

Subject: Support Outdoor School for All Maine Students Bill

Below is an email template you can use to spread the word about the Act to Support Outdoor School for All Maine Students.

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to ask for your support for the Act to Support Outdoor School for All Maine Students. This bill, which has recently been introduced, aims to provide immersive outdoor education experiences for publicly funded students in grades 4 through 8 in schools across Maine.

The Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program would partner school districts with overnight outdoor education organizations program to provide every student in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade an opportunity to attend a two-night, three-day outdoor school program. The program would emphasize hands-on learning, observation and discovery, problem-solving, teamwork, citizenship, reflection, self-awareness, and responsibility while linking science to other subjects and emphasizing connections between individual and community responsibility, health, environmental and natural resources issues, and the economy.

This bill recognizes the importance of providing students with opportunities to build self-sufficiency and leadership skills, understand and value Maine's outdoor heritage, and the interdependence of Maine's rural and urban areas. Outdoor school experiences also develop critical thinking skills and improve academic performance, school attendance, and post-graduate success. However, less than a quarter of Maine students are currently able to attend outdoor school programming, with rural and lower-income districts facing particular challenges in accessing these experiences.

As someone who cares about the education and well-being of Maine students, I am asking for your support in promoting this bill within your network. Please consider taking the following actions:

- Use content from this email and the attached two-pager to aid your process of sharing information about this bill
- Reach out to your state representatives to urge them to support this bill
- Talk about this bill with members of your community, encouraging business leaders, teachers, and parents to also spread the word about this bill
- Write and/or present testimony once the hearing regarding this bill is scheduled
- Write op-eds/letters to the editor in your local newspapers in support of this bill
- Attend information sessions as they are offered
- Send questions about the bill to coordinator@mosfa.org

Once the final draft of the bill has been printed. I'll send it along. Thank you for your time and consideration. Together, we can provide all Maine students with the opportunity to benefit from outdoor school education.

Best regards,
[Your Name]