**To get information about and to sign up for SPPS Director’s listserv:** <http://maillist.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/mesppsdir>

**ZOOM recording (chat at end)**:

[https://mainestate.zoom.us/rec/share/0-jgvB9GwDzaRwZVvbvDPpHpaA72cVcmOou-qMF7q-aRPTpRg82lyhEWffilAHKL.vYyqjiN6ys3mtybh](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainestate.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F0-jgvB9GwDzaRwZVvbvDPpHpaA72cVcmOou-qMF7q-aRPTpRg82lyhEWffilAHKL.vYyqjiN6ys3mtybh&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C28391a89c4f4451c647208db98ecb6df%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638271914667398584%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EZNA0tDU6rbSTxpmDfaU5IRdRXpIEvAileECd8F9LhY%3D&reserved=0)

Passcode: h9ZJss1%



**Farmers Markets in Maine ~ Celebrate August – Harvest Month**

**Unity Market Day Farmer’s Market** School Street Unity \*\*\*Every Saturday 9am-1pm

**Downtown Waterville Farmer’s Market** Front Street Waterville \*\*\*Every Thursday 2pm-6pm

**Portland Farmer’s Market** Deering Oaks Park \*\*\*Every Saturday & Wednesday 7am-1pm

**Bangor Ohio Street Farmer’s Market** Ohio St. Bangor \*\*\*Every Friday 9 am to 4:30pm

**Augusta Farmer’s Market** Mill Park \*\*\* Every Tuesday 2pm – 6pm

**Brunswick Farmer’s Market** The Mall Downtown\*\*\* Every Tuesday or Friday 8am – 2 pm

1. **Announcements** 
   1. **Transition to Standards Based Reporting** – the Community of Practice will be continuing with Audra Cole and Paula Perkins.
   2. **Erin Frazier’s Director of Office of Special Services updates**: Erin’s director meetings will begin again after school starts.
   3. **Sustainability Funds Round 2:** Reminder – applications were due to Barbara McGowen by August 1st. The application was previously sent and needs your SPPS Profit & Loss statement (for K-12 SPPS program of your agency) for the fiscal year (July 2022 to June 2023) attached. This time, only losses are taken into account and there is no base amount for each SPPS.  Funds will only cover losses in the K-12 SPPS caused by COVID and its lingering issues.

Please submit ASAP, before August 1, to Barbara McGowen, [Barbara.A.McGowen@maine.gov](mailto:Barbara.A.McGowen@maine.gov),  and Cc Mary Adley, [Mary.Adley@maine.gov](mailto:Mary.Adley@maine.gov).

Here is a link to the 20 minute Q&A Zoom recording:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/rec/share/sLx2ZiVpF0C2Jf2oBajKfRwYNASOitHwyUyH_86UcTNt-4ftmw1nWhPjqY-HXPzb.6QZH5ejUagDeUZci?startTime=1687960852000>

Passcode: ^9=Hj@rm

Reach out to Mary or Sarah with any further questions.

* 1. **College and Career Success Coordinators Provide Academic and Career Supports and Help Students Transition to College**

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) and the Maine Community College System announced that current and prospective community college students across the state now have access to College and Career Success Coordinators to provide them with academic and career supports and assist them with the transition to college. Through Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP) funding, the Success Coordinators have already served more than 1,000 students and helped nearly 400 students develop career and academic plans. **Prospective and current students can find the dedicated College and Career Success Coordinator in their county**[**here**](https://www.maine.gov/doe/jobsandrecovery/successnavigators)**.**<https://mainedoenews.net/2023/07/13/media-release-college-and-career-success-coordinators-provide-academic-and-career-supports-and-help-students-transition-to-college/>

* 1. **New Policy Guidance on State General Supervision Responsibilities Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B and C**

The Office of Special Education Programs is committed to supporting states in improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities and to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

This guidance provides states with accessible and actionable information necessary to exercise their general supervision responsibilities to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living; and that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected.

