

Union 98 School Board  
Mount Desert Island, Maine

RESOLUTION  
22 January 2007

School Union 98 board, administration, faculty and staff are committed to providing the highest quality educational opportunities for our students. We know that is possible only because our communities demonstrate and share this commitment by a high level of participation in the life of our schools and, of course, by generous financial support. The evidence strongly suggests that our students have consistently benefited from local control and local engagement.

“Local Schools, Regional Support”, (LSRS) the proposed legislation of Governor Baldacci and the Commissioner of Education, is neither local nor supportive. It fundamentally threatens our practical and financial ability to provide for the education of our children in a manner that meets our expectations and our children’s requirements. It would inescapably strip from our towns the purview to operate schools, set policy and control budgets. There is every indication it would result in major cuts to the quality and quantity of our children’s education while shifting significant resources from our taxpayers to other communities. This is not only bad for our students, it innumerable ripple effects would be bad for our entire communities.

We are not and have never been opposed to collaborating with the Department of Education, with other communities in our vicinity, or with one another in ways to deliver education in more efficient and effective ways. We can point to many examples of having done just that. But we are unalterably opposed to being disenfranchised and being forced to surrender our schools and our students to a large and distant bureaucracy.

We oppose the legislation known as “Local Schools, Regional Support”. We urge the Governor to withdraw the legislation. We urge our elected representatives and all members of our several communities to work with us to defeat it.

Resolution adopted,  
January 22, 2007