



## **MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

### **STATE OF MAINE**

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The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on February 12, 2026 at the Burton Cross State Office Building. The following members were present: Chair Paulette Bonneau; Vice Chair Thomas Keller; Victoria Cohen; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward; and Cedar Worster. Wendy Ault attended virtually via Zoom.

Absent with Excuse: Fern Desjardins; James Ford; and Abbey Hamilton

Others Present: Michael Perry, Director, Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, DOE; Robert Feinberg, Director of Communications and Government Relations, MSSA; Kristin Smith, Assistant Vice President, Northeastern University; Chris Mallet, Chief Administrative Officer, Northeastern University; Patricia Waters, Associate Professor of Education, Saint Joseph's College; and Mary Becker, State Board of Education Interim Office Specialist.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll call was taken by Mary Becker and Chair Bonneau declared a quorum present.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Read by board member, Cedar Worster: The vision of the Maine State Board of Education is that all students will receive a high-quality education leading to graduation with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be prepared for future learning, careers, and life.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No Public Comment.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chair Bonneau added one item to the agenda under Unfinished Business:

IX.A. Approval of the Language of Version 3 revision proposal to the Procedure for Handling Requests for Review of Superintendent Decisions on Student Transfer Requests

Chair Bonneau added one item to the agenda under New Business:  
X.D. Extension of Temporary Approval of Northeastern University

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

MOTION by Victoria Cohen, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the minutes of September 8, 2025, November 13, 2025, December 11, 2025, January 8, 2026 and January 20, 2026 as presented with amendments to the November 13, 2025 minutes.

**STUDENT TRANSFER APPEAL:**

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEAL: PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

Paulette Bonneau, Chair of the State Board, read a procedure for the Board when going into executive session to review requests for review of the Superintendents' decisions on student transfer requests. The Board will be considering requests for Board review of the Superintendents' decisions regarding requested transfers of students to another school district, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205(6)(F). The Board will go into executive session to consider the requests because each involves reviewing and discussing information contained in student records that are confidential under the federal law known as FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The parents and any attorney representing a parent are welcome to attend the executive session to discuss their particular student's transfer, as are the Superintendents of the school districts involved in that requested transfer.

The Board will review each transfer request in separate executive sessions. Today, the Board has one student transfer request. After the Board comes out of executive session, the Board will entertain a motion and take a vote on the disposition of the request in public session. The Board's role in these proceedings is to review the Superintendents' decisions based on the record that was before them at the time they made the decision. Although the statute directs the Board to "communicate with" the parties involved, which the Board has done, the Board cannot accept any new evidence pertaining to a transfer request that was not considered or not available in the record at the time of the Superintendents' decision.

The Board provides for public comment, which was explained earlier in the meeting. In the executive session the same rules apply for public comment and there will be a three-minute time limit for comment. This is not a time for debate or a time to

introduce new evidence. It is a time for families to highlight the things they want the Board to consider in the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and unanimously voted by those present for the Board to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, to discuss information contained in records that are confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Title 20 of the United States Code, section 1232g relating to a request from HB to review the Superintendents' decisions to approve or disapprove a request for a student transfer, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5205, subsection 6, paragraph F at 1:08 PM.

The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 1:25 PM.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Thomas Keller, and unanimously voted by those present, that it is in HB's best interest, given the information the State Board received, to approve the transfer. The transfer was approved.

#### **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

##### **Chair, Paulette Bonneau**

- Paulette started the year off with a relatively busy January. Mary Becker and she have worked diligently over the past months to process outstanding vouchers and invoices. If members submitted their vouchers, you should have received or will receive your reimbursements. We have caught up on our past minutes. Paulette thanked Tom Keller, for sharing a second set of eyes for editing, and thanked Fern Desjardins, for submitting the September 8th minutes.
- Chapter 115 is waiting for a hearing date. During January, various groups, such as MSMA, MEA, and MACTE, have been advocating their positions with the Education and Cultural Affairs.
- Paulette attended the MSMA conference on January 16th, when Assistant Superintendent, John Doty, Superintendent Moody, and Superintendent Perry highlighted the changes made to Chapter 115, including the portfolio option. The new Student Transfer Appeal forms were also shared and discussed with the superintendents.
- Paulette thanked board members for making time on their schedule to hold a special meeting to approve the Commissioner's budget. She knows everyone is busy, and she appreciates their flexibility.
- The hiring committee met on January 21st. Besides Tom Keller, Wendy Ault, and Paulette, the committee also includes Melissa Beecher, Chief of Operations, Matthew Vaughan, Resource Administrator, and Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta. The Committee reviewed candidate applications and scheduled initial interviews. They have asked for four to return for in-person interviews.