Likewise, this guidance provides states with information to support the implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

* [***Dear Colleague Letter on General Supervision Responsibilities***](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2l0ZXMuZWQuZ292L2lkZWEvaWRlYS1maWxlcy9kZWFyLWNvbGxlYWd1ZS1sZXR0ZXItZ2VuZXJhbC1zdXBlcnZpc2lvbi1yZXNwb25zaWJpbGl0aWVzLWp1bHktMjQtMjAyMy8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNzI3LjgwMjk0NzIxIn0.-m2fOEsaN4BblHchec1IBgeOyn6Vh6G-ZaMH02Hcjwg/s/1417822296/br/223336050926-l)
* [***Guidance on State General Supervision Responsibilities***](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2l0ZXMuZWQuZ292L2lkZWEvaWRlYS1maWxlcy9ndWlkYW5jZS1vbi1zdGF0ZS1nZW5lcmFsLXN1cGVydmlzaW9uLXJlc3BvbnNpYmlsaXRpZXMtdW5kZXItcGFydHMtYi1hbmQtYy1vZi10aGUtaWRlYS1qdWx5LTI0LTIwMjMvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDcyNy44MDI5NDcyMSJ9.reVexv3WFvIa9LkfGzpy86Qm42iDfy0A5oXiZxMMVgA/s/1417822296/br/223336050926-l)
  1. **Legislative Updates**:
     + **Chapter 101 - Rule Title: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age 20**

Filing Agency: This is a rule of the Maine Department of Education

Action: Proposed Emergency Rulemaking - Only Section XVIII 3(C)

Notice: [Priority Notice June 9, 2023](https://mailchi.mp/maine/cu5lemq6y0-1326195?e=2b715f9f3a)

[Fact Sheet](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Chapter%20101%20Emergency%20Fact%20Sheet%206.9.23_1.docx)

[Proposed Emergency Chapter 101 Language](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Chapter%20101%20Emergency%20Amended%20Section%20XVIII%20%283%29%20only%20June%202023.pdf)

Effective Date of Rule: July 7, 2023

Final Adoption of Rule Chapter 101 with all sections of Rule in one document:  [Chapter 101 Language](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Chapter%20101%20Final%20Effective%207.7.23%20Emergency%20filing%20only%20change%20SecXVIII%203%28C%29..docx)

* **Chapter 33**
* Rule Title: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion
* Filing Agency: This is a rule of the Maine Department of Education
* Action: Proposed Rulemaking
* Note: Targeted Rulemaking
* Notice: October 27, 2021
* Public Hearing: November 22, 2021
* Comment Deadline: December 3, 2021
* Notice: February 4, 2022
* Comment Period New for only Targeted Language Definitions Refined: February 3 - March 4, 2022
* Effective Date of Rule: August 6, 2023
* Final Adoption of Rule: [Chapter 33 Language](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Chapter%2033%20Final%20Effective%208.6.23.docx)

**Every SPPS needs to update their policies in accordance with the updated rules.**

* + - UPDATE: July 31, 2023 from Courtney Belolan

- Emergency bills that have been signed are in effect

- Regular bills that have been signed are in effect 10/25/23

- Enacted bills that do not get signed will not go into effect until *after the second session*

- Bills that did not get funded and did not die are being carried over to the second session

               \* those that were carried over in committee will be picked up in committee

               \* those that left the committee will be picked up in the House and Senate

Governor Mills has signed the following into law:

