



**Education-Related Legislation  
Enacted by the  
131st Maine Legislature  
Second Regular**

**Prepared by:**

**Maine Department of Education  
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**Summary of Education-Related Bills Enacted by the  
Second Regular Session of the  
131st Maine Legislature**

DOE = Department of Education  
 ECA = Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
 GF = General Fund  
 OSR = Other Special Revenue

Title	Provisions	Funding		Effective Date Action Required
		FY24	FY25	
<b>LD 279, Public Law 2023, Chapter 489</b> <i>An Act to Protect Against Discrimination by Public Entities</i>	Creates new section in the Maine Human Rights Act stating that it is unlawful for a public entity to discriminate against an individual, exclude an individual from participation in a service, program or activity of that public entity or otherwise deny to an individual the benefits of a service, program or activity of that public entity by reason of the individual's race or color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin.			August 9, 2024
	Provides that, like a place of public accommodation, a public entity is not required by the Maine Human Rights Act to permit an individual to participate in the public entity's services, programs or activities if that individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of the public entity's policies, practices or procedures or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services.			
	Establishes one Assistant Attorney General position in the litigation division and provides funding for related All Other costs.	OSRF Personal Services	OSRF Personal Services \$122,242	

Title	Provisions	Funding		Effective Date Action Required
		FY24	FY25	
		\$89,018 All Other \$6,519	All Other \$8,692	
	Establishes one limited-period Correctional Care and Treatment Worker position provides funding for Assistant Attorney General billing costs and other related costs to investigate claims made to the Maine Human Rights Commission and submit relevant documents, data and records from January 1, 2024, and ends June 14, 2025.		GF \$218,564	
<b>LD 284, Public Law 2023, Chapter 649</b> <i>An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute</i>	Removes the September 1, 2024, repeal date of PL 2021, Chapter 450 which established the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute.  The Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute and a related steering committee was established to collect and analyze information related to workforce training, research and development, student debt and economic advancement in Maine, align their work with the Maine’s Economic Development Strategy, to perform targeted research for the Legislature, and to make policy recommendations to the Legislature.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 614, Public Law 2023, Chapter 593</b> <i>An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day</i>	Section 2 of the LD extends the youth deer hunting period from one day to 2 days and establishes that the period takes place on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of Maine.  Directs the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to provide a report by February 1, 2027, to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife on any findings & recommendations related to the			August 9, 2024

Title	Provisions	Funding		Effective Date Action Required
		FY24	FY25	
	changes to the youth deer hunting period. Authorizes the Joint Standing Committee to report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.			
<b>LD 870, Public Law 2023, Chapter 626</b> <i>An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Speech Protections by Enacting the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act</i>	Repeals the State's law against strategic lawsuits against public participation, or the anti-SLAPP law, and replaces it with the Uniform Law Commission's Uniform Public Expression Protection Act revised by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Although "SLAPP"—an acronym for "Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation"—does not appear in the Act's title, the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act should be considered an anti-SLAPP act.			January 1, 2025
	Articulates a clear process through which SLAPPs can be challenged and their merits fairly evaluated in an expedited manner. In doing so, the Act serves two purposes: protecting individuals' rights to petition and speak freely on issues of public interest while protecting the rights of people and entities to file meritorious lawsuits for real injuries.			
<b>LD 957, Public Law 2023, Chapter 492</b> <i>An Act Requiring Water Bottle Filling Stations in New and Renovated Public Schools</i>	Requires that new public schools and public schools undergoing substantial renovations be equipped with water bottle filling stations that are compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 beginning in FY 24-25 and authorizes students to possess refillable water bottles.			August 9, 2024
	Defines “substantial renovations” as any renovation for which the cost exceeds 50% of the building's current value prior to renovation.			

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		FY24	FY25	
	Directs the State Board of Education to adopt routine technical rules to carry out this legislation			
	Provides one-time funds to reimburse school administrative units for 90% of cost of installing water bottle filling stations when constructing a new public school building or undergoing a substantial renovation to an existing school building in FY 24-25 only.		GF All Other \$1,404	
<b>LD 1263, Public Law 2023, Chapter 561</b> <i>An Act to Require Certain School Identification Cards to Include the Telephone Number of a Suicide and Crisis Hotline</i>	Requires a school administrative unit or public postsecondary educational institution in Maine that issues student identification cards to include the 988 telephone number for the national suicide and crisis hotline on the cards.  Also requires a school administrative unit and a public postsecondary educational institution to place the 988 telephone number in at least one location that is regularly accessed by students, including, but not limited to, a sticker on school-issued electronic devices or on the home page of an online student portal.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 1284, Resolve 2023, Chapter 135</b> <i>Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Education to Review the Placement of Personal Finance in the System of Learning Results</i>	Directs the Commissioner of Education to consider the inclusion of personal finance in content areas other than social studies in the system of Learning Results when conducting the Commissioner's next regular review of the content standards and performance indicators.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 1606, Resolve 2023, Chapter 150</b> <i>Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean</i>	Directs the Department of Education's Office of Innovation to conduct a study and develop guidance, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future, the Governor's Energy Office and Efficiency Maine Trust, to assist public			August 9, 2024

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<i>Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs</i>	elementary and secondary schools in the State with achieving energy efficiency and maximizing the use of clean energy. This guidance must address how the programs and contracting options reviewed as a part of the study may be effectively accessed and used by schools and incorporate the best practices and standards.			
	Directs the Department of Education Office of Innovation submit a report by January 31, 2025, of its activities, as well as guidance for public elementary and secondary schools in the State for achieving energy efficiency, to the Joint Standing Committees on Energy Utilities & Technology and Education & Cultural Affairs.			DOE Office of Innovation to submit report by January 31, 2025, to the Joint Standing Committees on Energy Utilities & Technology and ECA
	Authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology submit a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.			
	Requires the DOE, in consultation with the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation & the Future, the Governor’s Energy Office, the Efficiency Maine Trust, relevant state agencies and representatives from school leadership, including superintendents, business officers and facilities managers, to develop contracting guidance for public elementary and secondary schools to assist the schools with saving money through energy efficiency, clean energy and clean transportation projects.			
	Directs the DOE to submit a report by January 31, 2025, including draft guidance, to the Joint Standing Committees on Energy Utilities & Technology and Education & Cultural Affairs.			DOE to submit report by January 31, 2025, to the Joint Standing Committees on

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	Authorizes the ECA submit a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.			Energy Utilities & Technology and ECA.
<b>LD 1642, Public Law 2023, Chapter 537</b> <i>An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools</i>	Replaces the terms “Maine Native American” and “Maine tribal” in Title 20-A laws regarding elementary and secondary education requirements with the term “Wabanaki.” Adds clarification that Wabanaki studies may be taught as a component of other content areas as appropriate including ELA, math, Science, and fine arts.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 1898, Public Law 2023, Chapter 493</b> <i>An Act to Ensure That a Teacher Who Participates in the Prevention of Dangerous Behavior Is Protected Under a Collective Bargaining Agreements</i>	Clarifies that a dispute involving a public school employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement arising out of an incident of dangerous behavior by a student is subject to the dispute resolution process of the collective bargaining agreement.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 1948, Public Law 2023, Chapter 581</b> <i>An Act to Amend the State's Data Governance Program</i>	Amends the laws governing the data governance program for State Government. Requires each state agency to designate an employee with the responsibility to oversee the agency's compliance with the data governance program. Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative & Financial Services (DAFS), or designee, to work with the state agency designees to inventory the collection and availability of demographic data fields by the state agency, including,			August 9, 2024

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		FY24	FY25	
	<p>but not limited to, gender, location, race, ethnicity, birth sex, citizenship, socioeconomic status, education, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability status and age and to develop definitions and standards for those data fields.</p> <p>Requires the definitions and standards be developed in consultation with the Department of the Secretary of State and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous &amp; Tribal Populations.</p> <p>Amends the due date of the annual report to the Joint Standing Committee on State &amp; Local Government to February 15.</p> <p>Requires the Commissioner of DAFS or designee, to the extent resources are available, to work with the Department of the Secretary of State and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous &amp; Tribal Populations to convene a stakeholder group (members to the stakeholder group, to consider the racial, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic and other demographic diversity of the group) at least once each year to review progress in developing and implementing the data governance program.</p>			
<p><b>LD 2011, Public Law 2023, Chapter 500</b>  <i>An Act Regarding the State Auditor's Reporting Requirements on State Agencies' Financial Activities</i></p>	<p>Requires the State Auditor to submit annual reports to the Legislature regarding the administration of federal grants, programs and awards by state agencies.</p>			August 9, 2024



Title	Provisions	Funding		Effective Date Action Required
		FY24	FY25	
<b>LD 2072, Public Law 2023, Chapter 634</b> <i>An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Motor Vehicles</i>	Eliminates the requirement for a school bus operator endorsement for drivers of a multifunction school activity bus and provides that the driver must be at least 21 years of age and have held a driver's license for at least 2 years.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 2089, Public Law 2023, Chapter 601</b> <i>An Act Regarding Drug Awareness Instruction in Secondary Schools</i>	Clarifies that health education in a secondary school must include reference to the effects of dangerous drugs such as fentanyl, in addition to alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics.			August 9, 2024
	Also allows a secondary school to supplement substance use instruction by observing a drug awareness week during the month of October each year.			
<b>LD 2131, Public Law 2023, Chapter 566</b> <i>An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities</i>	Defines extended learning opportunities to mean an experience outside of the traditional classroom, with an emphasis on community-based career exploration, which may be credit bearing.			August 9, 2024
	Amends the law that governs individual student instruction in elementary and secondary schools to add extended learning opportunities to the authorized pathways of learning.			
<b>LD 2133. Public Law 2023, Chapter 551</b> <i>An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce (EMERGENCY)</i>	Adds the option for an applicant to qualify for the examination of a journeyman-in training electrician license to use course work from an approved 2-year secondary school career and technical education electrical program and is credited 1,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed helper electrician upon graduation.			March 19, 2024

