

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

May 2026

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1. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 1: Teachers and Educational Specialists: General Certificates and Endorsements, the rule must be amended to add a new Section 1.19 establishing a Mathematics Specialist Certificate.
2. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the rule must be amended to establish grade level specifications of birth to school age five, preschool through grade 8 and grades 6 through 12.
3. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the rule must be amended to add a transitional pathway to allow holders of an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of kindergarten to earn an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of preschool and elementary grades without the need for additional coursework.
4. In the rule, any existing certificate or endorsement established for grades 7 through 12 must be amended to grades 6 through 12.

LD 2192 An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations

Public Law 2025, chapter 697 does the following.

1. It expands the definition of “covered investigation” of a school employee to include misconduct that is harassment as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 337-A; sexual assault as described in Title 17-A, chapter 11; stalking as described in Title 17-A, section 210-A; sexual exploitation of a minor as described in Title 17-A, chapter 12; or similar behavior that endangers the health, safety or welfare of a student or another school employee. The definition captures misconduct of all school employees and captures misconduct of a school employee against another school employee, as well as misconduct against students.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint of alleged misconduct, it requires a superintendent of a school entity to conduct a covered investigation. It provides that school entities must put anyone who is the subject of a covered investigation on paid leave, must complete covered investigations once they’ve begun, and superintendents must notify the Department of Education immediately of the outcome of a covered investigation.
3. Upon receipt of notification from a school entity of the initiation of a covered investigation of a school employee, it requires the Department of Education to enter a notation on a school employee’s educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department for that school employee indicating that a covered investigation is pending. The notation must be visible to superintendents and other school administrators authorized to review educator credentialing records and school employee records maintained by the department. Upon receipt from a school entity of the outcome of a covered investigation, the department shall update the notation on the school employee’s file. If the school employee is found to have committed the misconduct, the department must update the notation to reflect

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that finding; if the school employee is found to have not committed the misconduct, the department must remove the notation from the file.

4. It requires that prior to offering employment to an applicant, a school entity must review the applicant's educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department to determine whether the applicant holds a valid and active certification appropriate for the position or is otherwise eligible for employment and whether any notation regarding a covered investigation has been entered on the applicant's records, and, if so, the current status of that notation.
5. It requires that, notwithstanding any confidentiality clause or any agreement between the school entity and a school employee, if, by a preponderance of the evidence, a school entity determines through its covered investigation that the school employee committed misconduct, the information pertaining to that covered investigation and findings of misconduct must be disclosed to the department and to any school entity that requests that information.

Public Law 2025, chapter 697 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 15, 2026.

LD 2226 An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula

Public Law 2025, chapter 737 amends school funding laws as follows.

1. It updates the method for calculating the regional adjustment beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, to be based on a nationwide cost-of-living index, and provides that the regional adjustment must align with the salary matrix. It also corrects cross-references related to the regional adjustment calculation.
2. It provides that a school administrative unit's ability to pay must be adjusted by 10% for relative income.
3. It provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28 and until fiscal year 2030-31, the State may not reduce the portion of a school administrative unit's state subsidy attributable to the regional adjustment and local contribution calculation and provides a three-year transition period beginning in fiscal year 2030-31.

Public Law 2025, chapter 737 also directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to study the components of the essential programs and services school funding formula and report back to the Legislature by January 15, 2027.