* LD 432 [An Act to Clarify MaineCare Program Requirements Regarding Certain High-risk Health Care Providers](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cubWFpbmVsZWdpc2xhdHVyZS5vcmcvbGVnaXMvYmlsbHMvZGlzcGxheV9wcy5hc3A_UElEPTE0NTYmc251bT0xMzEmcGFwZXI9JnBhcGVybGQ9bCZsZD00MzIiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNzI4LjgwMzY0NzUxIn0.HpBr5JV8o1kcjN7JUJAlJvad6nXIx4BhSmmqMqL0JyI/s/3000941242/br/223405205399-l)
* LD 79 [An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of "State Agency Client" and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cubWFpbmVsZWdpc2xhdHVyZS5vcmcvbGVnaXMvYmlsbHMvZGlzcGxheV9wcy5hc3A_UElEPTE0NTYmc251bT0xMzEmcGFwZXI9JnBhcGVybGQ9bCZsZD03OSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzA3MjguODAzNjQ3NTEifQ.O17I1pgBs8xYFsHL2NBeEaSmA2gb1xRGCXEqQYKEvH0/s/3000941242/br/223405205399-l)
* LD 98 [An Act to Update the Special Education Laws](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cubWFpbmVsZWdpc2xhdHVyZS5vcmcvbGVnaXMvYmlsbHMvZGlzcGxheV9wcy5hc3A_UElEPTE0NTYmc251bT0xMzEmcGFwZXI9JnBhcGVybGQ9bCZsZD05OCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzA3MjguODAzNjQ3NTEifQ.o0kGWdPqp3YWXWCAc-orsKxkgw1Uio_fIkcIctLO8NQ/s/3000941242/br/223405205399-l)
* LD 684 [Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Study the Educare Model](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cubWFpbmVsZWdpc2xhdHVyZS5vcmcvbGVnaXMvYmlsbHMvZGlzcGxheV9wcy5hc3A_UElEPTE0NTYmc251bT0xMzEmcGFwZXI9JnBhcGVybGQ9bCZsZD02ODQiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNzI4LjgwMzY0NzUxIn0.a9rm1Gc-2li11vLtcwVGoIHPGr5BLrxi7_WkpY4zJbI/s/3000941242/br/223405205399-l)
* LD 1799 [An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNzQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cubWFpbmVsZWdpc2xhdHVyZS5vcmcvbGVnaXMvYmlsbHMvZGlzcGxheV9wcy5hc3A_UElEPTE0NTYmc251bT0xMzEmcGFwZXI9JnBhcGVybGQ9bCZsZD0xNzk5IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDcyOC44MDM2NDc1MSJ9.ohy5E2EJ7FMH6BrGsuPEZBgxjKmo5f5MTRrIn5n4Ek8/s/3000941242/br/223405205399-l)
  1. **Maine DHHS Updates**
     + August 1, 2023 The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is pleased to invite you to provide input on the current *Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services* and *Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who Are Children in Need of Treatment*.

Online Surveys are available for both the *Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services* and *Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who Are Children in Need of Treatment*.

The links to the surveys can be found here:

[Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZG9jcy5nb29nbGUuY29tL2Zvcm1zL2QvZS8xRkFJcFFMU2Z1QUYxMEl3b1JTWlN4OGNrTlNTRk81bXltc2U3bGVUOHJQc25uYUI0Njl6dGNoZy92aWV3Zm9ybT91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNzMxLjgwNDQ4MzQxIn0.b3zCyAIB-X2K_uVmNOqZE35tPojl7qxxXgJyWGGQH94/s/1302775786/br/223480760699-l)

[Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who Are Children in Need of Treatment](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZG9jcy5nb29nbGUuY29tL2Zvcm1zL2QvZS8xRkFJcFFMU2ZRWm9oVmN2UFFpaHlKMHFjZXhaLVVaNmFScHhBUXp0dzEzclFpSGFxSUVRdEhwQS92aWV3Zm9ybT91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNzMxLjgwNDQ4MzQxIn0.EkjMDNOlMqjIDRiLtblbRdDZStKN15_kmRnbWWGGAGg/s/1302775786/br/223480760699-l)

These surveys will remain available until August 31, 2023

If you have questions, please email [BehavioralHealthRightsOBH@maine.gov](mailto:BehavioralHealthRightsOBH@maine.gov)  for the *Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services* and [BehavioralHealthRights.OCFS@maine.gov](mailto:BehavioralHealthRights.OCFS@maine.gov) for the *Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who Are Children in Need of Treatment*.

There will be additional opportunities to provide feedback, including Listening Sessions that will take place in October and November.

* + - **MaineCare - Attention All Providers: Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) Audit** Jul 19, 2023 -The State of Maine is currently in the process of a federally mandated PERM audit for Reporting Year 2024. This audit covers randomly selected paid claims with a payment date from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Due to the random sampling of claims, all providers should be prepared to send requested medical records to support claims that were or will be paid during this time period.