Title	Provisions	Funding		Effective Date Action Required
		FY24	FY25	
	The individual must complete any remaining work hours to total at least 6,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed helper electrician prior to applying for a journeyman-in-training license.			
<b>LD 2152, Public Law 2023, Chapter 665</b> <i>An Act to Allow Equitable Compensation of Certain Board Members</i>	Clarifies that members of boards and commissions currently excluded from the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 379 not otherwise compensated for their duties on a board or commission by their employer or the entity they represent are entitled to compensation for their time and that the compensation may not exceed the legislative per diem. Compensation is determined by the department or agency associated with the board or commission and is contingent on the associated department or agency having sufficient funds.			August 9, 2024
<b>LD 2179, Resolve 2023, Chapter 144</b> <i>Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (EMERGENCY)</i>	Authorizes the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to jointly proceed to final adoption of provisionally adopted amended Rule Chapter 64: <i>Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule</i> . This Resolve required the agencies to amend the rule to require: (1) that the maximum total loans from the fund for repair, renovation, and improvement projects for Priority One, Priority Two, Priority Three, Priority Four and Priority Five be increased from \$4,000,000 to \$8,000,000, and (2) that the maximum loan amount from the fund to address each priority level in a school building be increased from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 within any 5-year period.			March 19, 2024  DOE and Maine Municipal Bond Bank to finally jointly adopt amended Rule Chapter 64

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		FY24	FY25	
<b>LD 2180, Resolve 2023, Chapter 173</b> <i>Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education (EMERGENCY)</i>	Authorizes the Department of Education to proceed to final adoption of provisionally adopted amended Rule Chapter 101: <i>Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two</i> , a Major Substantive Rule and authorizes the Department of Education to make grammatical, formatting, punctuation and other technical, non-substantive editing changes to the rule as necessary prior to final adoption.			April 22, 2024  DOE to finally adopt amended Rule Chapter 101
<b>LD 2181, Resolve 2023, Chapter 141</b> <i>Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)</i>	Authorizes the State Board of Education to proceed to final adoption of provisionally adopted amended Rule Chapter 61: <i>Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects</i> , a Major Substantive Rule. Major capital construction project application form guidance has been updated to include consolidated 9-12 educational facilities. The school construction eligibility section has been updated to remove specifically identified school years from the graduation rate criteria. The movable equipment cost has been updated to 4% instead of the identified 9% listed in the rule to reflect State Board practice. The State Board reserves the right to review for potential increases on a case-by-case basis. Project management authority and contracted representatives has been updated in the section relating to final approval as a result of State Board practice. The Bureau of General Services has been removed from the language of the rule due to the elimination of that office.			March 14, 2024  State Board of Education to finally adopt amended Rule Chapter 61

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		FY24	FY25	
<b>LD 2182, Resolve 2023, Chapter 167</b> <i>Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education (EMERGENCY)</i>	Does not authorize the Department of Education to proceed to final adoption of provisionally adopted amended Rule Chapter 132: <i>Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction</i> , a Major Substantive Rule. This filing was for Science, Technology and Engineering standards and Social Studies standards.			April 13, 2024  DOE to provisionally adopt Rule Chapter 132 to the 132 <sup>nd</sup> First Regular Session of the Legislature.
	Directs the Department of Education initiate rulemaking on the portion of the Rule Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction that provides the parameters for instruction for the content area of social studies and submit a provisionally adopted rule to the Legislature in the First Regular Session of the 132 <sup>nd</sup> Legislature for review.			
	Authorizes the Department of Education to adjust the content areas of the Learning Results subject to review and submission to the Legislature in the First Regular Session of the 132 <sup>nd</sup> Legislature pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4 as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this LD.			
<b>LD 2207, Public Law 2023, Chapter 582</b> <i>An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2024-25 (EMERGENCY)</i>	Establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory that would normally be paid for by a municipality in FY 24-25. The municipal cost components constitute the property tax for the unorganized territory.			March 28, 2024
	The cost component for Education in the Unorganized Territory (EUT) for FY 2024-25 is \$15,658,904.			

Title	Provisions	Funding		Effective Date Action Required												
		FY24	FY25													
<b>LD 2214, Public Law 2023, Chapter 643</b> <i>An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025</i>	<b>FY 2024 and FY 2025 Supplemental Budget</b>  <b><i>Details of this Budget may be found in the attached PDF document.</i></b>			August 9, 2024												
	<b>PART A</b> Department of Education appropriations and allocations <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>General Fund</td><td>\$38,889,743</td></tr> <tr><td>Federal Expenditures Fund</td><td>\$8,679,833</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Special Revenue Funds</td><td>\$12,529,927</td></tr> <tr><td>Federal Block Grant Fund</td><td>(\$90,896)</td></tr> <tr><td>Federal Expenditures Fund – ARP</td><td>\$698,955</td></tr> <tr><td>Department Total – All Funds</td><td>\$60,707,562</td></tr> </table>	General Fund	\$38,889,743	Federal Expenditures Fund	\$8,679,833	Other Special Revenue Funds	\$12,529,927	Federal Block Grant Fund	(\$90,896)	Federal Expenditures Fund – ARP	\$698,955	Department Total – All Funds	\$60,707,562			
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	Federal Expenditures Fund – ARP	\$698,955														
	Department Total – All Funds	\$60,707,562														
	<b>PART C</b> Total cost of K-12 education															
	<b>PART D</b> ARP funded positions and projects															
<b>PART G</b> Minimum hourly wage for education technicians and support staff																
<b>PART U</b> Educator interchange program																
<b>PART W</b> Child Development Services and transition of Free Appropriate Public Education for 3-5 year olds to school administrative units			DOE to submit reports by March 1, 2025, and annually to ECA													
<b>PART X</b> School Facilities program																
<b>PART Y</b> Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering																
<b>PART Z</b> Certification hearing officers and due process facilitators																

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		FY24	FY25	
	<b>PART AA</b> SAD 4, SAD 41, and SAD 46 and SAU 17 construction grants			
	<b>PART BB</b> Higher Education Administrative Fund			
	<b>PART CC</b> Special Purpose Private Preschools daily tuition rate funding			DOE to submit report by September 30, 2024, to the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations & Financial Affairs ECA
	<b>PART FF</b> Office of New Americans			
	<b>PART CCC</b> School Renovation Fund for 3-5 year olds Free Appropriate Public Education			
	<b>PART JJJJ</b> Transfer to the Education Stabilization Fund			
	<b>PART KKKK-1, 2, 6</b> Rental subsidy program for students in elementary and secondary schools experiencing homelessness.			Maine State Housing Authority to submit report by January 15, 2025, to the Legislature's Committee on Housing.
	<b>PART QQQQ</b> Limited-period positions			
<b>LD 2215, Public Law 2023, Chapter 637</b> <i>An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Regarding Public Records Exceptions</i>	Implements statutory changes recommended by the Right to Know Advisory Committee after reviewing certain existing public records exceptions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22.			August 9, 2024
	Amends the provisions of law governing the confidentiality of records and information under the			

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		FY24	FY25	
	Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act as well as other locations in Title 22.			
<b>LD 2221, Resolve 2023, Chapter 137</b> <i>Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education</i>	Directs the State Board of Education to amend its rule Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a major substantive rule, and submit the provisionally adopted rule to the 132nd Legislature. Amendments may include, but are not limited to, recommendations included in the State Board of Education's report submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 54.			August 9, 2024  State Board of Education to provisionally adopt Rule Chapter 115
<b>LD 2235, Resolve 2023, Chapter 163</b> <i>Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to Add a 3rd Option for Gender on State Forms</i>	<p>Directs the Department of Administrative &amp; Financial Services, in coordination with all executive branch departments, agencies, offices, boards and commissions and all quasi-independent agencies, boards, commissions, authorities and institutions in the State, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to update all printed forms, applications and other documents that require the designation of a person's gender to add an option to designate “X” for gender by December 31, 2024.</p> <p>Also directs the same group named above to update all digital forms, applications and other documents that require the designation of a person's gender to add an option to designate “X” for gender in the regular course of updating their forms.</p> <p>When reviewing the printed and digital forms, the departments, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall determine whether the designation of a person’s</p>			August 9, 2024

