The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 507, “An Act to Establish Regional School Leadership Academies.”

This bill promotes one-off partnerships for regional solutions for Maine schools, which is the wrong approach. In the biennial budget, my administration has proposed an alternative framework for regional partnerships, called Maine School Management and Leadership Centers. These regional centers specifically allow the establishment of regional school leadership academies. Reducing barriers to regional partnerships is essential to enabling Maine school districts to realize efficiencies and expand access to opportunities for students.

By forming Maine School Management and Leadership Centers, districts will be able to partner for a menu of regional programs or services, including: accounting, payroll and financial management services and procurement; transportation, transportation routing and vehicle maintenance; reporting functions; special education programs and administration; gifted and talented programs and administration; alternative education programs and administration; substitute teachers and staff augmentation; technology and technology support; food service planning and purchasing; energy management and facilities maintenance; staff training and professional development; shared educational programs or staff; shared support service programs; educational programs such as summer school, extended school year, tutoring, advance placement and other programs that serve students and improve student achievement; shared extracurricular or co-curricular programs; and superintendent services; and regional school leadership academies.

Forming distinct regional partnerships for each and every function, service or program that districts would like to collaborate on imposes a significant barrier to partnership. While strong professional development opportunities for school leaders is important, I urge the legislature to favor the comprehensive solution that will enable greater efficiency and effectiveness for our school districts.

For these reasons, I return LD 507 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Paul R. LePage
Governor