



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 660

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H.P. 428

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

### **An Act to Provide Transparency and Public Access to Public School Curricula**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk.  
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and  
Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, LYMAN of Livermore Falls,  
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, WALKER of Naples,  
Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §4710-D** is enacted to read:

3 **§4710-D. Curriculum and professional development transparency**

4 **1. Short title.** This section may be known and cited as "the Curriculum Transparency  
5 Act."

6 **2. Policies and procedures.** The school board for a school administrative unit shall  
7 adopt policies and procedures to ensure that the approved curriculum presented is  
8 implemented in the classroom without change.

9 **3. Class offerings and curriculum materials.** The choice of academic class offerings  
10 and curriculum materials:

11 A. May not be based on surveys, inventories or other evaluations, analyses or  
12 assessments of:

13 (1) The immutable and other identifying characteristics of a student, family or  
14 community, including, but not limited to, such characteristics as race, sex, gender,  
15 religion, disability and income;

16 (2) Psychological or social-emotional data; or

17 (3) Trauma and other psychological and emotional problems; and

18 B. Must ensure schools meet the purpose of education as provided in the Constitution  
19 of Maine and disseminate the knowledge needed to ensure the rights and liberties of  
20 United States citizens in the State.

21 **4. Posting and availability of data.** A school administrative unit shall post on the  
22 school administrative unit's publicly accessible website, in the section of the website related  
23 to curricula, at least 3 years of data showing numbers and percentages of total student  
24 capacity at each school and enrolled students by grade level, academic subject and  
25 percentage level of proficiency based on state assessment scores. The school administrative  
26 unit shall make the data available for inspection at each school within the school  
27 administrative unit.

28 **5. Professional development and instructional programs.** All administrator, teacher  
29 and staff professional development and instructional programs offered to schools that are  
30 paid for with state funds, whether offered directly by the department, another state agency  
31 or a 3rd-party contractor, must be fully transparent and available to the public as follows:

32 A. The department shall make all program materials, videos, links and resources  
33 publicly available at no charge on the department's publicly accessible website;

34 B. All program offerings must be open for public attendance to residents of the State;

35 C. All program offerings must be listed in one location on the department's publicly  
36 accessible website by date and show the title of the program, program description,  
37 location and time. Programs must be publicly posted at least 30 days in advance, with  
38 exceptions applying only when the program is added with fewer than 30 days before  
39 the date of the program based on an emergency as detailed by the school;

40 D. The school administrative unit shall make audio and video recordings of these  
41 programs and make the recordings accessible to the public free of charge for at least 3

1 years after the event date. If a program recording was not made or maintained, the  
2 program date, name and description must still be listed on the school administrative  
3 unit's publicly accessible website for 3 years after the event date has passed with a clear  
4 explanation as to why a recording is not available;

5 E. A school administrative unit shall maintain a list showing the date of attendance,  
6 name and position of each attendee employed by the school administrative unit,  
7 program name and program description for the prior 3 years. The school administrative  
8 unit shall provide this list upon request and free of charge to residents of the State;

9 F. A school administrative unit may not provide an on-site program prior to the local  
10 school board approving a program available statewide; and

11 G. The department shall maintain on the department's publicly accessible website a list  
12 of school boards that have approved a program available statewide.

13 **6. Programs provided by 3rd-party contractors.** For professional development and  
14 instructional programs offered to schools by 3rd-party contractors, the department shall  
15 maintain data and information on the department's publicly accessible website related to  
16 those programs, including, but not limited to, a breakdown by school administrative unit  
17 for each state-funded program showing the amount paid to the 3rd-party contractor by year  
18 and by program and detailing the public funds spent on program promotion, development,  
19 training, local implementation and other miscellaneous costs for the prior 3 years.

20 **7. Online portal.** A school administrative unit shall create an online portal to act as the  
21 single source for all student information and data that can be accessed by 3rd-party  
22 contractors. The portal must consist of an easy-to-search database, including, but not  
23 limited to, the following:

24 A. All curricula taught by the school administrative unit;

25 B. All source materials used to develop a school administrative unit's curricula;

26 C. All documents, and the source materials used to develop those documents, used by  
27 a school administrative unit in the professional development of the school  
28 administrative unit's faculty and staff;

29 D. All speakers and guests used by a school administrative unit in its professional  
30 development activities; and

31 E. The costs associated with speakers and guests used by a school administrative unit  
32 in its professional development activities.

### 33 SUMMARY

34 This bill requires school administrative units to adopt policies and procedures to ensure  
35 that the approved curriculum presented is implemented in the classroom without change,  
36 to post at least 3 years of data regarding certain student enrollment and performance, to  
37 maintain lists regarding participation in and development of professional development  
38 programs and to create an online portal that will act as the single source for all student  
39 information and data that can be accessed by 3rd-party contractors, including curriculum  
40 materials and information regarding speakers and guests. The bill requires the Department  
41 of Education to list and make available to the public all administrator, teacher and staff  
42 professional development and instructional programs offered to schools that are paid for

1 with state funds and maintain a list of school boards that have approved a statewide  
2 program. The bill places restrictions on the choice of academic class offerings and  
3 curriculum materials and on-site professional development programs. Certain provisions  
4 of this bill are designed to satisfy federal law related to parental access to information and  
5 protection of pupil's rights.