- On January 28th, Paulette met with Anni Gianni, State Relations Strategist, and Joel Moore, Director of State Relations. They are a resource for the Board that she thinks will be beneficial in the future. As a result of this meeting, they connected Paulette with a Massachusetts resource that works on policy development and implementation for middle school CTE programming.

**Vice Chair, Thomas Keller**

- Tom met with Jon Doty to discuss Chapter 115 proposed revisions.
- He met with Paulette and Laura Cyr on legislative process for Chapter 115 proposed revisions.
- Tom drove to Augusta to get color copies of Chapter 115 proposed revisions and the materials Laura Cyr prepared for the ECA Committee.
- He attended a special SBE meeting on January 20.
- He participated in interview proceedings for new Office Specialist.
- At the invitation of staff from the National Academy of Sciences, Mathematical Sciences Education Board, he participated in a discussion on a new study for grades 9-14 mathematics and how to gather input and feedback especially from policy makers like State Boards.
- Tom participated with Paulette in an agenda review meeting with Deputy Commissioner Chuhta.
- He monitored ECA committee activities especially as relates to LD 2175, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):***

With Fern Desjardins' absence, no report was given.

***Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):***

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on January 28, 2026.

Higher Education Update

- The committee discussed a request from St. Joseph's College of Maine for a one-year delay in program approval, which was approved unanimously by the committee. An exhibit is being prepared for the full Board's consideration at its February meeting.
- The committee discussed College of the Atlantic's request for a delay in their Educational Program Review (EPP) site visit, which was granted unanimously. Michael explained that College of the Atlantic is facing staffing changes and is taking on Sterling College students, which requires a potential expansion of their degree authorization. Michael will prepare an exhibit for the Board's February meeting.

- The committee discussed a draft of the annual EPP report. Denham added columns in the data table for number of program completers teaching in Maine, elsewhere, and not teaching.
- Regarding pertinent legislation, Michael reported on a bill (LD 2015) before the ECA Committee requiring districts to provide data on educator vacancies, which parallels the Regional Longitudinal Data Study's needs. This bill has already had a public hearing and a work session is scheduled for 1/29.

#### Certification Update

- Michael reported that December numbers were slightly down which is usual for this time of year. 2,020 applications were processed including 1 retired teacher and 228 initial teacher certifications. Processing times are approximately 3 weeks, again the usual.
- There were 877 CHRC violations reported in December. Michael reported that the CHRC violation reports of 877 is the lowest number in recent memory. While we had hoped that the new data management system to update MEIS and interface it with NEO would allow us to know if these are the same 800 each time, the RFP failed to attract a bidder. The project will be re-bid.
- Michael will prepare and provide a snapshot/report on Certification Violation reports for the next meeting.

#### TEAMe and EPP report

- Dr. Lane Clarke from the University of New England (UNE) provided the TEAMe and UNE update. Lane provided updates on EPP activities, including the piloting of Science of Reading modules in undergraduate programs by UNE this spring and other institutions this fall. EPPs are fully engaged with the Literacy Advisory Group.

#### Other Business

- Tom noted that LD 2175 had been posted; this is the bill pertaining to the revisions of Chapter 115. No date had yet been set for an ECA Committee public hearing.
- The committee also discussed the need to review and update various regulations, with Tom emphasizing that Chapter 114, which sets standards for teacher preparation, needs to be revised soon. At the next meeting, the committee should begin discussion on prioritization and planning for the review/revision of Chapter 114 and other relevant rules. The date of the next meeting - March 25 - was noted.

#### ***Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):***

The Career and Technical Education Committee met virtually via Zoom on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

- Melissa Sherwood, Perkins Grant Manager from DOE reports that there was an available balance of just under \$300,000 in the Briggs Trust.
- As far as Perkins Federal CTE Money is concerned, the Comprehensive Annual Report was due to the feds at the end of January with an extension to the end of

February for the fiscal report section, to allow adequate time for grant closeout and accurate reporting.

