

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
H.P. 638 - L.D. 1002

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Study the School Day

Sec. 1. Department of Education to study the school day. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall convene a working group to study the school day. The working group must include, but is not limited to, members representing school administrators from high schools, middle schools and elementary schools, a parent of a student, a student, a mental health clinician, a pediatrician, a school nutritionist and a member representing a statewide association of curriculum leaders. The department shall invite any other stakeholders to participate, as appropriate. The study must be informed by relevant research conducted by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the department shall work in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, as appropriate. In studying the school day, the working group shall consider, at a minimum, the following:

1. Statewide, national and international approaches to the school day;
2. Instructional requirements for graduation, including but not limited to instruction in health and physical education, traffic safety education, elements of a firearm hunter safety course and a stand-alone course in personal finance;
3. Educator planning and preparation time;
4. Lunch periods, including but not limited to transit time and time required to eat;
5. Recess periods, including the timing of recess before or after lunch periods, frequency of recess periods and differences in recess periods at each grade level;
6. Electives and allied arts courses;
7. To the extent offered, after-school and extended day programs; and
8. School day start times.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, no later than February 1, 2024, the Department of Education shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.