

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1332

H.P. 867

House of Representatives, March 27, 2025

An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South
Portland, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, Senators: PIERCE of
Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §9924 is enacted to read:

§9924. Community Schools Success Fund

1. Fund established. The Community Schools Success Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to provide grants to community schools, local education providers and nonprofit organizations. The commissioner shall administer the fund to provide community schools with assistance with the following:

- A. Community needs audits and community schools resources assessment;
- B. Readiness plan assessments;
- C. New and ongoing sustainability efforts;
- D. Professional development and training; and
- E. Peer support and mentoring efforts.

For the purposes of this section, "local education provider" means a school administrative unit, a school located in an unorganized territory pursuant to chapter 119, a public charter school authorized pursuant to chapter 112 and a school or program established under Part 4, Subpart 2.

2. Grant recipients; supporting documentation. To receive a grant under this section, a potential recipient must be designated as a community school pursuant to section 9922 or must be a local education provider located in a school administrative unit with a community school or a nonprofit organization that supports community school programs. A potential recipient shall submit to the department a grant utilization plan that includes the scope of work that will be supported by the grant and a description of programs administered by the potential recipient that support community schools.

3. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of the fund, including eligibility standards for the awarding of grants from the fund under this section and rules for determining the allowable uses of grants by eligible recipients, which must include, but are not limited to, hiring or contracting, technical assistance, professional development and training and attending statewide training and conferences. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Community Schools Success Fund, a nonlapsing fund within the Department of Education, to provide grants to community schools, local education providers and nonprofit organizations to support community school programs.