- Comprehensive Local Needs Assessments (CLNAs), which is a biennial Perkins requirement, were underway for secondary CTEs. This is a self-assessment which gives the schools an opportunity to identify challenges, successes, and action steps for the next two years.
- State CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported that their team has welcomed a Middle School CTE/Stakeholder Liaison to the group.
- A reminder that February is CTE Month and that the Department has been hosting a CTE event in the Hall of Flags which has welcomed secondary and post-secondary CTE students from across the state for events this week, including today, in the Hall of Flags.
- Bill Tracy, President of MACTE, the group representing Maine's CTE Administrators, said they are continuing to move forward with their capital campaign with the goal to grow MACTE, so it provides more opportunities for all CTE personnel in Maine. He said there are expanded regional meetings funded by MELMAC which are facilitated by the DOE CTE team and Educate Maine.
- Bill said MACTE has also been following closely Chapter 115 legislation with a lot of interest in the Portfolio Pathway processed. Also, legislation that would reduce the Number of students needed for funding a program which would benefit schools with a smaller number of students in their catchment areas. This is a measure the State Board has supported in the past.
- Mercedes Pour from the Community College System said there's been more integration of secondary and post-secondary CTE, e.g. For the first time Community College Students were invited to the Hal of Flags Event. The Community College System is interested in LD 2099, legislation that would update CTE language.
- The CTE directors attending the January meeting reported that they were in the midst of recruitment and budgeting seasons as well-as looking to hire new instructors for next year. Also, they are gearing up for this year's Skills USA competitions.
- Kate Howell from Educate ME said they have received great feedback about this year's symposium including for the State Board of Education's presentation explaining what the State Board does.
- Much of the CTE Committee meeting centered on a proposal from MACTE seeking Briggs funds for a Summit at Sugarloaf in July. While figures were still being solidified it would be around \$50,000 for this first summit with future annual Summits paid for through the organization's capital campaign. They are talking about bringing in around 75 to 100 participants for a day and half of sessions, including simultaneous workshops. They see this as an opportunity to bring CTE personnel together with businesses in the state and secondary and post-secondary partners. MACTE sees this as an important workforce and relationship building opportunity. The CTE Committee hopes to learn more information about the MACTE proposal to the State Board of Education for its consideration in the near future, as soon as next month.

- The CTE Committee finished its meeting approving and sending on to this Board the Second Quarter Perkins Grant report which the board will be considering later in this meeting.

***Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):***

The committee has not met formally.

- The Committee is not as busy this session as last session. However, members continue to communicate and are keeping an eye on bills, such as construction, Chapter 115, etc.
- The Supplemental budget is coming up next week. Paulette will testify on Friday, February 20 on LD 2212 - An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027.
- LD 2175 - Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education. The bill has been posted. A date has not been set for the public hearing.

***Student voices (Cedar Worster, Abbey Hamilton, and James Ford):***

The Student Voices Committee met on February 9, 2026

- Cedar Worster updated members on the Commissioner's Student Cabinet meetings held on January 14 and February 11.
- Cedar participated in the Martin Luther King Day event at Bates College. The Oxford Hills High School CARE Team is a student led organization that brings awareness to issues regarding equity and inclusion. Cedar and other students were on the front page of the Lewiston Sun Journal.
- Cedar reported that she submitted written testimony on LD 2052 – Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use
- Cedar will be participating with Vice Chair Tom Keller at the Teacher of the Year celebration at the end of February.
- Abbey is back from a UN Conference.
- Abbey wrote an op-ed piece that recently appeared in the Portland Press Herald newspaper.

***Student Membership (Edmond Morin):***

- The deadline for receiving Student Membership Applications is Friday, February 13, 2026. This year the Board is accepting applications from students who attend school in Maine's Second Congressional District.

- Members of the Student Membership Committee will be meeting to review applications received. The committee will select six applicants to interview.
- Of the six applicants interviewed, the committee will select 3 finalists and the names will go to Governor Mills to appoint a new student to serve on the Board for a two year term.

