

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 507

S.P. 168

In Senate, February 9, 2017

An Act To Establish Regional School Leadership Academies

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor and
Senator: MAKER of Washington, Representatives: FULLER of Lewiston, GINZLER of
Bridgton, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, PIERCE of Falmouth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2601, sub-§2, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 251, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 B. Agreements for shared staff or staff training, including collaborative programs
5 and support services for preservice and in-service staff training;

6 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2651, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 251, §4, is
7 further amended to read:

8 **2. Use of fund.** The department shall award grants from the fund to school
9 administrative units, municipalities, counties and groups of 2 or more such entities,
10 including such groups that have entered into a collaborative agreement pursuant to
11 chapter 114, to fund the costs of implementing changes in governance, administrative
12 structures or policies that result in the creation of consolidated school administrative
13 units; purchasing alliances; innovative, autonomous public schools, teacher-led schools,
14 innovative public school districts or innovative public school zones; regional delivery of
15 collaborative programs and educational services; regional school leadership academies;
16 or collaborations of municipal-school service delivery or support systems, with the
17 purpose of improving educational opportunity and student achievement. Grants must be
18 used to implement changes that will be sustained by the school administrative unit,
19 municipality or county without the need for additional grants from the fund or other
20 sources.

21 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA c. 502-C** is enacted to read:

22 **CHAPTER 502-C**

23 **REGIONAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES**

24 **§13111. Definitions**

25 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
26 have the following meanings.

27 **1. Collaborative agreement.** "Collaborative agreement" means an agreement as
28 defined in section 2601, subsection 2, paragraph B between 2 or more school
29 administrative units to form a collaborative partnership that specifies each school
30 administrative unit's responsibility for and cost of the delivery of certain administrative,
31 instructional and noninstructional functions, including collaborative programs and
32 support services, for preservice and in-service staff training for school principalship and
33 other school leadership positions over a 3-year period.

34 **2. Collaborative board.** "Collaborative board" means a board created pursuant to
35 section 13112, subsection 2. A collaborative board is composed of one representative
36 from each of the:

37 A. School administrative units participating in the collaborative partnership;

1 B. Statewide education associations cooperating with the collaborative partnership;
2 and

3 C. Educator preparation programs cooperating with the collaborative partnership.

4 **3. Collaborative partnership.** "Collaborative partnership" means a regional school
5 leadership academy collaborative partnership formed pursuant to this chapter between 2
6 or more school administrative units and, whenever possible, with educator preparation
7 programs and statewide education associations that provides cohort-based professional
8 development and career pathways, including preservice training for prospective
9 candidates for school principalship and other school leadership positions and in-service
10 training for new employees in school principalship and other school leadership positions.

11 **4. Educator preparation program.** "Educator preparation program" means an
12 educator preparation program as defined in section 13008, subsection 1, paragraph A.

13 **5. Regional school leadership academy.** "Regional school leadership academy" or
14 "academy" means a professional development consortium formed by a collaborative
15 partnership that combines state and local programs and resources, including the
16 preparation, licensure, certification, professional development and training for
17 educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly improve the
18 recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school principalship and other
19 school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring and retention of
20 principals and school leaders during the first 2 years of employment in their school
21 leadership positions.

22 **6. Statewide education association.** "Statewide education association" means a
23 nonprofit education association or corporation in the State, including a principals'
24 association, a school superintendents' association, a school boards' association and an
25 association of administrators of services for children with disabilities.

26 **§13112. Establishment**

27 Beginning July 1, 2018, a regional school leadership academy may be established
28 under a collaborative agreement.

29 **1. Regional school leadership academy mission.** The mission of an academy is to
30 enhance the quality of the preservice and in-service staff training programs for school
31 principalship and other school leadership positions, to improve the distribution, supply
32 and quality of school leadership personnel in underserved school administrative units in
33 the State and to develop appropriate professional development pathways at participating
34 schools in the academy. To fulfill its mission, the academy shall work in coordination
35 with educational leadership mentors and coaches and with high-performing educational
36 leaders employed within the collaborative partnership.

