad: NA
9. Is adopted rule consistent with what was proposed? Yes
(If not, please address the changes in the comments and responses section of your filing.)
10. Is the person signing the Certification Statement (*see* MAPA-1) authorized to do so as stated in your statutes or in 5 M.R.S., c. 71? Yes
11. Was the rule adopted within 120 days after the comment deadline? Yes
12. Was the rule approved and signed by the Office of the Attorney General within 150 days after the comment deadline? Yes
13. Is a Basis Statement included? Yes
Is a copy of the Fact Sheet included? Yes
Are comments, with names and organizations, and your responses included? Yes

Revised 12/18/2025

Choose an item.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Notice of Agency Rule

05-071 Ch. 54
2026-091
2026-P003

AGENCY: Education

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 54: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Later Start Planning Grant

ADOPTION FILING NUMBER: [Leave Blank - Assigned by the Department of the Secretary of State]

CONCISE SUMMARY:

This rule governs the application for, and awarding of, funds from the Department of Education discretionary grants for planning for later start times. Grants are intended to assist in the financing of local initiatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: [Leave Blank -- To Be Filled in by the Department of the Secretary of State]

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:

MAY 17 2026

Name: Laura Cyr

Agency Name: Education

Mailing Address: 23 SHS, Augusta ME 04333

Telephone Number: 207-446-8791

Email Address: laura.cyr@maine.gov