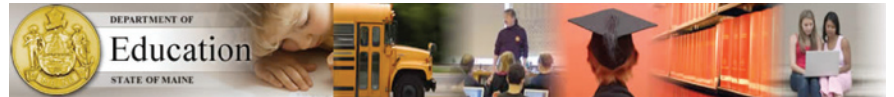


21st Century Skills in Maine

PARTNERSHIP FOR
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Commissioner
of Education
Susan Gendron
has established a



blueprint for Maine education that will launch students for careers, college and citizenship in the global economy. Through legislative support, Maine has revitalized its standards for teaching and learning. The Maine Learning Results Core Standards represent the collaborative wisdom of teachers, industry leaders and national experts. These standards include 21st century themes such as global awareness, economic and financial literacy, world language proficiency, and a lifetime commitment to wellness. Additionally, they promote the acquisition of knowledge and skills in writing, English language arts, visual and performing arts, health and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, career and education development.

Through the deployment of advanced technologies for students in grades 7-8 and for all secondary school educators, Maine has embraced 21st century tools for teaching and learning in the digital age.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Maine Learning Results Core Standards are built on the following Guiding Principles.

Each student must leave school as:

- A** A clear and effective communicator
- B** A self-directed and lifelong learner
- C** A creative and practical problem solver
- D** A responsible and involved citizen
- E** An integrative and informed thinker

A NEW VISION FOR SCHOOLS IN MAINE

Maine's revised vision of schools includes:

- 1** **Personal learning plans** that target each student's individual and common learning goals that will, throughout his or her school career, lead toward Maine's Guiding Principles and the goals that are built around the Learning Results Content Standards following a timeline for learning that is individualized.
- 2** **Processes in place** which allow students to reach the goals identified in the personal learning plan. Teams of teachers at all levels who have sufficient time and resources to learn, to plan, and to confer with individual students, colleagues and families.
- 3** **Creating assessments** of individual student progress based on multiple measures, using both formative and summative assessments.
- 4** **Resources** such as after-school programs, technology resources and training every student and educator, professional learning communities, professional development, rubrics to establish shared expectations, and ongoing collaborations between parents and educators.
- 5** **A school environment** where learning governs the allocation of time, space, facilities, services and individual timelines.

ASSESSMENTS OF 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

As Maine moves forward with new graduation requirements that ensure all students are prepared for college, careers and citizenship, new 21st century assessments are being proposed. These assessments will focus on determining if students have met the standards/performance expectations and can enter college without taking remedial courses.

As the state develops an assessment system that measures 21st century teaching and learning outcomes, it will look at the educational expectations across the state, nation and world so that students will achieve standards of excellence that will make them competitive. These assessments will address authentic roles within society. Examples include a public policy paper that incorporates citizenship, civics, technology, economics and data analysis along with writing for a real audience.

A syllabus for each high school course will ensure that the content meets rigorous standards and all students graduate ready for the demands of the 21st century.

HIGH SCHOOL STATE COLLECTION, PROPOSALS OR EXHIBITION

Upon graduation, all high school students will successfully demonstrate interpersonal skills, goal setting and decision-making within seven content areas using the following assessments:

English and language arts: Competencies in reading, writing, listening and speaking, inquiry/research, public policy and/or science investigation or technological design project

Health education and physical education: Wellness portfolio and Web-based assessment

Math: Web-based assessment in mathematics, data analysis in a high school state project

Science: Inquiry or technological design project and physical science assessment

Social Studies: Public policy project incorporating research, writing and data analysis

Visual and performing arts: Portfolio in one discipline of the arts

World languages: Oral and written assessment and interpretation of text or media in a language other than English

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is the leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. The organization brings together the business community, education leaders and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure every child's success as citizens and workers in the 21st century. The Partnership encourages schools, districts and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills into education and provides tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change.