



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on December 11, 2025, at the Burton Cross State Office Building. The following members were present: Chair Paulette Bonneau; Vice Chair Thomas Keller; Wendy Ault; Victoria Cohen; Fern Desjardins; James Ford; Victoria Kornfield; Edmond Morin; Denham Ward and Cedar Worster. Abbey Hamilton addended virtually via Zoom.

Others Present: Michael Perry, Office of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, MDOE; Christina O'Neal, DOE; Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent, MCLA, MSSA, RSU 34; Heather Perry, Superintendent, MSSA, Gorham; Leigh Alley, Department Head, UMA; and Erica Tompkins, State Board of Education Office Specialist. Present virtually via Zoom: Jonathan Moody, Superintendent, MSAD 54; Anita Charles, Bates College; Lane Clarke, Associate Professor, UNE; Anne Harrington, Director of Graduate Programs, UNE, Jason Asdourian, Assistant Director of Graduate Programs, UNE.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Paulette Bonneau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll call was taken by Chair Bonneau and she declared a quorum present.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by board member, Cedar Worster: The vision of the Maine State Board of Education is that all students will receive a high-quality education leading to graduation with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be prepared for future learning, careers, and life.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Add August 13, 2025 Minutes to the agenda.

Remove the November 13, 2025 and the December 11, 2025 minutes from the agenda.

Add the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) report to the agenda under Special Committee Reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted by those present to table the September 10, 2025 minutes for revisions. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Wendy Ault and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 9, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Victoria Kornfield, seconded by Wendy Ault and unanimously voted by those present to accept the August 13, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Victoria Kornfield and unanimously voted by those present to accept the December 1, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was adopted.

OFFICER’S REPORTS:

Chair, Paulette Bonneau

- Paulette attended a meeting with Vice Chair Thomas Keller, Superintendent Perry and Superintendent Moody on November 6th regarding the portfolio option in the proposed changes of Ch. 115. It was a very productive and informative meeting regarding the portfolio option and it reflects that the superintendents have put time and thought into this option.
- On November 21st, she attended the Construction Committee meeting; Paulette has provided feedback about the concept papers developed by the Construction Committee to Fern Desjardins when she has asked for input.
- Paulette wanted to recognize Erica Tompkins for her service with the board during the past 6 months. She wished her all the best in her new endeavor. As a result of Erica’s resignation, Paulette will establish an Ad Hoc Hiring Committee to select a new Office Specialist II. The process requires additional meetings and the Board does this jointly with the DOE as Deputy Commissioner Chuhta is her direct supervisor at this time. If anyone is interested in participating, please let Chair Bonneau know.

Vice Chair, Thomas Keller

- Vice Chair Keller had no report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Construction Committee (Fern Desjardins):

The School Construction Committee met on November 21, held a special meeting on December 1, and December 10, 2025.

- On November 21 – Committee members discussed feedback from the November 13 State Board workshop on the School Building Inventory Project and School Construction Planning and Guidelines documents presented by Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities, MDOE and Fern’s review of the 2025 Year 4 Milestones in the School Construction and Renovation Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

- Fern reported on the November 14 meeting of the Governor's Commission on School Construction. The Commission reviewed comments received on the draft concept papers for Consolidation and Energy Efficiency and discussed draft concept papers received on November 12 regarding Revenue and Planning. Fern also pointed out some of the connections between the concept papers being reviewed by the Commission and the MEPRI Report on Policy and Practices for Funding Maine Public School Construction and Renovation.
- Fern summarized the November 14 Public Hearing with the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Committee on LD 1312 An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. She provided testimony on behalf of the Board.
- On December 1 – The Committee met to discuss and provide a recommendation to the Board on the Major Capital School Construction Program, Waiver Request Consideration for RSU17/MSAD 17 Agnes Gray School Construction Project.
- On December 10 - The Committee met to discuss and provide a recommendation to the Board on the Major Capital School Construction Program, Site Approval Consideration for the Augusta Schools - Elementary School Construction Project.
- Fern reported on the December 4 meeting of the Governor's Commission on School Construction at which they discussed Opportunity Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) and the December 5 meeting to discuss the draft concept papers regarding Efficiencies and Entity. The Committee decided to schedule a meeting with Valerie Landry, Chair of the Governor's Commission, on December 18 or 19, 2025, to discuss the Commission's draft concept papers.

Certification and Higher Education (Thomas Keller):

The Certification and Higher Education (C&HE) Committee met on November 19, 2025.

