

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 789

H.P. 585

House of Representatives, March 15, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative ANTHONY of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CLARK of Cumberland, Senator GILL of Cumberland and Representative PARADIS of Frenchville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Create the Youth-at-Risk Alternative Education Program.

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

3 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 614 is enacted to read:

5 CHAPTER 614

7 YOUTH-AT-RISK ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

9 §18101. Youth-at-Risk Alternative Education Program

11 1. Applicability. Middle and secondary level schools may
13 apply for and receive grants to plan for and implement a dropout
15 prevention program under the Youth-at-Risk Alternative Education
17 Program.

19 2. Definition. For the purposes of this chapter, "youth at
21 risk" means any person between 11 and 21 years of age who has not
23 graduated from high school and who:

25 A. Is below the 25th percentile on the Maine assessment in
27 reading or mathematics;

29 B. Is at least one year behind in age or grade group level
31 in credits earned for graduation;

33 C. Is pregnant or is a parent;

35 D. Has been assessed as chemically dependent;

37 E. Has been identified by the Department of Human Services
39 as abused or neglected;

41 F. Has been identified by the school administrative
43 district as a chronic acting out child; or

45 G. Has been placed on informal adjustment by a juvenile
47 intake worker or has been adjudicated as having committed a
49 juvenile offense by a judge.

51 3. Planning grants. The department shall award one-year
53 planning grants for planning and development of a dropout
55 prevention plan to selected middle and secondary level schools
57 upon proper application. Proposals for planning grants must
59 contain the following:

61 A. Designation of a prevention team consisting of named
63 individuals, including, but not limited to, a school
65 principal, teacher, support staff member, parent and
67 community member;

69 B. Specified planning activities and goals and a schedule
71 for their completion during one calendar year;

1 C. An itemized identification of resource needs; and

3 D. A budget for the prevention team.

5 4. Implementation grants. Middle and secondary level
7 schools which have previously received a planning grant under
9 subsection 3 or schools which have otherwise prepared a dropout
11 prevention plan are eligible for dropout prevention program
3-year implementation grants. Proposals for a program
implementation grant must contain the following:

13 A. A designation of named individuals responsible for
15 carrying out specific activities of the dropout prevention
plan;

17 B. Specified implementation tasks and goals, with a
19 schedule for their completion;

21 C. Identification of systems for calculating dropout and
23 graduation rates and for identifying youths at risk who may
become dropouts;

25 D. Criteria by which the middle or secondary level school
proposes to measure and verify program success;

27 E. An itemized identification of resource needs; and

29 F. A budget for the persons designated as responsible for
31 program implementation under paragraph A.

33 5. Funding priority. In awarding planning and
35 implementation grants under this chapter, the department shall
give priority to schools which demonstrate the highest percentage
of students at risk of dropping out and which propose to address
37 the problem at the middle school level.

39 6. Grant applications; rules. Applications for grants,
41 review of proposals and final awards shall meet the requirements
of a grant review process established by the commissioner in
43 accordance with departmental rules on grant awards. The
commissioner may adopt rules, in accordance with the Maine
45 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, concerning
applications, eligibility and funding priorities, which the
commissioner deems necessary to carry out this chapter.

47 Sec. 2. Distribution of grant funds. In fiscal year 1989-90, the
49 department shall award 10 one-year planning grants of \$5,000 each
and 5 3-year implementation grants not to exceed \$45,000 each to
selected middle and secondary level schools upon proper
51 application, as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
20-A, section 18101. In fiscal year 1990-91, the

1 department shall award 10 one-year planning grants of \$5,000 each
2 and 15 3-year implementation grants not to exceed \$45,000 each to
3 selected middle and secondary level schools upon proper
4 application, as provided in Title 20-A, section 18101.

5
6 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
7 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1989-90	1990-91
11 EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,		
12 DEPARTMENT OF		
13 Youth-at-Risk Alternative		
14 Education Program		
15		
16		
17 All Other	\$185,000	\$860,000
18		
19		

20 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

21
22 This bill creates the Youth-at-Risk Alternative Education
23 Program to assist school districts which create alternative
24 education programs designed to decrease middle school and high
25 school dropout rates. In the bill, middle and secondary level
26 schools in the State may apply for grants to plan for and
27 implement a dropout prevention program. The bill gives schools
28 leeway to establish dropout prevention programs which are geared
29 to local problems and conditions.

30
31 Under the bill, the Department of Educational and Cultural
32 Services will award 10 one-year planning grants and 5 3-year
33 implementation grants during 1989 and 10 one-year planning grants
34 and 15 3-year implementation grants in 1990. The grant program
35 will be funded with money from the General Fund.

36
37 The bill is based on a proposal developed by the Department
38 of Educational and Cultural Service's advisory committee for
39 truancy, dropouts and alternative education.