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	<p>gender is necessary for the purposes of each form, and, if it is not, the departments, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall remove the question from the form.</p> <p>Does not require adding an option to designate "X" for gender for forms, applications or other documents that are created pursuant to federal law or regulation or for the purpose of multijurisdictional cooperation and uniformity.</p>			
<p><b>LD 2241, Public Law 2023, Chapter 607</b> <i>An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions</i></p>	<p>Eliminates certain boards and commissions that either failed to file an annual report with the Secretary of State in both 2022 and 2023 or filed a report that indicated the board or commission was inactive during 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>Repeals statute that pertains to: the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering since the school closed in 2022; the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council; and the Advisory Committee on Medical Education; and the Advisory Committee on Fair Competition with Private Enterprise;</p>			August 9, 2024
<p><b>LD 2257, Private &amp; Special Law 2023, Chapter 20</b> <i>An Act to Allow School Administrative District No. 52 to Issue Temporary Notes for a Wastewater Treatment Project (EMERGENCY)</i></p>	<p>Extends the time period in which School Administrative District No. 52 may issue temporary notes in a total principal amount not to exceed \$1,612,000 that mature not later than March 31, 2026, to finance a wastewater treatment plant project in the Town of Turner, which has been unexpectedly delayed due to the COVID-19 emergency and difficulties locating a suitable site for subsurface disposal.</p>			March 28, 2024



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		FY24	FY25	
<b>LD 2281, Public Law 2023, Chapter 595</b> <i>An Act to Reconvene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families (EMERGENCY)</i>	Directs the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to reconvene the working group to study potential solutions and make recommendations regarding the cost of and access to driver education for underserved populations and low-income families.			April 9, 2024
	The working group shall include the Commissioner of Education or their designee as well as representatives from other relevant departments and organizations. To the greatest extent practicable, the appointing authorities shall reappoint the persons they appointed to the working group established pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 94.			
	Requires the working group to submit a report by February 3, 2025, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation that includes its findings and recommendations.			Working group to submit report by February 3, 2025, to Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
	Authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to submit legislation related to the report to the 132nd Legislature.			
<b>LD 2286, Resolve 2023, Chapter 164</b> <i>Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to Review Certain Components of General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula</i>	Directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI), in conjunction with the DOE, to conduct a review of certain components of general purpose aid for local schools (GPA) and of the essential programs and services funding formula (EPS) that have been identified as driving inequity within the formula.			August 9, 2024
	The GPA review must include, but is not limited to, the State's ability to adequately fund recruitment, retention, salaries and benefits of teachers and support staff, which represent the largest portion of the cost of			

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	public education; property valuation and its efficacy in determining municipal contribution levels to public education; regional differences in education costs and contributing factors to these differences; and funding mechanisms used in other states to distribute funding for public education.			
	The EPS review must include those components that have been identified as driving inequity within the formula, including, but not limited to, expenditure-driven components, including special education costs; determination of a municipality's ability to pay; the regional adjustment; and other adjustments to the state share of the total allocation, including, but not limited to, enhancing student performance and opportunity costs and targeted education funds.			
	Includes stakeholder representatives, including superintendents, school board members, school business officers, principals, teachers, directors of special services and career and technical education directors, in the review and recommend potential adjustments to the funding formula and then those potential adjustments are to be modeled by the DOE.			
	Directs MEPRI with the DOE, to assess the statutorily required review of the EPS components and make recommendations regarding improvements to the review process, including, but not limited to, the established timeline and opportunities for stakeholder engagement.			
	Requires MEPRI to submit a report by March 15, 2025 with its findings and recommendations, including the results of any modeling of potential			MEPRI to submit report by March 14, 2025, to ECA

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	<p>adjustments to the EPS funding formula conducted, to the ECA.</p> <p>Authorizes the ECA to submit legislation related to the report to the 132nd Legislature.</p>			
<p><b>LD 2290, Public Law 2023, Chapter 646</b>  <i>An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine (EMERGENCY)</i></p>	<p>Section 22 of the bill corrects a conflict in MRS, Title 20-A, §15689-A, sub-§12, National Board Certification salary supplement, created by Public Laws 2021, chapters 635 and 694, which affected the same provision of law, by incorporating the changes made by both laws.</p>			<p>April 22, 2024</p>

## **Finalized Legislation Requiring Rulemaking by the Department of Education**

- LD 2179 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (EMERGENCY)*
- LD 2180 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education (EMERGENCY)*
- LD 2181 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)*
- LD 2182 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education (EMERGENCY)*
- LD 2221 *Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education*

## **Finalized Legislation Requiring Report Backs, Commissions, Task Forces involving the Department of Education**

- LD 1606 *Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs (2 reports)*
- LD 2214 *An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (3 reports)*
- LD 2281 *An Act to Reconvene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families (EMERGENCY)*
- LD 2286 *Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to Review Certain Components of General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula*

**APPROVED**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**  
**BY GOVERNOR**

CHAPTER  
**643**  
PUBLIC LAW

**STATE OF MAINE**

—  
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**  
**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR**

—  
**H.P. 1420 - L.D. 2214**

**An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**PART A**

**Sec. A-10. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
**Adult Education 0364**

Initiative: Reallocates one Public Service Manager II position and one Education Specialist III position from 100% Federal Expenditures Fund to 70% Federal Expenditures Fund and 30% General Fund within the same program and reallocates one Education Specialist III position from 100% General Fund to 70% General Fund and 30% Federal Expenditures

Fund within the same program. This initiative also reduces funding in the Federal Expenditures Fund for related All Other costs.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$38,380
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$38,380</u>

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	(\$38,380)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,086)
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$39,466)</u>

**Child Development Services 0449**

Initiative: Provides funding for increases in staff costs attributed to collective bargaining.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$926,191
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$926,191</u>

**Child Development Services 0449**

Initiative: Allocates one-time funds for payments of a daily rate for special purpose private preschools from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$11,000,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$11,000,000</u>

**Early Childhood Special Education Pathways Pilot Project N497**

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position and provides one-time funding for the early childhood special education pathways pilot project. This position ends on June 30, 2025.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,951
All Other	\$0	\$874,049
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

**Education in Unorganized Territory 0220**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to update mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and address exterior building enclosure deficiencies at the 3 state-owned schools in the unorganized territories.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$2,377,112
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,377,112</u>

Fund within the same program. This initiative also reduces funding in the Federal Expenditures Fund for related All Other costs.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$38,380
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$38,380</u>

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	(\$38,380)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,086)
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$39,466)</u>

**Child Development Services 0449**

Initiative: Provides funding for increases in staff costs attributed to collective bargaining.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$926,191
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$926,191</u>

**Child Development Services 0449**

Initiative: Allocates one-time funds for payments of a daily rate for special purpose private preschools from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$11,000,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$11,000,000</u>

**Early Childhood Special Education Pathways Pilot Project N497**

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position and provides one-time funding for the early childhood special education pathways pilot project. This position ends on June 30, 2025.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,951
All Other	\$0	\$874,049
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

**Education in Unorganized Territory 0220**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to update mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and address exterior building enclosure deficiencies at the 3 state-owned schools in the unorganized territories.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$2,377,112
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,377,112</u>

**Education in Unorganized Territory 0220**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to make timely payments to vendors and school administrative units for tuition, transportation and special education costs that are necessary to maintain current services.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,700,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,700,000</u>

**Education in Unorganized Territory 0220**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to make timely payments to vendors and school administrative units for tuition, transportation and special education costs that are necessary to maintain current services.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,156,667
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,156,667</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Provides funding to maintain the statutory requirement of funding the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 at 55%.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$22,605,146
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$22,605,146</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager III position and related All Other costs from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund. This initiative also transfers one Education Specialist III position and one Office Specialist I position and related All Other costs from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$170,038)
All Other	\$0	(\$8,860)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$178,898)</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the costs of one Public Service Manager II position, one Office Specialist II position and related All Other from 100% General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to 50% Leadership Team program and 50% General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
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**Education in Unorganized Territory 0220**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to make timely payments to vendors and school administrative units for tuition, transportation and special education costs that are necessary to maintain current services.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,700,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,700,000</u>

**Education in Unorganized Territory 0220**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to make timely payments to vendors and school administrative units for tuition, transportation and special education costs that are necessary to maintain current services.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,156,667
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,156,667</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Provides funding to maintain the statutory requirement of funding the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 at 55%.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$22,605,146
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$22,605,146</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager III position and related All Other costs from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund. This initiative also transfers one Education Specialist III position and one Office Specialist I position and related All Other costs from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$170,038)
All Other	\$0	(\$8,860)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$178,898)</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the costs of one Public Service Manager II position, one Office Specialist II position and related All Other from 100% General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to 50% Leadership Team program and 50% General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
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POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(2.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$111,285)
All Other	\$0	(\$8,860)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$120,145)</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue changes approved in the December 2023 revenue forecast.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	(\$176,183)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$176,183)</u>

**General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the March 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$170,181
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$170,181</u>

**Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,059
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,059</u>

**Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082**

Initiative: Provides funding to support the administrative work required to facilitate the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements membership.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$35,929
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$35,929</u>

**Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position, retroactive to January 5, 2022.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,089
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,089</u>

**Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394**

Initiative: Transfers 2 State Education Representative positions and related All Other costs from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$250,728
All Other	\$0	\$20,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$270,728</b>

**Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager III position, one Education Specialist III position and funding for All Other costs related to the early learning team from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$286,481
All Other	\$0	\$50,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$336,481</b>

**Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, 5 Interdisciplinary Instruction Specialist positions and All Other funding for the interdisciplinary instruction team from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$748,456
All Other	\$0	\$82,720
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$831,176</b>

**Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager III position and related All Other costs from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund. This initiative also transfers one Education Specialist III position and one Office Specialist I position and related All Other costs from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$369,946
All Other	\$0	\$27,720
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$397,666</b>