37 **2. Development of collaborative agreements; establishment of collaborative**
38 **board.** School administrative units may work in cooperation with educator preparation
39 programs and statewide education associations to design a plan for a collaborative
40 agreement that achieves efficiencies and reduces costs in the delivery of programs and
41 support services for preservice and in-service staff training for educators, principals and

1 other school leaders. School administrative units that work in cooperation with educator
2 preparation programs and statewide education associations to design a plan for a
3 collaborative agreement shall establish a collaborative board. A collaborative board is
4 the governing body of a regional school leadership academy. The plan for the
5 collaborative agreement must be consistent with the following goals:

6 A. Improving student learning and development by providing preparation, training
7 and support for educators, principals and other school leaders that enable students in
8 their schools to graduate ready for college and careers;

9 B. Identifying and recruiting prospective candidates for school principalship and
10 school leadership positions;

11 C. Improving recruitment strategies, including contracting with a marketing or
12 branding firm to build recruitment strategies that coach school administrators how to
13 make effective proposals to prospective candidates that would entice them to consider
14 becoming a principal or school leader;

15 D. Establishing and maintaining long-term partnerships with school administrative
16 units in the region that create and maintain a skilled and adaptable principalship and
17 school leadership preparation program;

18 E. Enhancing the recruitment, preservice training, education and preparation
19 opportunities for educators in this State to allow them to prepare for future principal
20 and school leadership positions in schools in the State;

21 F. Providing educators in this State who seek to upgrade their education, skills and
22 credentials in order to facilitate their career advancement and enhance their job
23 security;

24 G. Establishing, at a minimum, 2 years of programming to support the
25 implementation of school leadership induction and mentoring programs that promote
26 excellence in school leadership, improve classroom instruction, enhance student
27 achievement, build a supportive environment within school administrative units,
28 increase the retention of promising school leaders and promote the personal and
29 professional well-being of school leaders;

30 H. Creating and promoting a selection process for mentors that enhances the support
31 for beginning principals and other school leaders; and

32 I. Creating a budget to provide resources for the academy's programs, collaborative
33 organizational structures and program evaluation and a plan for the academy's
34 sustainability.

35 **3. Approval.** The collaborative agreement plan under subsection 2 must be
36 approved by the collaborative board before the collaborative agreement becomes
37 effective.

38 **4. State assistance.** The department and the state board may provide the following
39 services and resources to assist school administrative units that form a regional school
40 leadership academy;

1 A. Guidance to help school administrative units create the supports and conditions to
2 promote professional development of their own leadership;

3 B. Facilitation of partnerships between state education policy officials from the
4 department and the state board and education leadership professionals, educator
5 preparation programs and statewide education associations to enhance the promotion
6 of collaborative partnerships; and

7 C. Assistance and resources to regional school leadership academies to encourage
8 teachers and educators to become candidates for school leadership positions; to
9 provide pathways for aspiring candidates to explore, study, practice and take on
10 leadership roles in their schools; and to employ mentors and coaches to provide
11 training for newly hired school principals and school leaders that improves their
12 awareness of standards-based instruction and learning and develops their leadership
13 skills. Beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, the department shall consider providing the
14 following resources:

15 (1) Awarding state grant funds from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of
16 Educational Services pursuant to chapter 114-A for academies that apply and
17 qualify for such grants; and

18 (2) Allocating state funding pursuant to section 15688-A, subsection 8 to school
19 administrative units that form a regional school leadership academy.

20 **5. Gifts, grants and donations.** School administrative units that enter into a
21 collaborative agreement to form a regional school leadership academy may seek and
22 accept public and private gifts, grants and donations to offset the costs of developing and
23 implementing the plan for the regional school leadership academy. A gift, grant or
24 donation received pursuant to this subsection must be approved prior to the receipt of the
25 gift, grant or donation by the school boards for the school administrative units that enter
26 into the collaborative agreement.

27 **§13113. Report**

28 A regional school leadership academy shall provide to the joint standing committee
29 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters an annual report that
30 includes information regarding the regional school leadership academy, including the
31 name and location of the academy; the number of educators trained, mentored and
32 coached; the dollar amount expended; and, if applicable, the number of educators who
33 were employed as school leaders.

34 **Sec. 4. 20-A M RSA §15688-A, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

35 **8. Regional school leadership academy.** Beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, the
36 commissioner may expend and disburse funds to support the establishment of regional
37 school leadership academies pursuant to chapter 502-C.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill allows school administrative units to enter into collaborative agreements to
40 establish regional school leadership academies that combine state and local programs and

1 resources, including the preparation, licensure, certification, professional development
2 and training for educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly
3 improve the recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school
4 principalship and other school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring
5 and retention of principals and school leaders during the first 2 years of employment in
6 their school leadership positions.