PERM Description and Federal Requirements - PERM measures improper payments in Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and produces state- and national-level error rates for each program as required by the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) of 2002 (amended in 2010 by the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act or IPERA, and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 or IPERIA). See [CMS PERM Laws and Regulations webpage](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicaid-and-CHIP-Compliance/PERM/lawsandregulations)   for more details. CMS also has a  [dedicated page for providers](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicaid-and-CHIP-Compliance/PERM/Providers), complete with a link to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providers/provider-bulletins/attention-all-providers-payment-error-rate-measurement-perm-audit-2023-07-19?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>

* **Person-Centered Planning Training Series - Disability Services – Waiver Sections (18, 20, 21, 29)** Please join the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) for the conclusion of a four (4) part series of the Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Process. This training series has thoroughly examined the core principles and values of Person-Centered Planning and equips participants with tools and skills to use with the people they support. The PCP process emphasizes the importance of empowering the person to control their plan.

The training for this four-part series includes:

* + Building a Foundation for Person-Centered Thinking
  + Initial Assessments and Using Person-Centered Thinking (Phases 1 and 2)
  + The Planning Meeting: Preparation and Facilitation (Phase 3); Identifying Supports and Services and Ongoing Monitoring (Phases 4 and 5)
  + A Person-Centered SIP

A recording will be made of each training. After the event, this recording and any accompanying materials will be posted to the OADS website.

We encourage Case Managers and staff with Provider agencies who work directly with waiver members to attend and participate. Each attendee must register and use their unique link to join the sessions to receive a certificate of attendance. Using another attendee’s unique login link will result in your attendance not being recorded.

If you require accommodation, such as real-time transcription and captioning (CART), American Sign Language (ASL), or other language interpretation, please contact Miranda Whalen at [miranda.whalen@maine.gov](mailto:miranda.whalen@maine.gov) by two weeks prior.

**Training 3: The Planning Meeting, Identifying Supports, and Ongoing Monitoring (Phases 3, 4, and 5)**

Please save the date and join us for the third training: The Planning Meeting, Identifying Supports, and Ongoing Monitoring. This training will focus on Phases 3, 4, and 5 of “Part II: Five-Phase Approach to Person-Centered Planning” section of the [Maine Person-Centered Planning Process- Instruction Guide](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm1haW5lLmdvdi9kaGhzL3NpdGVzL21haW5lLmdvdi5kaGhzL2ZpbGVzL2lubGluZS1maWxlcy9NYWluZS1QZXJzb24tQ2VudGVyZWQtUGxhbm5pbmctUHJvY2Vzcy1JbnN0cnVjdGlvbi1HdWlkZS1TZWN0aW9ucy0xMy0yMS0yOS5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgwMi44MDU3NTIzMSJ9.n6mo6yer4Af8cwRyMXs_hUuYk3q7Ap3M0cO2eZ-jX60/s/1302775786/br/223616669957-l). This guide is available on the OADS website for your reference. We encourage Case Managers and staff with Provider agencies who work directly with waiver members to attend and participate.

There will be 2 opportunities to attend this training.

* + August 22: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
  + August 23: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Please register at this link to assist us with pre-planning group activities for discussions:

August 22nd Session:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocu6hpjgjG9xcvUXmJ1mbZCsuNXLdNDXm>

August 23rd Session:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrf-GvpzgrGNIe2VzVC0dz3wJY8dJFBM1u>

**Training 4: A Person-Centered SIP**

Please save the date and join us for the fourth training: A Person-Centered SIP. This training will focus on creating and implementing an individualized Service Implementation Plan (SIP). This training will provide a more detailed review of Phase 4 of “Part II: Five-Phase Approach to Person-Centered Planning” section of the [Maine Person-Centered Planning Process- Instruction Guide](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm1haW5lLmdvdi9kaGhzL3NpdGVzL21haW5lLmdvdi5kaGhzL2ZpbGVzL2lubGluZS1maWxlcy9NYWluZS1QZXJzb24tQ2VudGVyZWQtUGxhbm5pbmctUHJvY2Vzcy1JbnN0cnVjdGlvbi1HdWlkZS1TZWN0aW9ucy0xMy0yMS0yOS5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgwMi44MDU3NTIzMSJ9.gUIw5R1d1_HpjX2cFWMq7WkYRHGO-6fo62enXLln270/s/1302775786/br/223616669957-l). This guide is available on the OADS website for your reference. We encourage Case Managers and staff with Provider agencies who work directly with waiver members to attend and participate.