**Leadership Team Z077**

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the costs of one Public Service Manager II position, one Office Specialist II position and related All Other costs from 100% General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to 50% Leadership Team program and 50% General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$111,285
All Other	\$0	\$8,860
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$120,145</b>

**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Continues one limited-period State Education Representative position previously established by Financial Order 003086 F4, one limited-period Education Specialist III position previously established by Financial Order 002908 F4, one limited-period Education Specialist II position previously established by Financial Order 002932 F4 and one limited-period Education Specialist II position previously continued by Financial Order 002883 F4 through December 30, 2025 and provides All Other funding to provide targeted outreach and support for families, expansion of community-based prekindergarten partnerships, early childhood education workforce development and integration of early childhood data across state agencies through a preschool development grant.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$410,080
All Other	\$0	\$3,582,008
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,992,088</b>

**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Transfers 3 Education Specialist III positions, one Public Service Manager I position and All Other funding for career and technical education from the Learning Systems Team program to the Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways program within the same fund.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(4.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$499,628)
All Other	\$0	(\$6,739,502)
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$7,239,130)</b>

**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Transfers funding for the George Briggs fund from the Learning Systems Team program to the Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways program within the same fund.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	(\$54,640)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$54,640)
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**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Provides funding for the federal Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$2,203,210

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,203,210
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**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Provides funding for the federal English Language Acquisition State Grant.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$126,621

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$126,621
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**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Provides funding for the federal so-called Title I, Part A grants to local education agencies.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$8,385,887

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,385,887
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**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected available resources.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	(\$7,085,705)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$7,085,705)
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**Learning Systems Team Z081**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Education Specialist III position to a State Education Representative position and transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the reorganization.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,710
All Other	\$0	(\$7,710)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0
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**Maine School Safety Center Z293**

Initiative: Transfers funding for restorative practices from the School and Student Supports program to the Maine School Safety Center program to align funding with the appropriate program.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$700,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$700,000</u>

**Maine School Safety Center Z293**

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position to train public safety professionals and first responders and reduces All Other funding to fund the position. This position ends on June 30, 2025.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,951
All Other	\$0	(\$125,951)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Office of Innovation Z333**

Initiative: Transfers 2 State Education Representative positions and related All Other costs from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(2.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$250,728)
All Other	\$0	(\$20,000)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$270,728)</u>

**Office of Innovation Z333**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager III position, one Education Specialist III position and funding for All Other costs related to the early learning team from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(2.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$286,481)
All Other	\$0	(\$50,000)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$336,481)</u>

**Office of Innovation Z333**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, 5 Interdisciplinary Instruction Specialist positions and All Other funding for the interdisciplinary instruction team from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(6.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$748,456)
All Other	\$0	(\$82,720)

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$831,176)
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**Office of Innovation Z333**

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager III position and related All Other costs from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund. This initiative also transfers one Education Specialist III position and one Office Specialist I position and related All Other costs from the Office of Innovation program to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program within the same fund.

	2023-24	2024-25
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(2.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$199,908)
All Other	\$0	(\$18,860)

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$218,768)
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**Office of Innovation Z333**

Initiative: Provides funding for the proposed reorganization of one Public Service Executive II position from range 35 to range 38.

	2023-24	2024-25
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,640

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$9,640
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**Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334**

Initiative: Transfers 3 Education Specialist III positions, one Public Service Manager I position and All Other funding for career and technical education from the Learning Systems Team program to the Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways program within the same fund.

	2023-24	2024-25
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$499,628
All Other	\$0	\$6,739,502

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,239,130
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**Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334**

Initiative: Transfers funding for the George Briggs fund from the Learning Systems Team program to the Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways program within the same fund.

	2023-24	2024-25
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>		
All Other	\$0	\$54,640

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$54,640
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**Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334**

Initiative: Allocates funds to provide career exploration services targeted to high school students.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,500,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

**Preschool Special Education Z399**

Initiative: Provides funding to establish the Preschool Special Education program supporting special education and related services for preschool children 3 to 5 years of age.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$9,000,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

**School and Student Supports Z270**

Initiative: Transfers funding for restorative practices from the School and Student Supports program to the Maine School Safety Center program to align funding with the appropriate program.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	(\$700,000)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$700,000)</u>

**School and Student Supports Z270**

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one State Education Representative position from 100% Federal Block Grant Fund to 70% Federal Block Grant Fund and 30% General Fund within the same program and reallocates the cost of one State Education Representative position from 88% Federal Block Grant Fund and 12% Federal Expenditures Fund to 70% Federal Block Grant Fund, 12% Federal Expenditures Fund and 18% General Fund within the same program. This initiative also reduces related All Other costs.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$61,459
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$61,459</u>

<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	(\$61,459)
All Other	\$0	(\$29,437)
<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$90,896)</u>

**School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Provides funding for the federal Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,049,886



FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,049,886
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**School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Provides funding for the federal Farm to School grant.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$698,955

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$0	\$698,955
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**School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Specialist I position to a Management Analyst II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,437
All Other	\$0	\$268

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$9,705
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**School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Associate II position to a Management Analyst II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,247
All Other	\$0	\$234

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,481
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**School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Specialist I position to a Management Analyst II position, retroactive to August 31, 2022.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,300

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,300
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**School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Associate II position to a Management Analyst II position.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,313

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,313
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**Special Services Team Z080**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Executive II position from range 34 to range 35.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,364
All Other	\$0	\$180
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$6,544</u>

**Special Services Team Z080**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Executive II position from range 34 to range 35, retroactive to July 18, 2022.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,969
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,969</u>

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$38,889,743</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,679,833</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12,529,927</b>
<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$90,896)</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$698,955</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$60,707,562</b></u>

**Housing Subsidy Program for Homeless Students N432**

Initiative: Allocates one-time funding for housing subsidies for homeless students in elementary school and secondary school.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

## PART C

**Sec. C-1. Mill expectation.** The mill expectation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671-A for fiscal year 2024-25 is 6.62.

**Sec. C-2. Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.** The total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2024-25 is as follows:

	<b>2024-25 TOTAL</b>
<b>Total Operating Allocation</b>	
Total operating allocation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683	\$1,595,190,789
Total operating allocation for public charter schools pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-B	\$32,873,939
Total adjustments to state subsidy pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689 included in subsidizable costs and total other subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15681-A	\$657,222,713
<b>Total Operating Allocation and Subsidizable Costs</b>	
Total operating allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683 and total other subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15681-A	\$2,285,287,441
<b>Total Debt Service Allocation</b>	
Total debt service allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683-A	\$112,200,409
<b>Total Adjustments and Targeted Education Funds</b>	
Adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689	
Audit adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 4	\$225,000
Educating students in long-term drug treatment center adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 5	\$249,607
Minimum teacher salary adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 7-A	\$0

Regionalization, consolidation and efficiency assistance adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 9	\$6,012,077
MaineCare seed payments adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 14	\$1,334,776
Special education budgetary hardship adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 15	\$500,000
English learner budgetary hardship adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 16	\$500,000
Total adjustments to the state share of the total allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689	\$8,821,460
Targeted education funds pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A	
Special education costs for state agency clients pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 1	\$28,398,550
Essential programs and services components contract pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 3	\$250,000
Data management and support services for essential programs and services pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 10	\$11,000,000
Postsecondary course payments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 11	\$5,500,000
National board certification salary supplement pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 12	\$0
Learning through technology program pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 12-A	\$9,000,000
Jobs for Maine's Graduates including college pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 13	\$3,881,379
Maine School of Science and Mathematics pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 14	\$3,615,347

Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 15	\$9,758,979
Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2024-25 pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, not including normal retirement costs	\$2,555,208,466
Total normal cost of teacher retirement	\$66,734,161
Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2024-25 pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, including normal retirement costs	\$2,621,942,627
Total cost of state contribution to unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance for fiscal year 2024-25 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423, excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement	\$274,089,573
Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, plus state contributions to the unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance for fiscal year 2024-25 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423	\$2,896,032,200

**Sec. C-3. Local and state contributions to total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.** The local contribution and the state contribution appropriation provided for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 is calculated as follows:

	<b>2024-25 LOCAL</b>	<b>2024-25 STATE</b>
<b>Local and State Contributions to the Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12</b>		
Local and state contributions to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683, subject to statewide distributions required by law	\$1,179,874,182	\$1,442,068,445

Transportation administration pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 16	\$521,035
Special education for juvenile offenders pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 17	\$407,999
Comprehensive early college programs funding (bridge year program) pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 23	\$1,000,000
Community schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 25	\$250,000
Musical instruments and professional development in rural schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 28	\$50,000
Total targeted education funds pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A	\$73,633,289
Enhancing student performance and opportunity pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A	
Career and technical education costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 1	\$72,215,867
College transitions programs through adult education college readiness programs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 2	\$450,000
National industry standards for career and technical education pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 6	\$2,000,000
Career and technical education middle school project program pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 8	\$500,000
Career and technical education early childhood education program expansion support pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 10	\$100,000
Total enhancing student performance and opportunity pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A	\$75,265,867

**Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12**

State contribution to the total cost of unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance for fiscal year 2024-25 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423 excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement \$274,089,573

State contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 plus state contribution to the total cost of unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423 \$1,716,158,018

**Sec. C-4. Authorization of payments.** If the State's continued obligation for any individual component contained in those sections of this Part that set the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state contributions for that purpose exceeds the level of funding provided for that component, any unexpended balances occurring in other programs may be applied to avoid proration of payments for any individual component. Any unexpended balances from this Part may not lapse but must be carried forward for the same purpose.

