



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1684

S.P. 691

In Senate, March 29, 2016

**An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Task Force
on School Leadership**

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock for the Joint Standing Committee on
Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 46, section 7.

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

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** school administrative units that plan to enter into collaborative
4 agreements to establish regional school leadership academies pursuant to this legislation
5 and that must apply for grant funds that are available during the 2016-17 fiscal year from
6 the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services have insufficient time to
7 establish their collaborative agreements and prepare their grant applications; and

8 **Whereas,** the 90-day period may not end until after the beginning of the 2016-17
9 fiscal year; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore,

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

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

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

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

21 **2. Use of fund.** The department shall award grants from the fund to school
22 administrative units, municipalities, counties and groups of 2 or more such entities,
23 including such groups that have entered into a collaborative agreement pursuant to
24 chapter 114, to fund the costs of implementing changes in governance, administrative
25 structures or policies that result in the creation of consolidated school administrative
26 units; purchasing alliances; innovative, autonomous public schools, teacher-led schools,
27 innovative public school districts or innovative public school zones; regional delivery of
28 collaborative programs and educational services; regional school leadership academies;
29 or collaborations of municipal-school service delivery or support systems, with the
30 purpose of improving educational opportunity and student achievement. Grants must be
31 used to implement changes that will be sustained by the school administrative unit,
32 municipality or county without the need for additional grants from the fund or other
33 sources.

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

35 **CHAPTER 502-C**

36 **REGIONAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES**

1 **§13111. Definitions**

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

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

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

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

15 B. Statewide education associations cooperating with the collaborative partnership;
16 and

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

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

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

27 **5. Regional school leadership academy.** "Regional school leadership academy" or
28 "academy" means a professional development consortium formed by a collaborative
29 partnership between 2 or more school administrative units that enter into a collaborative
30 agreement that combines state and local programs and resources, including the
31 preparation, licensure, certification, professional development and training for
32 educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly improve the
33 recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school principalship and other
34 school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring and retention of
35 principals and school leaders during the first 2 years of employment in their school
36 leadership positions.

37 **6. Statewide education association.** "Statewide education association" means a
38 nonprofit education association or corporation in the State, including a principals'
39 association, a school superintendents' association, a school boards' association and an
40 association of administrators of services for children with disabilities.

1 **§13112. Establishment**

2 Beginning July 1, 2016, a regional school leadership academy may be established
3 under a collaborative agreement.

4 **1. Regional school leadership academy mission.** The mission of an academy is to
5 enhance the quality of the preservice and in-service staff training programs for school
6 principalship and other school leadership positions, to improve the distribution, supply
7 and quality of school leadership personnel in underserved school administrative units in
8 the State and to develop appropriate professional development pathways at participating
9 schools in the academy. To fulfill its mission, the academy shall work in coordination
10 with educational leadership mentors and coaches and with high-performing educational
11 leaders employed within the collaborative partnership.

12 **2. Development of collaborative agreements; establishment of collaborative**
13 **board.** School administrative units may work in cooperation with educator preparation
14 programs and statewide education associations to design a plan for a collaborative
15 agreement that achieves efficiencies and reduces costs in the delivery of programs and
16 support services for preservice and in-service staff training for educators, principals and
17 other school leaders. School administrative units that work in cooperation with educator
18 preparation programs and statewide education associations to design a plan for a
19 collaborative agreement shall establish a collaborative board. A collaborative board is
20 the governing body of a regional school leadership academy. The plan for the
21 collaborative agreement must be consistent with the following goals:

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

25 B. Identifying and recruiting prospective candidates for school principalship and
26 school leadership positions;

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

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

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

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

40 G. Establishing, at a minimum, 2 years of programming to support the
41 implementation of school leadership induction and mentoring programs that promote
42 excellence in school leadership, improve classroom instruction, enhance student

1 achievement, build a supportive environment within school administrative units,
2 increase the retention of promising school leaders and promote the personal and
3 professional well-being of school leaders;

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

6 I. Creating a budget to provide resources for the academy's programs, collaborative
7 organizational structures and program evaluation and a plan for the academy's
8 sustainability.