***Numeracy Advisory Council (Victoria Cohen):***

- Beth Lambert, Peter Lancia and Vicky met on January 12th to discuss logistics, share agendas, and finalize the first Council meeting.
- Both Councils met on January 16th from 11-12 pm in Augusta to hear from Kathy Bertini about the DOE initiatives in literacy and numeracy. Members then split into two different rooms for a quick brown-bag lunch and their own Council meetings from 12:30-2pm.
- The NAC spent time introducing themselves to each other, learning more about what each person is bringing to the Council in terms of experience and expertise. They discussed areas of devotion, and what they believe to be essentials to learn math. They created Council norms, and discussed logistics of future meetings. They created a list of questions to ask Beth Lambert, and decided on their “homework” for the next meetings: to read through the Numeracy Playbook and come with feedback.
- Beth and Vicky then met on January 23rd to discuss the NAC questions, which Beth answered and Vicky forwarded to the Council members.
- The NAC will meet on February 27th to discuss their feedback on the Numeracy Playbook.
- Vicky met with Beth Lambert, Justin Dimmel, and Mia Morrison on January 22nd to discuss ways UMaine Orono could get involved with the math initiatives and brainstormed for future events for pre- and in-service teachers.
- Vicky participated in meetings with the Math Specialist PLC, and the Maine Math Collaborative. The Elementary Math Community of Practice was supposed to meet in January, but that was rescheduled for the end of February.
- Vicky was invited to participate in a special talk by former NCTM president Gail Burrill at Orono. She met Joan Ferrini-Mundy at Governor Mills’ State of the State Address at the State House, saw her again at Burrill’s talk, and both times she expressed the interest in getting together to discuss how she could be involved in the Numeracy initiative.

***Charter Commission Representatives (Thomas Keller and James Ford):***

The Charter Commission met on February 11, 2026.

- Tom Keller reported that the Commission approved changes to the school performance framework that the Board received at the workshop session today.
- The Charter Commission reviewed their strategic plan and priorities.
- Continued intervention plans for two schools that they are monitoring.

- Talked about the presentation that the State Board received today from Lana Ewing, Executive Director of Maine Charter Schools.

***Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):***

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met briefly.

- The PSB are no where near a quorum to hold meetings.
- The Governor's Office has nominated new members. Deputy Commissioner Chuhta will follow up with the Governor's Office to encourage the process to move forward.
- The three people currently serving on the PSB are interested in continuing to serve the State Board in an advisory capacity.

***NASBE:***

***Executive Committee/Board of Directors/Finance & Audit Committee (Fern Desjardins):***

With Fern Desjardins' absence, no report was given.

**UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:**

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT DECISION ON STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted by those present to table version 3 proposal to the March 12, 2026 Board meeting with updated revisions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE MAINE CARL D. PERKINS GRANT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (P. L. 115-224).

As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support vocational and technical education, §122 of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224), requires a designated eligible agency in each State, which in Maine is the State Board of Education, to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The State Plan was approved by the Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education on May 22, 2020 and has been re-approved in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Further requirements are as follows:

SEC. 121. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ELIGIBLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of an eligible agency under this title shall include:

(3) convening and meeting as an eligible agency (consistent with State law and procedure for the conduct of such meetings) at such time as the eligible agency determines necessary to carry out the eligible agency's responsibilities under this title, but not less than 4 times annually;

The State Board of Education Chair has requested, in accordance with Title 20-A, Section 405, 7, that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) team submits a quarterly financial report to the Board and in response to this request we are submitting this report as the second report for FY2026.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education approve the Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

MOTION by Edmond Morin, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education For The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224).

REQUEST TO EXTEND EXISTING APPROVAL OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF MAINE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM BY TWELVE MONTHS

BACKGROUND: St. Joseph's College of Maine (SJCME) offers state-approved Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) which were last approved by the State Board of Education effective Spring 2022. The Board issued a two-year approval at that time, with a request for an interim report from the institution regarding recommendations from the state review team. SJCME submitted an interim report as requested, which was approved by the State Board in 2024 and confirmed that SJCME's EPPs would remain approved for the rest of their five-year review cycle.

On November 3, 2025, Patricia Waters, PhD, who serves as Education Department Chair and Associate Professor of Education at SJCME, indicated the institution's desire to request a one-year extension of their current EPP approval. Dr. Waters cited SJCME recently hiring two new full-time faculty and the 2025 completion of a "comprehensive review" of programs internally at SJCME. The extension request was then formed as follows:

*These developments reflect our sustained commitment to academic excellence, continuous improvement, and institutional accountability. Postponing the program review for one year will allow the [SJCME Education] department to effectively onboard new faculty and leverage their expertise to enhance program quality and ensure the continued delivery of rigorous, high-impact educator preparation.*

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that “requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education.”