**Sec. C-5. Limit of State's obligation.** Those sections of this Part that set the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state contributions for that purpose may not be construed to require the State to provide payments that exceed the appropriation of funds for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

**PART D**

**Sec. D-1. PL 2023, c. 3, Pt. C, §5 is amended to read:**

**Sec. C-5. Continuation of limited-period positions.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, limited-period positions funded with the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, "An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds," may be extended beyond 2 years by financial order but not later than June 30, 2025 December 31, 2026.

**Sec. D-2. Adjustments to allocations.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 746 or any other provision of law to the contrary, Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds allocated to departments, agencies and programs may be adjusted in fiscal years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 either within the same department or agency or between departments or agencies on recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall report any adjustments to allocations made

pursuant to this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs at least quarterly.

**Sec. D-3. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Executive Branch Departments and Independent Agencies - Statewide program.**

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Executive Branch Departments and Independent Agencies - Statewide program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time funding to support Personal Services costs necessary to complete projects initially funded with funds received through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**Sec. D-4. Calculation and transfer.** The State Budget Officer shall calculate the cost of extending positions necessary to complete authorized projects initially funded with funds received through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The State Budget Officer shall transfer the amounts by financial order upon the approval of the Governor. These transfers are considered adjustments to allocations in fiscal year 2023-24, 2024-25 or 2025-26.

**Sec. D-5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Executive Branch Departments and Independent Agencies - Statewide 0017**

Initiative: Allocates one-time funding to support positions necessary to complete projects initially funded with funds received through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,000,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

**Sec. D-6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002**

Initiative: Adjusts funding by decreasing General Fund appropriations and increasing Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds in the Revenue Services, Bureau of program to allow for the expenditure of federal funds in a manner consistent with United States Department of the Treasury guidance. Federal funding is available from the allocation provided to the department in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, Part Y.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	(\$5,000,000)
All Other	\$0	(\$5,000,000)
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$10,000,000)</u>



## PART G

Sec. G-1. 20-A MRSA §4016 is enacted to read:

### **§4016. Minimum hourly wage for educational technicians and other school support staff**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Educational technician" has the same meaning as in section 13001-A, subsection 8.

B. "Other school support staff" means a public school employee who is not an educational technician and who is paid on an hourly basis.

**2. Minimum hourly wage.** Except as provided in subsection 3, for the school year starting after June 30, 2025 and for each subsequent school year, the minimum hourly wage for educational technicians is equal to 125% of the minimum hourly wage established in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1 and the minimum hourly wage for other school support staff is equal to 115% of the minimum hourly wage established in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1.

**3. Wage increases.** If, pursuant to the requirements of Title 26, section 664, subsection 1, the minimum hourly wage is increased on January 1st of any year, the minimum hourly wage for educational technicians and other school support staff is increased beginning July 1st of the same year in an amount equal to 125% of the increased minimum hourly wage under Title 26, section 664, subsection 1 for educational technicians and in an amount equal to 115% of the increased minimum hourly wage under Title 26, section 664, subsection 1 for other school support staff.

Sec. G-2. 20-A MRSA §15677, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 504, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

B. For fiscal year 2006-07 and each subsequent year until fiscal year 2025-26, the commissioner shall update the previous year's salary matrix to reflect appropriate trends in the Consumer Price Index or other comparable index.

Sec. G-3. 20-A MRSA §15677, sub-§2, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. For fiscal year 2025-26 and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner shall update the previous year's salary matrix to reflect appropriate trends in the Consumer Price Index or other comparable index and to reflect any increase in the minimum hourly wage of educational technicians and other school support staff in accordance with section 4016, subsection 3.

**Sec. G-4. Incorporation into essential programs and services.** The Department of Education shall incorporate the minimum hourly wage under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4016 into the essential programs and services funding model under Title 20-A, chapter 606-B.

**Sec. G-5. State contribution.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, for the 2025-2026 school year only, the State shall provide 100% of the additional funding necessary to achieve the minimum hourly wage for educational technicians and other school support staff established under Title 20-A, section 4016.

## PART U

**Sec. U-1. 5 MRSA §3003-A**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 279, §2, is amended to read:

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### **§3003-A. Educator interchange program; period of assignment**

The period of an individual assignment of an educator under an interchange program, authorized under section 3003, between the educator's school administrative unit as the sending agency and the Department of Education as the receiving agency may not exceed 24 months nor may any educator be assigned under such an interchange program for more than 24 months during any 36-month period 36 months. For the purposes of this section, "educator" means a teacher, principal or other education professional employed by a school administrative unit.

## PART W

**Sec. W-1. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

**1. Agency.** "Agency" means an a public, quasi-governmental or private agency, school, organization, facility or institution.

**Sec. W-2. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. OO, §1, is further amended to read:

**1-A. Child Development Services System.** "Child Development Services System" means the state intermediate educational unit under section 7209, subsection 3, and any regional sites it chooses to establish and maintain, to ensure the provision of child find activities, early intervention services and, when designated by the commissioner, free, appropriate public education services to eligible children.

**Sec. W-3. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§1-D** is enacted to read:

**1-D. Child eligible under Part B, Section 619.** "Child eligible under Part B, Section 619" means a child who is at least 3 years of age and under 6 years of age who has not entered kindergarten and who requires special education and related services in order to access a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

**Sec. W-4. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§2-D** is enacted to read:

**2-D. Individualized family service plan.** "Individualized family service plan" means a plan to provide early intervention services in accordance with Part C to an infant or toddler with a disability or to the infant's or toddler's family in the natural setting.

**Sec. W-5. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§2-E** is enacted to read:

**2-E. Natural setting.** "Natural setting" means the home, child care or other community setting of the infant or toddler with a disability. "Natural setting" does not include a preschool setting.

**Sec. W-6. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

**3-A. Part B, Section 619.** "Part B, Section 619" means Part B, Section 619 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq.

**Sec. W-7. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§3-B** is enacted to read:

**3-B. Part C.** "Part C" means Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq. under which early intervention services are provided in the natural setting for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

**Sec. W-8. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§3-C** is enacted to read:

**3-C. Extended Part C option.** "Extended Part C option" means the option under Part C that allows the family of a child eligible under Part B, Section 619 to continue early intervention programming on or after the child's 3rd birthday by remaining in the natural setting and continuing to receive services through an individualized family service plan.

**Sec. W-9. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§4-C** is enacted to read:

**4-C. Regional support and service hub.** "Regional support and service hub" means a support and service hub established by the Child Development Services System in accordance with section 7211.

**Sec. W-10. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§6-A** is enacted to read:

**6-A. State intermediate educational unit.** "State intermediate educational unit" means the Child Development Services System under subsection 1-A.

to read:

**§7006. Responsibility**

The Department of Education is designated as the state education agency responsible for carrying out the State's obligations under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq., as amended. The department and every school administrative unit, intermediate educational unit, public school or other public agency that receives federal or state funds to provide early intervention or free, appropriate public education services to children with disabilities shall comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended, and all federal regulations adopted under the Act.

**1. Responsibility for Part C.** The commissioner shall designate responsibility for ensuring child find activities and early intervention services under Part C for children from birth until 3 years of age, or until the start of the school year in which the child is 4 years of age if the extended Part C option is selected by the family of the child, to the Child Development Services System.

**2. Responsibility for Part B, Section 619.** Until June 30, 2028, the commissioner shall designate responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 to the Child Development Services System or to school administrative units in accordance with the transition schedule and supports under section 7209-A. Beginning July 1, 2028, the commissioner shall designate responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 to school administrative units.

**3. Service provision.** A school administrative unit that has been designated to have responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to subsection 2 may directly provide special education and related services to children eligible under Part B, Section 619 and may contract with public and private providers to provide special education and related services. A school administrative unit may also access the school administrative unit's regional support and service hub to provide certain services as delineated in a memorandum of understanding between the department and the school administrative unit.

**4. Exception.** Notwithstanding subsection 2, if the commissioner determines that a school administrative unit is unable to assume responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to subsection 2, the commissioner may establish a modified plan for that school administrative unit in managing those children.

**5. Annual report.** The department shall report annually by March 1st to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report must include, for school administrative units, each of the components required of the Child Development Services System pursuant to section 7209, subsection 4, paragraph E. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the session of the Legislature in which the report is received.