9 **3. Approval.** The collaborative agreement plan under subsection 2 must be
10 approved by the collaborative board before the collaborative agreement becomes
11 effective.

12 **4. State assistance.** The department and the state board shall provide the following
13 services and resources to assist school administrative units that form a regional school
14 leadership academy:

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

17 B. Facilitation of partnerships between state education policy officials from the
18 department and the state board and education leadership professionals, educator
19 preparation programs and statewide education associations to enhance the promotion
20 of collaborative partnerships; and

21 C. Assistance and resources to regional school leadership academies to encourage
22 teachers and educators to become candidates for school leadership positions; to
23 provide pathways for aspiring candidates to explore, study, practice and take on
24 leadership roles in their schools; and to employ mentors and coaches to provide
25 training for newly hired school principals and school leaders that improves their
26 awareness of standards-based instruction and learning and develops their leadership
27 skills. Beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, the department shall consider providing the
28 following resources:

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

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

34 **5. Gifts, grants and donations.** School administrative units that enter into a
35 collaborative agreement to form a regional school leadership academy may seek and
36 accept public and private gifts, grants and donations to offset the costs of developing and
37 implementing the plan for the regional school leadership academy. A gift, grant or
38 donation received pursuant to this subsection must be approved prior to the receipt of the
39 gift, grant or donation by the school boards for the school administrative units that enter
40 into the collaborative agreement.

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§13113. Report

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

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15688-A, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Regional school leadership academy. Beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, the commissioner may expend and disburse funds to support the establishment of regional school leadership academies pursuant to chapter 502-C.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

Initiative: Provides funds for one Education Specialist III position and one Office Associate II position and related All Other costs associated with providing services and resources to school administrative units that form regional school leadership academies.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$139,778
All Other	\$0	\$8,297
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$148,075

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 46, section 7. The bill includes certain recommendations proposed in the report submitted by the Task Force on School Leadership established by that resolve.

The bill allows school administrative units to enter into collaborative agreements to establish regional school leadership academies that combine state and local programs and resources, including the preparation, licensure, certification, professional development and training for educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly improve the recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school

1 principalship and other school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring
2 and retention of principals and school leaders during the first 2 years of employment in
3 their school leadership positions. The bill includes an appropriations and allocations
4 section.

5 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6 **(See attached)**



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1684

LR 2715(01)

An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Task Force on School Leadership

Fiscal Note for Original Bill
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	Projections FY 2017-18	Projections FY 2018-19
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$148,075	\$153,666	\$159,481
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$148,075	\$153,666	\$159,481

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$148,075 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the Department of Education for one Education Specialist III position and one Office Associate II position and related All Other costs associated with providing services and resources to school administrative units that form regional school leadership academies. The General Fund cost to support the 2 positions in the 2018-2019 biennium is estimated to be \$153,666 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$159,481 in fiscal year 2018-19.

This legislation provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, the department shall consider providing state grants from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to support qualified school leadership academies. Public Law 2015, Chapter 267, Part T, the 2016-2017 biennial budget enacted on June 30, 2015, transferred \$750,000 in each year of the biennium from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services which, at the time had a zero balance. That provision was repealed, however, as part of Public Law 2015, Chapter 388, An Act To Provide for Tax Conformity and Funding Methods, enacted on March 16, 2016, bringing the balance in the Fund back to zero. Unless funding is provided in this or future legislation, no monies will be available in the Fund to provide the grants.

This legislation also allows for the Commissioner of Education to expend and disburse funds to support the establishment of regional school leadership academies from the enhancing school performance and opportunity cost component within the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account. There currently are no funds budgeted for this purpose in either year of the 2016-2017 biennium.