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on January 28, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve St. Joseph’s College of Maine’s request to extend the existing approval of its educator preparation programs by twelve months, from Spring 2027 to Spring 2028.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and unanimously voted by those present that, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve St. Joseph’s College of Maine’s request to extend the existing approval of its educator preparation programs by twelve months, from Spring 2027 to Spring 2028.

#### REQUEST TO EXTEND EXISTING APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM BY TWELVE MONTHS

BACKGROUND: The College of the Atlantic (COA) offers state-approved Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) which were last approved by the State Board of Education effective Fall 2020; the review was conducted virtually at a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the review was finally conducted in Spring 2021, COA’s EPPs received full approval, with praise for the small program’s sustained success and unique niche within the state’s EPP community. Later, the Board approved an adjustment in COA’s subsequent review date to restore a five-year cadence between review visits.

On January 23, 2026, Linda Fuller, who serves as Director of Educational Studies at the College of the Atlantic, indicated the institution’s desire to request a further one-year extension of their current EPP approval. The request was made in light of several compounding factors:

- (1) COA’s lead Educational Studies faculty member retired in December 2025, and a search is ongoing to fill that staff position, with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2026, for the new faculty member.
- (2) COA’s Director of Educational Studies (Linda Fuller herself) is retiring on June 30, 2026.
- (3) COA will soon be engaged in a time-sensitive request to extend their bachelor’s degree authorization in Maine, a process that is most likely to produce a (potentially competing) State Board review. While this matter is unrelated to the institution’s EPP approval, the reviews would compete for administrative capacity at both the institution and the state.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that “requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education.”

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on January 28, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the College of the Atlantic’s request to extend the existing approval of its educator preparation programs by twelve months, from Fall 2026 to Fall 2027.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by those present that, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the College of the Atlantic’s request to extend the existing approval of its educator preparation programs by twelve months, from Fall 2026 to Fall 2027.

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY APPROVAL OF NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY,  
PURSUANT TO 20-A MRS §10703

BACKGROUND: Northeastern University is a private, non-profit institution of higher education founded in 1898 with a primary campus in Boston, Massachusetts. Northeastern presently operates 13 campuses across seven US states, Canada, and the United Kingdom and is accredited by the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE).

One of Northeastern University’s 13 campuses operates in Portland, Maine, under the name of the “Roux Institute”. Since their initial review by the State Board of Education, these Maine-based programs have been approved to operate in the state under the requirements of State Board of Education Rule Chapter 149 as an out-of-state institution with program approval in Maine.

In November 2025, Northeastern indicated its intent to transition its approval within Maine from the temporary, program-by-program approval track in Rule Chapter 149 toward degree-granting authorization. Such an authorization status would be more typical of an institution with a significant physical footprint in the state through which a large number of programs operate. It would also allow Northeastern to amend or introduce programs without triggering a new State Board review – so long as those programs are within degree levels at which Northeastern has been authorized by the state.

In January 2026, after receiving a report and recommendation from the Department of Education, the State Board, pursuant to 20-A MRS §10703, voted to grant

Northeastern University temporary degree-granting authorization through the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

The maximum length of a temporary approval is “the earlier of: the expiration of the academic year; or The applicant is authorized by the Legislature to grant degrees in accordance with section 10704.” (20-A MRS §10703 (1)). Temporary approval can then be extended or renewed “for not more than 2 years” beyond its initial temporary approval period (20-A MRS §10703 (2)).

Following the State Board of Education’s January 2026 vote, Northeastern University has requested a two-year extension of their temporary authorization to allow the institution time to navigate the process for achieving full degree-granting authorization in Maine.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to 20-A MRS §10703, the State Board of Education approve Northeastern University’s request for extension of temporary approval. Pursuant to 20-A MRS §10704, the temporary approval shall extend through the earlier of (1) the expiration of the 2027-28 academic year or (2) the granting of degree-granting authorization by an act of the Maine State Legislature.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Cohen, and unanimously voted by those present that, pursuant to 20-A MRS §10703, the State Board of Education approve Northeastern University’s request for extension of temporary approval. Pursuant to 20-A MRS §10704, the temporary approval shall extend through the earlier of (1) the expiration of the 2027-28 academic year or (2) the granting of degree-granting authorization by an act of the Maine State Legislature.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Submit expense account vouchers to Mary Becker by the 15<sup>th</sup> day following the month the expenses incurred.
- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The February 12, 2026 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Mary Becker, Interim Office Specialist  
State Board of Education