There will be two opportunities to attend this training.

* + August 29: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
  + August 30: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Please register at this link to assist us with pre-planning group activities for discussions:

August 29th Session:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO6orjotH9fsA4nPSqnhvd6qxok4wMBz>

August 30th Session:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsduurpjkrHdZwb8TqanBW-lC_8OaJe-eD>

Training 1 and 2 Recordings and materials are available on the OADS website:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/providers/adults-with-intellectual-disability-and-autism/person-centered-planning>

Notification link : <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEHHS/bulletins/368a9a4>

* 1. **DOE Calendars**
     + **FY 24 Monitoring Cohort**

Webinar – August 17, 9:00 – 12:00

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/81278002061?pwd=TzlHY2NSQjJVYjNyMy9ac21SZjFWdz09&from=addon>  
  
Meeting ID: 812 7800 2061  
Passcode: 88997107

**23-24 Cohort Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Desk Audit due | 12/29/23 |
| Desk Audit LOF sent by | 1/26/24 |
| Site Visit LOF sent by 4 weeks after Site Visit Debrief | varies |
| Additional evidence by | 5/10/24 |
| CAP created | 5/10/24 |
| CAP evidence due | 9/15/24 |
| CAP close | 11/15/24 |

* + - **Staff Certification Report Opens on 8/1**

All staff in the Maine Department of Education’s NEO Staff reporting module for all school administrative units (SAUs) have been rolled over to the new school year in Pending Status. All staff will need to be reviewed, updated, or deleted in NEO Staff for the current school year. Update email addresses and phone numbers for district personnel, this information is used by the DOE to contact proper individuals for various purposes. Years of experience increment automatically for individuals with previous experience in a position. <https://mainedoenews.net/2023/07/14/staff-certification-report-opens-on-8-1/>

* + - NEO DC&R calendar

<https://neo.maine.gov/DOE/neo/DCAR/Calendar>

* + - Maine Department of Education Event Calendar

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/calendar>

1. **Recent SPPS inquiry topics/clarification**:

2023-24 Diploma Agreement – reminder

1. **Questions and Comments from and for SPPS group:**

What are the requirements for how many content areas on the report card?

Could SPPSs be monitored on a tiered cycle?

1. **Upcoming PD Options:**
   1. **NEW Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) Technical Assistance Center (TAC):** Introductory Webinar, Thursday, August 17, 2023, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET. Please join CMS and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 3:00 to 4:00 PM ET for the first in a series of webinars to assist State Medicaid agencies, State Departments of Education, local education agencies (LEAs), and school-based entities in leveraging Medicaid to support school-based services (SBS). Presenters from CMS, ED, and the [Medicaid SBS Technical Assistance Center (TAC)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedicaidforeducation.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D517782e5b66f410878f836597%26id%3D8cacef5020%26e%3D92abee7639&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C8e5a4b7c56b246bf213408db92cad60e%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638265172172399586%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gfmtKM1keJ2Gw2b6kJjEnmDvh5PCQbf4M%2BVTSsntC8U%3D&reserved=0) contractors will introduce the SBS TAC and review the [May 18, 2023 CMCS Informational Bulletin](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedicaidforeducation.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D517782e5b66f410878f836597%26id%3D785c71476e%26e%3D92abee7639&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C8e5a4b7c56b246bf213408db92cad60e%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638265172172399586%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RF%2BeCR9LX6Ru3hE1UfmxBcRVbP1mUtTJQbRr4MO18LY%3D&reserved=0) announcing new guidance and flexibilities related to SBS services, claiming, reimbursement, and other programmatic details. The webinar also previews the TAC’s upcoming learning opportunities and resources to support states understanding and responding to the new [Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedicaidforeducation.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D517782e5b66f410878f836597%26id%3D1aed1e48d7%26e%3D92abee7639&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C8e5a4b7c56b246bf213408db92cad60e%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638265172172399586%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hMPYQCv5Ncv9i9koPcOL0JjVwnoNgNSh50L5L05Y5NE%3D&reserved=0) resource. Register for the webinar [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedicaidforeducation.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D517782e5b66f410878f836597%26id%3D1959b1f537%26e%3D92abee7639&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C8e5a4b7c56b246bf213408db92cad60e%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638265172172399586%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VS8bcPtknO%2BM000uAYMIUOo%2BFP06%2B18aWxpIDpad0Hg%3D&reserved=0).  A recording from the webinar will be made available for those who cannot attend within two weeks of the live event. Please direct any questions related to the webinar or guidance to the SBS mailbox at [schoolbasedservices@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:schoolbasedservices@cms.hhs.gov).
   2. **NEW Webinar: Assistive Technology Assessment Basics: Environment and Augmentative/Alternative Communication** Date: August 9, 2023; Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET -

This webinar will provide basic assessment tools to help you select assistive technology (AT) for your user (student, client, family member). Assessments for the AT user’s environment, barriers to access and participation, as well as the essentials for augmentative and alternative communication will be covered. A useful checklist with a variety of sample devices in different areas will be shared. Participants will walk away from the webinar with the tools to begin an AT assessment right away!

Please use the link below for more information about this event and to register:  
[https://mainecite.org/training/assistive-technology-assessment-basics-environment-and-augmentative-alternative-communication/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainecite.us15.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D71a3d290d106e86ba7667cace%26id%3Df1b37f4cf7%26e%3D8c1ffdafc9&data=05%7C01%7CSarah.Ferguson%40maine.gov%7C1cc44155e58d4b8fc08d08db8792b039%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638252836330151644%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u0ZpNHMmZTU%2BU1vafCwYHPxRhf0vYTBi3R8oh7uTmL4%3D&reserved=0)

* 1. **MADSEC’s Teach4ME207 Special Education Summer Conference** is August 15th. It will be a virtual event with 18 different presenters. Offered in partnership with Maine Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), it is open to any professional. Visit [www.madsec.org](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.madsec.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7CGaye.Erskine%40maine.gov%7Cd207eb4f77be4157df9708db5e16766f%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638207222921988318%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=drlECR4ZtRFI3D9rQhZGo53nBsX87Cug%2FNXRrG5eJ4U%3D&reserved=0) for more information or review the attachment.
  2. **Register for Second Annual Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Conference** - The Maine Department of Education is proud to partner with Jobs for Maine Grads (JMG) on the Second Annual Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Conference. This is a 2-night, 3-day intensive designed to equip educators with the skills and facilitated planning time to build or expand quality ELO programming for Maine students. Come and go as needed. August 14-16, University of Maine at Orono <https://mainedoenews.net/2023/06/01/register-for-second-annual-extended-learning-opportunities-elo-conference/>
  3. **Registration Opens June 5th for Maine’s 2023 Statewide Early Childhood Education Conference** in Portland on October 27 & 28 - Save the Date for Maine’s 2023 Statewide Early Childhood Education Conference! The Maine Department of Education (DOE) is proud to collaborate with the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children to provide this professional learning opportunity geared to educators working across the birth to grade 3 spans. This year’s conference has an incredible lineup. <https://mainedoenews.net/2023/06/05/leading-early-learning-a-professional-learning-series-for-elementary-school-administrators-3/>

