

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Administrative Unit's Expenditure of Moneys for Adult School
Crossing Guides; State Subsidy.

SYLLABUS:

A municipality's expenditure for adult school crossing guides is not subsidizable by the State under the foundation program.

FACTS:

During the school year 1966-67, the Town of Winthrop, through its Superintending School Committee, expended \$720 to pay for adult school crossing guides to assist the children across busy highways both before and after school daily. The reference expenditure was reported as a part of the school transportation costs for the Town of Winthrop; and it would be subsidizable if the expenditure is proper.

QUESTIONS:

1. May a school committee (or a board of directors of a school administrative district) employ personnel to assist children in crossing busy highways, and pay such personnel from school appropriations?
2. Are school crossing guides more properly a function of the police department of a municipality?
3. Is the reference Winthrop expenditure properly subsidizable under existing State statutes?

ANSWERS:

1. Not a State question.
2. Not a State question.
3. No.

REASONS:

The provisions of 30 M.R.S.A. § 5102, 3, list the cost of municipal police protection as one of the plural operating expenses of a municipality. The statutes relating to the appropriation of moneys for public schools appear in 30 M.R.S.A. § 5104;

and that section is devoid of reference to the payment of traffic personnel under the school budget.

We respectfully decline to answer the first and second questions because they are of local import and raise no State issues. Municipal administrative matters are properly the subject for attention by the unit's attorney.

The foundation program 'costs' are enumerated in 20 M.R.S.A. § 3721, 2; and the reference expenditure reported by Winthrop must come within the purview of that language in order to qualify for state subsidy.

"2. Cost. The cost of the foundation program shall include expenditures for teachers' salaries and board, including any money paid by a school administrative unit under an annuity contract for the benefit of an employee, conveyance of pupils, school bus purchases, fuel, janitors' services, tuition, board of pupils, textbooks, reference books, school supplies for desk or laboratory use, public utility services, flags, replacement of instructional equipment, fire insurance, compensation for superintendent and his assistants, school committee, community school committee or school directors, office, attendance officers, medical inspection and school repairs and maintenance;

" * * * * ."

The foundation program does not empower the State to pay subsidy to an administrative unit for the cost of school crossing guides.

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