Sec. W-12. 20-A MRSA §7209, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. OO, §4, is further amended to read:

**3. State intermediate educational unit establishment; administrative functions.**

The commissioner shall establish and supervise the state intermediate educational unit. The state intermediate educational unit is established as a body corporate and politic and as a public instrumentality of the State for the purpose of conducting child find activities as provided in 20 United States Code, Section 1412 (a) (3) for children from birth to under 6 years of age, and ensuring the provision of early intervention services for eligible children from birth to under 3 years of age and ensuring for eligible children until the start of the school year when they are 4 years of age if the extended Part C option is selected by the child's family. The state intermediate educational unit shall also ensure a free, appropriate public education for eligible children at least 3 years of age and under 6 years of age, where designated as the responsible agency by the commissioner. The state intermediate educational unit shall perform the following statewide coordination and administration functions:

A. Establish standard policies and procedures for a statewide salary and benefits administration system, including personnel classifications, position descriptions and salary ranges, and a standard package of health, retirement and other fringe benefits for

Child Development Services System personnel, beginning in fiscal year 2006-07;

B. Develop a statewide salary and benefits administration system and perform the payroll functions for Child Development Services System personnel;

B-1. Bargain collectively under Title 26, chapter 9-A if the employees of the regional sites choose to be represented by an agent for purposes of collective bargaining. In such circumstances, the state intermediate educational unit must be considered the public employer for purposes of collective bargaining;

C. Establish a centralized system for statewide fiscal administration to be implemented by September 1, 2006. The state intermediate educational unit shall establish internal controls and implement accounting policies and procedures in accordance with standards set forth by the State Controller;

D. Develop and implement a centralized data management system to be fully operational beginning July 1, 2007;

E. Establish a standard, statewide template for regional site contracts with therapeutic service providers, including policies and procedures for the review of contracts, beginning in fiscal year 2006-07;

F. Refine program accountability standards for compliance with federal mandates, including the development of a performance review system to monitor and improve regional site performance through the use of efficiency ratings aligned with the accountability standards and through a compliance plan that requires the regional site to address the unmet needs of eligible children in accordance with specific targets and time frames;

G. Design and implement a statewide plan to provide professional development and training to Child Development Services System personnel;

H. Employ professional and other personnel at the state level and at the regional sites, including those necessary to ensure the implementation of the centralized fiscal and data management systems. All state intermediate educational unit employees are employees for the purposes of the Maine Tort Claims Act; and

I. Enter into contracts, leases and agreements and any other instruments and arrangements that are necessary, incidental or convenient to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this chapter.

**Sec. W-13. 20-A MRSA §7209, sub-§3-A**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. AAAAAA, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

**3-A. State intermediate educational unit; program functions.** The state intermediate educational unit established pursuant to subsection 3, through a network of regional sites as appropriate, where designated by the commissioner, shall:

A. Engage in child find activities as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq.;

B. Engage in child count activities as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq.;

C. Engage in appropriate data collection, training, staff development and direct service provision to eligible children with disabilities, from birth to under 3 years of age or until the start of the school year when a child is 4 years of age if the extended Part C option is selected by the child's family, in accordance with Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq.;

D. Ensure that eligible children with disabilities, from birth to under 3 years of age, receive early intervention services, in accordance with the payment provisions established by the State;

E. Ensure that eligible children with disabilities, from 3 years of age to under 6 years of age, receive free, appropriate public education services and, when a local school administrative unit has assumed responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education, provide services to support school administrative units in carrying out that responsibility in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the department and the school administrative unit;

F. Coordinate with eligible families the development of individualized family service plans for children with disabilities from birth to 2 years of age or until the start of the school year when the child is 4 years of age if the extended Part C option is selected or, when designated by the commissioner, coordinate an individualized education program for a child 3 years of age to under 6 years of age;

G. Ensure that children from birth until 6 years of age who are referred to the Child

Development Services System also receive appropriate referrals for support outside of the system, including appropriate public and private programmatic resources, regardless of a child's eligibility for early intervention or free, appropriate public education; and

H. Engage in appropriate training and staff development for identification of and to provide intervention services for children with autism.

**Sec. W-14. 20-A MRSA §7209, sub-§4, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 338, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (6) to read:

(6) A description of current and emerging trends and challenges that are having an effect on or are expected to have an effect on costs, services or service delivery methods of the Child Development Services System; and

**Sec. W-15. 20-A MRSA §7209, sub-§4, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 338, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) Monthly actual and budgeted expenditures by funding source and by expenditure category for the prior month. and

**Sec. W-16. 20-A MRSA §7209, sub-§4, ¶G** is enacted to read:

G. To aid in the transition of responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment from the Child Development Services System to school administrative units pursuant to section 7209-A and to coordinate services to be provided through memoranda of understanding between the department and school administrative units in carrying out responsibilities under Part B, Section 619.

**Sec. W-17. 20-A MRSA §7209-A** is enacted to read:

**§7209-A. Transition of responsibility for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619**

In order to meet the requirement that, beginning July 1, 2028, all school administrative units are designated as responsible for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to section 7006, the following transition schedule and supports apply.

**1. Transition year one.** Beginning July 1, 2024, school administrative units may be approved by the commissioner to assume the responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619. The department shall approve readiness plans in accordance with subsection 8 and shall provide professional learning in working with young children and their families and technical support throughout the planning and implementation of the first year to assist school administrative units to prepare to meet the standards of the readiness plans. Funding must be provided to school administrative units on a quarterly basis in accordance with section 7303. Prior to a school administrative unit assuming responsibilities for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education, the department shall establish a memorandum of understanding with the school administrative unit to determine the services to be provided by the department and the regional support and service hub. The memorandum of understanding must be reviewed and updated in response to unanticipated needs each month. The department shall contract with a national expert to regularly monitor funding and programming and recommend changes to be considered as part of the transition year one activities.

**2. Additional transition years.** During the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years, the commissioner shall approve school administrative units in addition to those approved under subsection 1 to assume responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education. The department shall provide professional learning, funding and technical assistance in the same manner as provided to school administrative units in subsection 1.

**3. Additional time for certain school administrative units.** If the commissioner determines that a school administrative unit is not able to assume responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education by July 1, 2028 because the school administrative unit requires additional time and support in regions where related services and staffing are not available to support the transition, the commissioner shall provide that school administrative unit with necessary resources and an additional year to assume responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education. If the school administrative unit cannot assume responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education, as determined by the commissioner, the school administrative unit may qualify for a modified plan for managing

children eligible under Part B, Section 619 in accordance with section 7006, subsection 4.

**4. Service provision.** A school administrative unit that has assumed responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education may directly provide special education and related services to children eligible under Part B, Section 619, may contract with public and private providers to provide special education and related services and may access the school administrative unit's regional site or regional support and service hub to provide certain services as delineated in the memorandum of understanding between the school administrative unit and the department.

**5. Transition of Child Development Services System regional sites to regional support and service hubs.** When a school administrative unit is responsible for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education, the Child Development Services System site in that region shall transition to serve as a regional support and service hub to meet the requirements of section 7212 and to make necessary services and supports available in accordance with a memorandum of understanding developed between the department and the school administrative unit before the transition of responsibility occurs. The regional support and service hubs must be aligned with the 9 superintendent regions established by the statewide association of superintendents.

**6. Annual report.** Beginning March 1, 2025 and in each subsequent year of the transition phase in subsections 1 to 3, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report must include data and information regarding the number of school administrative units that have assumed responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education and progress on the implementation of the transition under this section. During the transition, this report must include the annual report requirements under section 7006, subsection 5. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the session of the Legislature in which the report is received.

**7. Due process and compensatory services; review.** The Child Development Services System is responsible for ensuring due process and shall pay 100% of costs for compensatory services for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 who have been underserved through the Child Development Services System. The Child Development Services System shall conduct a review of the files of children eligible under Part B, Section 619 to determine whether legally required special education and related services have been provided. The review must be conducted for children eligible under Part B, Section 619:

A. Who are entering kindergarten; and

B. For whom responsibility for a free, appropriate public education is being transferred to a school administrative unit. For children eligible under this subsection, the review must be conducted prior to the school administrative unit assuming responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education.

If legally required special education and related services have not been provided or have only partially been provided, the Child Development Services System shall schedule an individualized education program meeting to determine the compensatory services that are warranted and to develop a plan to provide necessary compensatory services.

**8. Readiness plans; assessment.** Before a school administrative unit may be approved by the commissioner to assume the responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619, the department shall assess the school administrative unit's readiness plan. The school administrative unit's readiness plan must include, but is not limited to:

A. The requirements for basic approval standards for public preschool programs established by applicable department rule;

B. Whether the school administrative unit has an existing public preschool program and, if so, whether the school administrative unit has plans to expand that program;

C. Prior, ongoing and future professional development on early learning and development and best practices for district administrators, leadership, staff and educators;

D. Assurance of providing special education and related services in the least restrictive environment; and

E. A preschool enrollment policy, if any.

**9. Parental advisory committees.** The Child Development Services System may establish parental advisory committees at each of the 9 regional support and service hubs.

A. The majority of each of the parental advisory committee's membership must be

parents. The rest of the membership of the parental advisory committees must reflect representatives from the regional support and service hubs, school administrative units and statewide associations dedicated to assisting parents and families of persons with disabilities. Members of the parental advisory committees are not entitled to compensation.

B. The parental advisory committees shall seek input and feedback, to the greatest extent possible and from a broad array of parents from diverse geographic regions of the State, on the implementation of child find activities and the provision of special education and related services to children eligible under Part B, Section 619. The Child Development Services System shall assist the parental advisory committees in establishing a method for parents to communicate directly with the parental advisory committees to provide feedback.

Beginning March 1, 2025 and annually thereafter, the Child Development Services System shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters, which must include, but is not limited to, the number of parental advisory committees that have been formed, how often they met during the prior year and the number of individuals who have participated. The report may also include findings and recommendations from the parental advisory committees regarding the implementation of child find activities and the provision of free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the session of the Legislature in which the report was received.

