

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1510

H.P. 965

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

An Act to Provide Grants to Promote Innovative Learning Strategies

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and
Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, MALON of Biddeford,
PERRY of Calais, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: PIERCE of
Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 114-B** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 114-B**

4 **INNOVATIVE LEARNING FUND**

5 **§2661. Innovative Learning Fund**

6 **1. Innovative Learning Fund.** The Innovative Learning Fund, referred to in this
7 section as "the fund," is established in the department as a nonlapsing fund to provide grants
8 to promote innovative learning strategies to address student achievement gaps.

9 **2. Grants.** The department shall establish criteria to award grants to school
10 administrative units from the fund. In awarding grants, the department shall give special
11 consideration to school administrative units that demonstrate instructional partnerships
12 with professional organizations or companies and partnerships with institutions of higher
13 education and that provide specific data on closing the achievement gap for economically
14 disadvantaged students, racial and ethnic populations and students whose learning
15 achievements were negatively affected due to restrictions during the pandemic related to
16 coronavirus disease 2019, referred to as COVID-19.

17 **3. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including
18 but not limited to rules governing procedures, criteria and priorities for awarding grants.
19 The criteria for awarding grants must include demonstration that the school administrative
20 unit is able to implement strategies that use interdisciplinary, project-based and accelerated
21 learning approaches. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules
22 as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

23 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
24 allocations are made.

25 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

26 **Innovative Learning Fund N434**

27 Initiative: Provides one-time funds for grants to school administrative units to promote
28 innovative learning strategies to address student achievement gaps.

29 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
30 All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
31		
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill creates the Innovative Learning Fund and directs the Department of Education
35 to provide grants to school administrative units to promote innovative learning strategies
36 to address student achievement gaps. In awarding grants, the department must give special
37 consideration to school administrative units that demonstrate instructional partnerships
38 with professional organizations or companies and partnerships with institutions of higher

1 education and that provide specific data on closing the achievement gap for economically
2 disadvantaged students, racial and ethnic populations and students whose learning
3 achievements were negatively affected due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The bill
4 appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to provide such grants.