

**Task Force To Identify Special Education Cost Drivers  
and Innovative Approaches to Services**

128th Maine Legislature, 1st Session (Resolve 2017, Chapter 26 (LD 642))

**\*\*\* PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS \*\*\***

**Monday, December 4, 2017, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Cross State Office Building, Room 202, Augusta, Maine**  
(Education & Cultural Affairs Committee Room)

- 1:00 p.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**  
*(Sen. Brian Langley, Senate Chair, and Rep. Richard Farnsworth, House Chair)*
- 1:05 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks to Preview Task Force Agenda**  
*(Sen. Brian Langley, Senate Chair, and Rep. Richard Farnsworth, House Chair)*
- 1:10 p.m. **Briefing and Discussion: District Management Group (DMG) Spotlights:**
- “Improving and Expanding Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Supports: 10 Best Practices” (2017 DMG Publication)
  - “Improving Special Education: Best Practices for Cost Effectively Raising Achievement” (2016 DMG Publication)
  - “Something Has Got to Change: Rethinking Special Education” (2011 Future of American Education Project, American Enterprise Institute Publication)  
*(Nathan Levenson, President, District Management Group, Boston, MA)*
- 2:30 p.m. **Briefing and Discussion: Maine Small School Coalition (MSSC) Special Education Topics Discussed at the MSSC Fall Meeting:**
- Special Education Costs: What’s Driving Them Up
  - Suggestions for Improvement  
*(Paul Austin, Superintendent, RSU #3, Unity, ME; and MSSC Member)*
- 3:00 p.m. **Briefing and Discussion: Requests to Department of Education (DOE):**
- Financial impact to shift Child Development Services (CDS) and early intervention procedures.
  - Clarification of financial initiatives adopted in the FY 2018 and FY 2019 biennium budget bill related to special education programs and services, including if the financial initiatives adopted in the recent budget bill address the cost adjustments for special education faculty, staff and students in high poverty school districts?  
*(TBD, DOE Officials... FYI, they may not be able to attend this meeting)*
- 3:15 p.m. **Briefing and Discussion: Requests to Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) to Explain the Relationship of State Plans with Federal Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS):**

- Current state laws and rules enacted following the April 30, 2012 report from the DOE and the DHHS to the Legislature in response to LD 1003, “Resolve, To Assist Maine Schools To Obtain Federal Funds for Medically Necessary Services.”
- Briefings of the Federal and State authority to package together expenses with MaineCare funds to provide medically necessary services for public school students.
- Clarify the steps that must be followed by a school district in order to gain access to MaineCare funded services for children in the public schools.
- Provisions that are being deployed to help school districts navigate this issue; and what support is available to the school district to insure that the steps taken will lead to an effective billing process.
- Based on one out of eight babies born in the state from mothers battling medical addiction, clarify what medical service needs the DHHS officials’ consider are needed in the future based on the services being provided to families and children around the state; and what services they may be able to assist schools with to address those needs.  
*(TBD, DHHS Officials ... FYI, they may not be able to attend this meeting)*

3:30 p.m.    **Discussion of Proposed Recommendations for Task Force Report**  
*(Task Force Chairs and Members)*

3:55 p.m.    **Future Meeting Date(s) and Announcements**  
*(Sen. Langley, Senate Chair, and Rep. Farnsworth, House Chair)*

4:00 p.m.    **Adjournment**