Higher Education Update:

- Michael Perry provided updates on several ongoing and upcoming reviews, including those for the University of New England, the University of Maine at Augusta, and Maine College of Art and Design, all of which have been completed and will be voted on by the state board in December. He explained the unique process for the University of Maine at Farmington's review, which involves a parallel CAEP and state review due to the integration of CAEP standards with state standards.
- Michael also discussed two institutions seeking temporary degree-granting authorization: the Classic Planning Academy, which aims to offer online PhDs in neoclassical architecture, and Northeastern University's Roux Institute, which wishes to transition from temporary program approval to full degree authorization. The state board will review these applications and make recommendations for temporary approval.
- Michael discussed progress on Beal University's review, including the submission of additional evidence and plans for virtual interviews and campus visits. Denham had indicated that he would like to re-draft the Annual EPP Report format and would have a draft available for the regular December meeting.

Certification update:

- Erin Rinehard presented certification statistics for October, noting a slight increase compared to the previous year and consistent processing times. The team discussed certification violations, with Erin mentioning her efforts to address high-violation schools and the need for a full report by January. Tom expressed interest in learning more about which districts have the most violations. Erin was to mention to Michael the interest in a full report on certification violations, particularly trends in large districts.
- Jane Loxterkamp from EMCC provided an update on TEAMe activities, replacing Linda Fuller, who had a scheduling conflict. TEAMe met last Friday and appreciated Tom Keller's attendance and willingness to have an open discussion. Topics included Chapter 115 revisions, accountability for various pathways, and Chapter 114, and certification processes, where sometimes courses are accepted and sometimes not.

Other Business:

- Chapter 115 revisions - The meeting focused on discussions about Chapters 114 and 115, with an emphasis on certification processes and challenges. The committee reviewed public comments on Chapter 115, with Tom planning to work with Paulette on potential revisions. A special meeting was scheduled for December 2nd to consider approving revisions to Chapter 115.
- Numeracy and Literacy Plans - Tom mentioned ongoing efforts to address numeracy and literacy plans.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 17. Tom said he would consider canceling the December 17th regular meeting if there is no pressing business.

Career and Technical Education (Edmond Morin):

The Career and Technical Education Committee did not meet in November.

Legislative Action (Paulette Bonneau):

The Committee is waiting for the updated list of new bills that have been added to this upcoming sessions. Hearings for the bills have not been published yet. Paulette checks the Appropriations and the ECA committee sites weekly.

Student voices (Cedar Worster, Abbey Hamilton, and James Ford):

- Cedar Worster reported there are 30 students participating in the Student Cabinet. The ask is for every student to make a video of good things happening at their school.
- Abbey Hamilton attended the December 3rd planning meeting. They discussed bringing back alumni of the cabinet for their input.

Student Membership (Edmond Morin):

Student packets are being prepared and will be distributed to the Second Congressional District schools in early January. Distribution includes charter schools and Career and Technical schools.

Numeracy Advisory Council (Victoria Cohen):

- Beth Lambert Peter Lancia, and Vicky met on November 17th to discuss what questions the application should have, and reviewed our council protocols document.
- The application went out before Thanksgiving, and they received 52 applicants (as of 12/10). The process closes on 12/11.
- The NAC has received 17 of the applications, from 9 counties (10 including Vicky's); no applications yet from Knox, Hancock, Oxford, Piscataquis, Washington, or Lincoln.
- Beth, Peter, and Vicky will meet on Tuesday, December 23rd to review the applicants, decide on members, and decide on their next steps.
- Vicky also attended a meeting of the statewide Math Specialist PLC, the statewide Elementary Math CoP, and the day-long ATOMIM workshop featuring Vanessa Vakharia.

Charter Commission Representatives (Victoria Kornfield, Thomas Keller, and James Ford):

The Charter Commission did not meet – no report.

Professional Standards Board (Denham Ward):

- Denham met with the Chair of the PSB, Andrew McCullough. Andrew is preparing a response to the ECA to their concerns dated June 2025.

NASBE:

Executive Committee/Board of Directors/Finance & Audit Committee (Fern Desjardins):

- The Executive Committee met on November 25 to discuss President and CEO Paolo DeMaria's contract, recruiting new member states, grants and sponsorships updates, and planning for an Executive Committee Retreat with NASBE staff.
- The Board of Directors met on December 1 to provide orientation and onboarding to 5 new members. Nisha Lodhavia from the Delaware State Board of Education is the new Northeastern Area Director, replacing Erin Bernham from Connecticut whose term ended. President DeMaria provided updates on grants, contracts, and recent awards; 2026 NASBE and CEO Goals; a draft of his contract renewal; and involving members of the Board of Directors in gaining new member states and sponsorships Fern attended the NASBE Exchange on December 1. Outgoing New Member board representative Elizabeth Tegtmeier, from the Nebraska State Board of Education, facilitated the discussion. Attendees received a federal update and met in regional breakouts. Fern facilitated the Northeastern Area breakout session. Members discussed, "What are the kinds of things NASBE should be working on this coming year to support you in your work?" Fern provided members with a copy of the NASBE Services, Projects Operations Update.
- The 8-page document summarizes the status of activities in place by NASBE.
 - The December NASBE News was emailed to all State Board members by NASBE Communications on Friday, December 5.