1. **Resource Topics:**
   1. **Preparing Families for the New School Year (Edutopia: July 10,2023 – Lusa Lo)** Preparing for a new school year can be exciting but also daunting for many families. They have to help their children transition from unstructured to structured schedules and may worry about the children’s adjustment to a new environment— especially if attending a new school. Families of children with disabilities who have new placements may be concerned about how the change might impact their children. Being prepared and connecting with families as early as possible at the beginning of the school year can be beneficial to both school professionals and families. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/preparing-families-new-school-year>
   2. **Who Should Evaluate Teachers?** Integrating peer review systems into teacher evaluations can lead to improved teacher effectiveness, academic achievement, and collaboration among colleagues. Despite large-scale reforms over the past decade, teacher evaluation systems have “failed to improve student outcomes,” a widely cited 2021 study by Brown University researchers concluded. One of the few bright spots in the report, in fact, were cities like Cincinnati, which implemented peer evaluation systems where teachers were evaluated by “experienced, expert teachers,” in addition to school principals—a system that improved student achievement in math. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/who-should-evaluate-teachers?utm_content=linkpos1&utm_source=research-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=website>
   3. **Hi-Low Novels for Teens** At Finding Forward Books, we publish easy-to-read novels with positive life lessons that show teens overcoming challenges in their lives. Our mission is to help students improve their reading skills, increase their success in school, and gain hope. The novels are fast-paced and compelling, with Lexile measures ranging from 390 to 560. The books are suitable for all students, including English learners and those with learning disabilities. They are printed in Open Dyslexic, a font to accommodate students with dyslexia. The books are low in cost and may be purchased from Amazon for $4.99. They may also be ordered from Barnes and Noble, independent bookstores, and suppliers such as Follett and Mackin. Quantity discounts are available from Express Booksellers. <https://www.findingforwardbooks.com/?CID=mvbrief_cec>
   4. **How to Help Students Focus on What They’re Learning, Not the Grade** - Work that emphasizes students’ developing skills instead of a graded product reminds them to see learning as their goal. By Sarah Schroeder, November 30, 2020 - THE ASSESSMENT TRAP Questions that learners ask about an assignment are telling. How long should it be? How do I get an A? What do you want us to turn in? When is it due? These questions focus on the grade, not the learning outcomes. They highlight the assessment trap, or a focus on “What do I have to produce?” versus “What am I learning from this assignment?” This article details three reasons and specific steps for each to focus on process over product. •Reduce Stress and Anxiety •Develop Expert Learners and •Measure what Matters <https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-help-students-focus-what-theyre-learning-not-grade/>
   5. **Choosing children's books that include and affirm disability experiences (Includes book suggestions)** – by Marlena Jackson-Retondo - Disability representation in children’s literature is for everybody. “Whether you’re disabled or not, you can appreciate a book with a character who is or is not disabled,” said Duyvis. A reader who is disabled might read a book with disability representation and recognize themselves, while a non-disabled reader might recognize disability as “a little more normal,” she added. Disability representation in kids’ literature can also educate readers about what living with a disability might look like or mean. These books help to counter misinformation, said Julia Torres, a librarian, educator and activist. Educators should steer away from “disability warrior” and “trauma warrior” tropes, said Perez. Although trauma might be part of someone’s experience with a disability, Torres said, “We can center a type of children’s literature where the disability is a part of a person’s lived experience and identity, just as a cultural or ethnic or linguistic identity is part of the human experience.” <https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/62049/choosing-childrens-books-that-include-and-affirm-disability-experiences?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20230730_MindShift&mc_key=93669084>

# **For Your Health:**

# **Maine CDC Offers Tips to Prevent Getting Rabies from Bats**

**July 25, 2023** *Bats are most active from late July to early September*

**AUGUSTA —** The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) urges

Maine people and visitors to take steps to avoid bats to reduce potential exposure to rabies.

Bats are most active in Maine from late July into early September, however bat exposures can

occur during any time of year. The Maine CDC encourages people to be cautious around bats,

keep their distance and know what to do after exposure to a bat. Learn lots more at the website

below!

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/news/maine-cdc-offers-tips-prevent-getting-rabies-bats-tue-07252023-1200>

**Recently added to the Padlet:**

* Discovery Education/Minecraft
* Preparing Families for the New School Year
* IEP Tip Sheet

**Link:** [Padlet of Resources](https://padlet.com/gayeerskine/it-s-a-jungle-out-there-6ip20lenh9odtu15)

**CHAT:**

10:11:07 From Andrea Richards to Everyone:

Are other SPPS program going to start that billing for July now?

10:11:58 From Amanda Charron to Everyone:

Yes, we sent out updated Purchase Agreements to each of our schools to cover July-August.

10:28:57 From Gary Dugal to Everyone:

Will we have clarification on our roles in truancy reporting before the new school year starts?

10:29:35 From Erin Chase to Everyone:

Yes! You go Mary!

10:47:37 From Amanda Charron to Everyone:

Just for clarification- World Language could be the use of a PECS book, language output device or sign language?

10:58:09 From Erin Chase to Everyone:

Thank you!