**10. Coordination.** The department shall designate an individual to coordinate the concurrent transition of responsibility for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 and for children participating in universal public-preschool consistent with the goals outlined in section 4501. This individual shall facilitate coordination and outreach to increase public-preschool partnerships and shall assist in the coordination of the regional support and service hubs that support the transition of the responsibility for ensuring a free, appropriate public education to school administrative units. This individual shall support school administrative units in contracting with public or private providers and with Child Development Services System regional sites to ensure the provision of a free, appropriate public education for any preschool-aged child.

**Sec. W-18. 20-A MRSA §7211** is enacted to read:

**§7211. Regional support and service hubs**

The Child Development Services System shall establish 9 regional support and service hubs that are aligned with each of the 9 superintendent regions established by the statewide association of superintendents. The regional support and service hubs shall provide supports and resources to school administrative units that have assumed the responsibility for child find activities and for providing a free, appropriate public education to children eligible under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 and other high quality early childhood programs partnering with or otherwise contracted by a school administrative unit to fulfill the school administrative unit's responsibilities under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 as determined through memoranda of understanding between the department and the school administrative unit.

**1. Minimum requirements.** Each regional support and service hub shall, at a minimum, offer the following supports, assistance and resources to the school administrative units within the superintendent region to which the regional support and service hub is aligned:

A. Assistance with child find activities;

B. Training and other professional development opportunities and technical assistance with the implementation of developmentally appropriate practices for young children, including, but not limited to, curriculum, screening and assessment selections aligned with the State's early learning developmental standards, understanding of and requirements to meet free, appropriate public education and least restrictive environment standards and best practices for inclusive learning;

C. Assistance with establishing and strengthening community partnerships with existing inclusive, high-quality early childhood programs to help school administrative units meet federal obligations under Part B, Section 619. High-quality early childhood programs include, but are not limited to, Head Start programs, private prekindergarten

and child care programs and other community-based programs;

D. Assistance with locating transportation services;

E. Assistance with administrative tasks associated with the assumption of responsibility for a free, appropriate public education under Part B, Section 619; and

F. Maintenance and coordination of access to credentialed educators and service providers who are available to school administrative units on a contractual basis, including, but not limited to, supportive educational technicians; speech, occupational and physical therapists; assistive technology experts; and board-certified behavioral experts.

**2. Guiding principles.** In providing supports and resources to school administrative units that have assumed the responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education to children eligible under Part B, Section 619 in the least restrictive environment, the regional support and service hubs shall:

A. Ensure that parents of children eligible under Part B, Section 619 are recognized as collaborative partners, experts and decision makers;

B. Provide written information to parents of children eligible under Part B, Section 619 that includes, but is not limited to, information regarding regional and local services and service providers; other early childhood resources, such as child care providers; Head Start programs; community-based approaches to improving access to quality early care and education; resources available through the department and the Department of Health and Human Services; and other community partners and resources. Such information must also be made available on any publicly accessible website associated with the Child Development Services System or the regional support and service hubs;

C. Emphasize federal and state requirements regarding inclusion and least restrictive environments;

D. Encourage coordination with community partnerships to maximize resources and provide comprehensive services to meet the needs of children;

E. Support and encourage the use of evidence-based supports, including, but not limited to, behavior analysts and assistive technology;

F. Support and encourage the use of a strength-based approach in the support and provision of services to children eligible under Part B, Section 619;

G. Facilitate parental support groups and provide resources for parents dealing with bullying, difficult family dynamics and behavioral challenges; and

H. Convene and assist the parental advisory committees under section 7209-A, subsection 9.

**Sec. W-19. 20-A MRSA §7303** is enacted to read:

**§7303. Per-pupil rate for children eligible under Part B, Section 619**

Funding for school administrative units that assume responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 may not be appropriated to or allocated through general purpose aid for local schools and must be provided at 100% state share. This funding must be calculated by the commissioner as follows.

**1. Per-pupil operating allocation.** The per-pupil operating allocation for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 must be calculated on a per-pupil basis in the same manner by which operating allocations are generated in sections 15674, 15675 and 15681.

**2. Preschool special education and related services allocation.** The preschool special education and related services per-pupil allocation must be calculated annually for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 at the EPS per-pupil rate for each school administrative unit under section 15676, multiplied by 1.5, for each eligible resident student. This allocation must be paid at the start of each quarter, based on the estimated student count on July 1st and adjusted to reflect actual counts on October 1st, with additional adjustments in subsequent quarters.

**3. High-cost placements.** A separate allocation must be determined for high-cost special education placements for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 in accordance with this subsection.

A. For high-cost, in-district placements, additional funds must be allocated for each student estimated to cost more than 2 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate. The additional funds for each student must equal the amount by which that student's estimated costs exceed 2 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate.



B. For private school placements, additional funds must be allocated for each student estimated to cost 4 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate. The additional funds for each student must equal the amount by which that student's estimated costs exceed 4 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate.

C. For public school, out-of-district placements, additional funds must be allocated for each student estimated to cost 3 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate. The additional funds for each student must equal the amount by which that student's estimated costs exceed 3 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate.

D. For public regional special education program placements, additional funds must be allocated for each student estimated to cost 2 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate. The additional funds for each student must equal the amount by which that student's estimated costs exceed 2 times the statewide special education preschool per-pupil rate.

**Sec. W-20. 20-A MRSA §7304** is enacted to read:

**§7304. Preschool Special Education Program Fund**

**1. Fund established.** The Preschool Special Education Program Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund within the department to provide funding for general education and special education and related services for children eligible under Part B, Section 619. The department shall distribute funds through a quarterly allocation.

**2. Eligibility requirements.** Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, school administrative units that have assumed responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 are eligible to receive allocations from the fund.

**3. Purposes.** Allocations from the fund may be made to school administrative units that have assumed the responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for special education and related services pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 as outlined in each child's individualized education program and for general education costs for children eligible under Part B, Section 619.

**Sec. W-21. 20-A MRSA §7305** is enacted to read:

**§7305. MaineCare billing system**

The department shall establish a centralized MaineCare billing system to bill for eligible services for children eligible under Part B, Section 619. School administrative units may opt out of participation in the centralized MaineCare billing system.

**Sec. W-22. Expanded Part C eligibility criteria.** The Department of Education shall convene a work group to review and recommend expansion of the State's eligibility criteria under Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq. and submit a report including findings, recommendations and suggested legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than March 1, 2025. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

**Sec. W-23. Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules regarding school-related services.** No later than December 31, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services shall, within existing resources, amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual to establish a new section containing the requirements for the provision of school-related services.

**Sec. W-24. Department of Education to disseminate information on Maine Public Employees Retirement System retirement.** The Department of Education shall collaborate with the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to develop and disseminate guidance for school administrative units, child development services and child development services employees regarding the capacity of school administrative units to participate in the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan and the potential impacts on social security benefits of teacher plan participation or participating local district plan participation for potential school administrative unit employees. School administrative units and the Child Development Services System regional sites and support and service hubs shall, to the maximum extent possible, include this information on their publicly accessible websites.

**Sec. W-25. Department of Education to review Child Development**

**Services System reporting requirements.** The Department of Education shall review the legislative reporting requirements related to the Child Development Services System and submit a report, no later than March 1, 2025, including findings, recommendations and suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over education matters on reporting requirements that must continue for child development services and revised reporting requirements for the department as school administrative units assume responsibility for child find activities and free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq. pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7006, subsection 2. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

**Sec. W-26. Early childhood special education pathways pilot project.** The Department of Education shall establish the early childhood special education pathways pilot project as a one-time accelerated graduate program developed around early childhood education to support teachers in obtaining in a master's degree and to provide reimbursement for coursework and support in obtaining an endorsement on a professional teacher certificate for teachers of children from birth to 5 years of age with disabilities. The program must be designed to accommodate 50 participants.

## **PART X**

### **Sec. X-1. Rename Facilities, Safety and Transportation program.**

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Facilities, Safety and Transportation program within the Department of Education is renamed the School Facilities program.

## **PART Y**

**Sec. Y-1. 20-A MRSA c. 312-A**, as amended, is repealed.

## **PART Z**

**Sec. Z-1. 20-A MRSA §7207-B, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

**5. Individualized education program due process facilitators; immunity.** The State may contract with individualized education program due process facilitators. For the purposes of the Maine Tort Claims Act, while carrying out their official duties pursuant to this section, persons contracted with as individualized education program due process facilitators are considered state employees and are entitled to the immunity provided state employees under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

**Sec. Z-2. 20-A MRSA §13025, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

**7. Certification hearing officers; immunity.** The commissioner shall appoint a certification hearing officer for covered investigations. For the purposes of this section, while carrying out their official duties, certification hearing officers appointed pursuant to this subsection are considered state employees and are entitled to the immunity provided state employees under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

## **PART AA**

### **Sec. AA-1. Regional and other school construction projects.**

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2024-25 only, if the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account has an unexpended fund balance, the Commissioner of Education may provide a grant opportunity of up to \$400,000 for a regional high school construction project involving School Administrative District 4 in Guilford, School Administrative District 41 in Milo and School Administrative District 46 in Dexter. The Commissioner of Education may provide a grant opportunity of up to \$480,000 for construction projects involving an elementary school in School Administrative Unit 17 in West Paris and other schools that have experienced sudden closures for health and safety reasons. A grant opportunity provided pursuant to this section must require matching funds and may cover certain preconstruction and preregionalization expenses, including site selection, engineering and architectural design and any required environmental tests, when these costs would threaten the viability of a construction or regionalization project involving more than one school administrative unit.

