



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT  
Kim Bedard  
Kittery

PRESIDENT-ELECT  
Kristin Malin  
Georgetown

VICE PRESIDENT  
Erica Kimball  
Hampden

PAST PRESIDENT  
Phyllis Shubert  
Bangor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Dale A. Douglass

MAINE COUNCIL OF  
SCHOOL BOARD  
ATTORNEYS

Bryan Dench, Esq., Chair

Position Statement of the Maine School Boards Association  
(MSBA) Board of Directors on the Proposed LSRS (Local Schools,  
Regional Support) Initiative

The MSBA has historically supported voluntary school administrative unit collaboration, regionalization, and consolidation by Maine's school administrative units. MSBA has assisted the efforts of local school units in their voluntary pursuit of a unified delivery of all aspects of the educational program including administration and governance.

MSBA based its examination of the LSRS (Local Schools, Regional Support) proposal to change the current governance and administration options available to towns, cities, SAD's and CSD's on the following:

- Student learning must be the paramount concern in assessing the value of any regionalization/consolidation plan.
- Proposals to implement regionalization/consolidation must be based on balanced, independent research and data.
- School administrative units should have options available to achieve any goals associated with collaboration, regionalization, or consolidation in order to respect the diversity and geography of our state and to allow for local and regional creativity and flexibility.
- Any efforts to require regionalization/consolidation must include local voter approval as part of the process.

The Maine School Boards Association Board of Directors believes that Governor Baldacci's LSRS initiative is an extreme proposal that would destroy our system of local public school governance and negatively alter Maine's quality of education. This proposal was hastily drafted, lacks critical detail, and appears to be based on faulty cost-saving assumptions.

As Maine citizens acquire additional information about the Governor's plans, we believe that they will conclude the proposal is ill conceived, and ignores Maine's traditions, geography, and the existence of previously established consolidated units. It will also be viewed as derailing ongoing efforts to collaborate, regionalize and consolidate that are at critical stages in the planning and approval process.