- The newsletter keeps members informed of events that took place in the last month and helps them plan for upcoming events.
- The recent newsletter included a Federal Update for December and a number of Partner Resources.

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM

BACKGROUND: The educator preparation programs (EPPs) at the University of Maine at Farmington are engaged in their reaccreditation process with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, or CAEP.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114: *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, Section 3, lays out the process by which CAEP-accredited educator preparation programs may be approved for a seven-year approval by the state.

The State Board of Education’s Curriculum & Higher Education Committee has determined that the standards for CAEP accreditation fully crosswalk to the standards for State Board approval pursuant to Rule Chapter 114. The state reviewers are thus tasked with observing the CAEP review process to its completion, including the reporting of findings by the CAEP review team and the final determination by the CAEP Council, before informing the State Board of the outcome and making a recommendation as to the state approval of the CAEP-accredited institution’s educator preparation programs.

The following reviewers have agreed to serve in this capacity:

Justin Dimmel PhD, Associate Dean for Academics and Student Engagement, School of Education & Human Development; Associate Professor of Mathematics Education and Instructional Technology; University of Maine
 Jamie Pratt, PsyD, BCBA-D; Associate Dean, School of Education & Human Development; Associate Professor of Educational & School Psychology; University of Southern Maine

Non-voting observers of the review will include the following:

Hon. Wendy Ault, Maine State Board of Education
 Laura Cyr, PhD, Maine Department of Education
 Michael T. Perry, Maine Department of Education

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Section 3, approve Dr. Justin Dimmel of the University of Maine and Dr. Jamie Pratt of the University of Southern Maine to serve as state reviewers in the matter of the University of Maine at Farmington’s joint CAEP/state review.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Denham Ward, and unanimously voted by

those present to approve Dr. Justin Dimmel of the University of Maine and Dr. Jamie Pratt of the University of Southern Maine to serve as state reviewers in the matter of the University of Maine at Farmington’s joint CAEP/state review.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT AUGUSTA EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) offered by institutions of higher education in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific certification areas included in their review.

The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) applied for reapproval of existing programs and submitted a self-assessment report indicating their adherence to the EPP standards in Rule Chapter 114. A review team chaired by Dr. Christina O’Neal of the Maine Department of Education was approved by the State Board of Education, with Dr. Thomas Keller assigned as the State Board observer. Dr. Laura Cyr and Michael Perry served as non-voting observers on behalf of the Department of Education.

The formal review of UMA’s educator preparation programs took place between October 19-22, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by institutional representatives to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team’s findings. The State Board of Education formally received the report along with the program’s self-report materials, in accordance with Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11.

The review team has recommended the State Board of Education approve UMA’s educator preparation programs for a period of five years in the following certification areas:

Certification Area	Grade Span	Ch. 115 Designation
Early Childhood Education	Birth-Age 5	081
Early Elementary	PK-3	029
English/Language Arts	6-12	100
General Elementary	K-6	020
Life Science	6-12	395
Mathematics	6-12	300
Physical Science	6-12	350
Social Studies	6-12	200
Special Education	Birth - 5yo; K-8; 7-12	282

Now, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, it is before the State Board of Education whether to accept the review team’s recommendations and approve the above educator preparation programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, the State Board of Education accept the University of Maine at Augusta review team’s recommendations and grant full, five-year approval to the University of Maine at Augusta’s educator preparation programs leading to certification in the following areas:

Certification Area	Grade Span	Ch. 115 Designation
Early Childhood Education	Birth-Age 5	081
Early Elementary	PK-3	029
English/Language Arts	6-12	100
General Elementary	K-6	020
Life Science	6-12	395
Mathematics	6-12	300
Physical Science	6-12	350
Social Studies	6-12	200
Special Education	Birth - 5yo; K-8; 7-12	282

This five-year approval will be valid from Fall 2025 through Fall 2030.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and voted seven in favor with one member opposed (James Ford) and one member abstained (Denham Ward) to accept the University of Maine at Augusta review team’s recommendations and grant full, five-year approval to the University of Maine at Augusta’s educator preparation programs leading to certification in the areas listed above.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) offered by institutions of higher education in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific certification areas included in their review.

The University of New England (UNE) in Biddeford and Portland, Maine, applied for reapproval of existing programs and submitted a self-assessment report indicating their adherence to the EPP standards in Rule Chapter 114. A review team chaired by Dr. Anita Charles of Bates College was approved by the State Board of Education, with Dr. Fern Desjardins assigned as the State Board observer. Dr. Laura Cyr and Michael Perry served as non-voting observers on behalf of the Department of Education.