## PART BB

**Sec. BB-1. 20-A MRSA §10017** is enacted to read:

### **§10017. Higher Education Administrative Fund**

The Higher Education Administrative Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to receive participation fees from institutions of higher education for applications for membership or membership renewal in the interstate reciprocity agreement authorized under section 405, subsection 3, paragraph W. Funds deposited in the fund must be used to support the department's facilitation of the interstate reciprocity agreement and for other department costs associated with the administration of higher education in the State.

## PART CC

**Sec. CC-1. Intermediate payments.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and prior to the implementation of the funding formula to provide appropriate daily tuition rates in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7302, subsection 2, paragraph G, the Department of Education and the Child Development Services System shall assist in maintaining education programming at special purpose private preschools by providing intermediate payments for specially designed instruction provided by each special purpose private preschool at a rate of \$125 per day, per child receiving medically necessary therapeutic services through the MaineCare program for scheduled school days in accordance with a child's individualized education program. The Department of Education and the Child Development Services System shall make the payments for specially designed instruction provided by special purpose private preschools from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

### **Sec. CC-2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Education, Child Development Services program.**

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$11,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Education, Child Development Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to fund the payments of the daily tuition rate for special purpose private preschools or, if the funding formula to provide appropriate daily tuition rates pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7302, subsection 2, paragraph G has not been implemented, to fund the intermediate payments pursuant to section 1 from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

**Sec. CC-3. Report.** No later than September 30, 2024, the Department of Education shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the development of the funding formula for daily tuition rates under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7302, subsection 2, paragraph G.

## PART FF

**Sec. FF-1. 5 MRSA §3110** is enacted to read:

### **§3110. Office of New Americans**

**1. Establishment; purpose; administration.** The Office of New Americans is established within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future for the purpose of improving the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities to strengthen the economy over the long term. The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall administer the Office of New Americans.

**2. Director; duties.** The director of the Office of New Americans shall fulfill the duties and activities listed in this section:

- A. Hiring professional personnel competent by education, training and experience to carry out the work of the Office of New Americans;
- B. Supervising and administering the affairs of the Office of New Americans;
- C. Determining the necessary budget for the Office of New Americans; and
- D. Reporting on the activities of the Office of New Americans.

**3. Duties of the Office of New Americans.** Under the supervision of the director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the director of the Office of New Americans, and with guidance from the Office of New Americans Advisory Council established in section 3111, the Office of New Americans shall identify and address needs,

barriers and opportunities in order to support the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State by:

- A. Collecting and analyzing relevant data;
- B. Coordinating with all relevant local, state and federal government agencies;
- C. Serving as the State's primary liaison with all relevant external stakeholders; and
- D. Undertaking and promoting activities that improve the economic and civic

integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities.

**4. Activities.** The Office of New Americans shall undertake and promote activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Strengthening workforce opportunities by providing guidance and promoting improved pathways for professional accreditation and licensure, supporting enhanced career pathways and engaging with businesses to increase employment, retention and advancement of immigrant employees;
- B. Expanding, improving and increasing access to English language learning programs;
- C. Strengthening financial literacy programs, financial education and entrepreneurship supports to assist individuals, immigrant entrepreneurs and small business owners;
- D. Supporting the expansion of access to legal services and protections;
- E. Partnering with and supporting municipalities, school administrative units, educational institutions, community-based organizations and businesses providing assistance or opportunities to immigrants;
- F. Participating in the nationwide Office of New Americans State Network, or its successor network, to access information and best practices from other states;
- G. Collaborating with and providing guidance to agencies of State Government and the entity designated by the Federal Government to administer the State's refugee resettlement services in developing and executing policies that support the purpose of the Office of New Americans;
- H. Coordinating with and advising federal agencies and the State's congressional delegation on federal policies that support the purpose of the Office of New Americans;
- I. Advising the Governor and Legislature regarding any statutory, regulatory or other policies or practices that may be addressed to better support the purpose of the Office of New Americans; and
- J. Promoting greater understanding of the history of immigration in the State, the contributions and influence of immigrants in the State and how communities may support immigrants' integration into local civic and economic life.

**5. Rulemaking.** The Office of New Americans may adopt rules as necessary for the proper administration of this section and section 3111 pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Unless otherwise specified, rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**6. Report.** Beginning February 1, 2026, the Office of New Americans shall report biennially to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over relevant matters with information and recommendations relating to the work and needs of the Office of New Americans.

**Sec. FF-2. 5 MRSA §3111** is enacted to read:

**§3111. Office of New Americans Advisory Council**

The Office of New Americans Advisory Council, as established in section 12004-I, subsection 6-K, is created as an advisory council to the Office of New Americans established in section 3110 on matters affecting the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State.

**1. Duties of advisory council.** The advisory council shall advise the Office of New Americans on matters affecting the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State.

**2. Membership.** The advisory council consists of 24 members as follows:

- A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- C. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate representing the following:
  - (1) A school administrative unit;

- (2) An adult education program; and
- (3) A small business;
- D. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House representing the following:
  - (1) An organization providing refugee resettlement services;
  - (2) A provider of legal assistance to immigrants; and
  - (3) A municipality;
- E. At least 10 members who are immigrants, 8 appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
- F. Four members appointed by the Governor representing the following:
  - (1) A large business;
  - (2) A business or organization with demonstrated expertise in housing assistance or housing production;
  - (3) An organization with demonstrated expertise in workforce development; and
  - (4) An employer with demonstrated experience providing immigrant apprenticeship opportunities, support and training programs.

In making appointments of members to the advisory council, the appointing authorities shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the members of the advisory council reflect geographic, gender, ethnic and racial diversity.

**3. Terms of office; removal.** Legislative members of the advisory council serve a term not to exceed their term in office, except that a legislative member may be appointed for successive terms. Nonlegislative members serve 3-year terms and may be reappointed. A vacancy for an unexpired term must be filled in accordance with subsection 2. A member may serve until a replacement is appointed. The Governor may terminate the membership of any appointee for good cause. The reason for the termination must be communicated in writing to a member whose membership is terminated. The membership of any member must be terminated if the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without communicating good cause to a chair of the advisory council.

**4. Cochairs.** The Governor shall appoint 2 cochairs from among the members appointed and serving pursuant to subsection 2.

**5. Meetings; staffing.** The advisory council shall meet at the discretion of the cochairs. Meetings may be cancelled or postponed at the discretion of the cochairs. All meetings of the advisory council are public proceedings within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. The Office of New Americans shall provide staffing services as necessary to the advisory council.

**6. Compensation; expenses.** Members of the advisory council not otherwise compensated by their employer or the entity they represent for their time serving on the council may be compensated for their time and reimbursed for expenses, to the extent resources are available. The Office of New Americans shall determine the amount and manner of compensation and reimbursement for expenses.

**Sec. FF-3. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-K** is enacted to read:

**6-K.**

Economic Development

Office of New Americans Advisory Council	Compensation and Expenses as set by	5MRSA §3111
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the Office of New Americans

## PART CCC

### **Sec. CCC-1. Transfer to School Revolving Renovation Fund; Maine**

**Municipal Bond Bank.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$4,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the School Revolving Renovation Fund, established within the Maine Municipal Bond Bank by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-F, to support the renovation needs of school administrative units that have voluntarily assumed the free, appropriate public education for children 3 years of age to 5 years of age.

## PART JJJJ

**Sec. JJJJ-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Education Stabilization Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$30,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Education Stabilization Fund, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15698, on or before June 30, 2025.

## PART KKKK

**Sec. KKKK-1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 14** is enacted to read:

### SUBCHAPTER 14

#### SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

##### §4994-A. Subsidy program for homeless students

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. "Elementary school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 10.
- B. "Homeless student" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 13-A.
- C. "Secondary school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 32.

**2. Program established.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish a housing subsidy program for homeless students in elementary school and secondary school. The authority shall adopt rules to implement this program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. KKKK-2. Subsidy program development.** The Maine State Housing Authority, referred to in this section as "the authority," shall develop a rental subsidy program for homeless students in coordination with the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies or service providers as the authority determines appropriate. The authority shall consider ways in which the services provided by school-based housing navigators established by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act could benefit the administration of a rental subsidy program. The program must provide housing subsidies directly to homeless students or to an adult family member or guardian of the homeless student. In developing the program, the authority shall incorporate elements to provide housing subsidies to homeless students who have not attained 18 years of age who do not have adult family members or guardians to secure housing on their behalf. The authority shall report to the joint standing or joint select committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters on the progress of the program's development no later than January 15, 2025.

**Sec. KKKK-6. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; housing subsidy program for homeless students.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, housing subsidy program for homeless students, Other Special Revenue Funds account for housing subsidies for homeless students in elementary school and secondary school.

## PART QQQQ

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**Sec. QQQQ-1. Continuation of limited-period positions.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all limited-period positions throughout State Government that are scheduled to expire during June 2024, are already funded through the end of fiscal year 2023-24 and are proposed to continue in fiscal year 2024-25 are authorized to continue until August 1, 2024.