The formal review of UNE’s educator preparation programs took place between October 5-8, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by institutional representatives to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team’s findings. The State Board of Education formally received the report along with the program’s self-report materials, in accordance with Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11.

The review team has recommended the State Board of Education approve UNE’s educator preparation programs for a period of five years in the following certification areas:

Certification Area	Grade Span	Ch. 115 Designation
Art	PK-12	620
Building Administrator	PK-12	040
English/Language Arts	6-12	100
General Elementary	K-6	020
Life Science	6-12	350
Literary Specialist	All	092
Mathematics	6-12	300
Physical Education	PK-12	510
Physical Science	6-12	395
Social Studies	6-12	100
Special Education	K-8	282

Now, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, it is before the State Board of Education whether to accept the review team’s recommendations and approve the above educator preparation programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, the State Board of Education accept the University of New England review team’s recommendations and grant full five-year approval to the University of New England’s graduate and undergraduate educator preparation programs leading to certification in the following areas:

Certification Area	Grade Span	Ch. 115 Designation
Art	PK-12	620
Building Administrator	PK-12	040
English/Language Arts	6-12	100
General Elementary	K-6	020
Life Science	6-12	350
Literary Specialist	All	092
Mathematics	6-12	300

Physical Education	PK-12	510
Physical Science	6-12	395
Social Studies	6-12	100
Special Education	K-8	282

This five-year approval will be valid from Fall 2025 through Fall 2030.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Fern Desjardins, and voted seven in favor with One member opposed (James Ford) and one member abstained (Denham Ward) to accept the University of New England review team’s recommendations and grant full five-year approval to the University of New England’s graduate and undergraduate educator preparation programs leading to certification in the areas listed above.

RECEIPT OF THE MAINE COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE CHAPTER 114

BACKGROUND: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under “Pathway 1” in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific credential areas included in their review.

A review team approved by the State Board of Education visited the Maine College of Art & Design from November 9-12, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by the institution to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team’s findings.

Now, pursuant to Rule Chapter 114, Subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education may formally receive documents to review in preparation for taking final action on this EPP approval request.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, the State Board of Education receive the Maine College of Art & Design’s EPP Self-Assessment Report and Maine College of Art & Design EPP Review Team Report prior to taking final action regarding program approval at the Board’s next regular meeting.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to receive the Maine College of Art & Design’s EPP Self-Assessment Report and Maine College of Art & Design EPP Review Team Report prior to taking final action regarding program approval at the Board’s next regular meeting.

REQUEST TO APPROVE REVISION TO CHAPTER 115

STATEMENT OF FACT: On June 16, 2023, the governor signed the Chapter 54 Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Study Educator Credential Requirements including but not limited to athletic director qualifications, the industrial arts endorsement, also referred to as "700 certification," potential additional waivers for educators holding certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or for conditional certification extensions due to extenuating circumstances, reciprocity for educators holding out-of-state educator credentials or certification and any other potential revisions the State Board of Education identifies. Further, the resolve specified that the State Board of Education, no later than January 2, 2024, shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The report was submitted on time and presented to the Joint Standing Committee on January 23, 2024.

On March 26, 2024, the governor signed the Chapter 137 Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education. In addition, amendments to the rule may include, but are not limited to, recommendations included in the State Board of Education's report submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 54.

Beginning in March of 2024, the Certification and Higher Education Committee has reviewed portions of Chapter 115 at each of its monthly meetings. At that time, the Committee greatly expanded its distribution list to include as many Maine educator groups as could be identified.

From September 24, 2025 until October 24, 2025, a public comment period was open regarding the revised Chapter 115. A public hearing was held on October 15, 2025. At the public hearing, comments were received from 58 people and organizational representatives, and an additional 12 people opted to observe only.

Literally hundreds of people have had eyes on this and the Committee has worked for innumerable hours on it in open meetings and sharing drafts. We have had two goals throughout this process - to be transparent and inclusive and to require rigorous preparation while being flexible. We believe we have achieved these goals.

Certification and Higher Education Committee Recommendation: On December 2, 2025, the Certification and Higher Education Committee approved the revised version of Part I and Part II of Chapter 115, and recommends that pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, the Maine State Board of Education approve revisions to Chapter 115 as submitted.

MOTION by Thomas Keller, seconded by Victoria Kornfield, and unanimously voted by those present to approve revisions to Chapter 115 as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit expense account vouchers to Erica Tompkins by the 15th day following the month the expenses incurred.

- The next regular State Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Burton Cross State Office Building and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

The December 11, 2025 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.