

**SPPS DIRECTORS MEETING
Date: 11/8/2023 10:00 AM**



**Saturday, November 11, 2023**

**Honoring all American Veterans**

**whether they are alive or not and who served**

**in the armed forces during war or peacetime.**

**Thank you!**

**National Native American Heritage Month**

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**ZOOM recording:** [https://mainestate.zoom.us/rec/share/tiTNEzTfsdSXGUnaG-TegPcH8sarJCrB7lfX1AAFE42paFaCL2p4eNeNAd-0iULh.YrhpY6BnUSNUbTLR](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainestate.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FtiTNEzTfsdSXGUnaG-TegPcH8sarJCrB7lfX1AAFE42paFaCL2p4eNeNAd-0iULh.YrhpY6BnUSNUbTLR&data=05%7C01%7Cgaye.erskine%40maine.gov%7C6fdc336d50534fe5a11c08dbe0770db7%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638350574161074742%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rJvzYIsDZniKX0MJF%2FwhiojguP83T5U2mWLdCd9ztaI%3D&reserved=0)

**Passcode:** 4$Fi+A39

1. Erin Frazier’s Director of Office of Special Services updates: no meetings since the last SPPS Director meeting on 10/11/23
2. Legislative Updates
	* **PUBLIC COMMENT: Rule Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Education; Science and Social Studies Standards** As part of the scheduled periodic review of the Maine Learning Results, the Maine Department of Education is seeking public comments regarding the proposed revisions to the social studies standards and the science standard in Rule Chapter 132. These comments will inform the continued work of the standards revision teams and are an integral part of the rulemaking process. Timeline for Rulemaking for Rule Chapter 132 – Standards Review, Major Substantive

File: October 4, 2023

Post: October 11, 2023

Comment Period End: November 14, 2023 <https://mainedoenews.net/2023/10/12/public-comment-rule-chapter-132-learning-results-parameters-for-essential-education-science-and-social-studies-standards/>

* **PUBLIC COMMENT: Filing of Targeted Revisions to Rule Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Rule (MUSER)** Public Law 2023, Chapter 450 amends 20-A MRSA §7001, 7002, 7258, and 8305 to amend the upper age limit to under 22 years of age, changes hearing impairment to deafness, including hearing loss, changes serious emotional disturbance to emotional disability, and changes deafness and blindness to deaf-blindness. Public Law 2023, Chapter 450 also amends outdated language by changing the term pupil evaluation to individualized education program. These changes are now reflected in the revised MUSER.

As required by law, a period of public comment opens **October 25, 2023, through November 27, 2023**. Written comments may be submitted to Maine DOE Rulemaking Liaison Laura Cyr, State House Station #23, Augusta, Maine 04333; 207-446-8791 or laura.cyr@maine.gov until 5:00 pm November 27, 2023. For documentation purposes, written comments are preferred.

In addition, a **public hearing for the revised Rule Chapter 101 will be held in person and virtually on November 17, 2023, from 3:00-5:00 pm** <https://mainedoenews.net/2023/10/19/public-comment-filing-of-targeted-revisions-to-rule-chapter-101-maine-unified-special-education-rule-muser/>

1. Maine DHHS Updates
* **Schools can be reimbursed directly for transportation costs through Maine Care’s NET program.** School Health-Related Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) Requests for School-based transportation should be made by the provider. If the student has a service listed on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) **including Day Treatment,** or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and needs transportation to get to and/or from the medical appointment, it is the provider’s responsibility to arrange this. Providers should see the Transportation Broker List (PDF) and locate your town to see which broker to call. If you need additional assistance, please email MaineCareinEducation.DHHS@maine.gov. You may also email Trista Collins, State Medicaid Education Liaison. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/member-resources/transportation>

Link to [Transportation Broker List (PDF)](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sites/maine.gov.dhhs/files/inline-files/Transportation-Document-A-Brokers.pdf)

* The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Maine Child Welfare Action Network are partnering with Chapin Hall to understand more about existing programs within communities that help children and families in Maine. This includes programs that primarily serve adults but also benefit families with children. Specifically, we are interested in understanding those programs' eligibility, counties or towns served, funding sources, and services to inform the development and implementation of Maine’s Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan.

[We are requesting program managers and administrators click here to complete this survey for each program within an organization](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vdWNoaWNhZ28uY28xLnF1YWx0cmljcy5jb20vamZlL2Zvcm0vU1ZfME5jWEhpWXdqc1VmdmFDP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzExMDYuODUyMjc0MjEifQ.2DtVUuvLvC5n1SxvI5M7Erlf_i4lbAxYqfwdf5_aS3k/s/1302775786/br/230095763591-l). Please complete this survey by Monday, November 20.

1. DOE Calendars
* 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:
* BHP invoicing must not be done by Special Ed teachers. We recently noted this situation on a site visit. It is ok to provide coverage but cannot bill because that position is funded through daily tuition and Medicaid recognizes Special Ed teachers as medical case managers providing consultation to other adults. Medicaid does not recognize Special Ed teachers as direct care – not billable, even if they are trained; it is considered “double dipping” and is not lawful.
* Schools may not ask students to stay home due to staff outages and vacancies, unless documented as an IEP team determination of an IEP meeting or in a WN of a “meeting without a meeting”. Request IEP meetings of your SAU partners to brainstorm and document, including the resulting subsequent compensatory education agenda once the service delivery is no longer impacted by the situation causing the interruption in the delivery of FAPE.
* SAU directors have inquired if SPPSs might make the SPPS “selling points” and “niche student population” more prevalent on the SPPS webpages. Directors and parents would like to easily see if your SPPS would serve their student’s needs.
* What are the self-contained numbers in MUSER?

MUSER X. 2. C. (2) (c)

*The following child-teacher ratios shall not be exceeded for self-contained services from a special education teacher (educational technician) for a full school day. The figures in parentheses represent the number of additional children who may be provided self-contained services during the time that one or more educational technicians work under the supervision of the certified special education teacher responsible for the program.*

Staff:Child Ratios:

*Ages 5-9 6:1 (5)*

*Ages 10-14 8:1 (5)*

*Ages 15-20 10:1 (5)*

*Classes for children with a severe to profound degree of impairment shall be staffed with a minimum of two (2) providers (i.e., one teacher and one educational technician) at all times to ensure the safety and well-being of the students.*

* What are the case management numbers in MUSER?

MUSER X. 2. Special Education in the Least Restrictive Environment for Children Three to Twenty

A. Types of Special Education

(1) *Consultation Services. Consultation as a special education service may be provided to general education teachers of children with disabilities by special education teachers or speech/language clinicians or pathologists to assist them in modifying and/or adapting their general education curriculum to enable children to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and to appropriately advance toward achieving the goals set out in their IFSP/IEP. Consultation services shall be provided by an appropriately qualified special education professional employed or contracted by an SAU.*

*When a special education teacher is responsible for case management, the case management caseload permitted shall be no greater than 35 students for each full-time equivalent special education teacher. The caseload limits apply to the number of children for whom a special education teacher carries the responsibility for case management.*

*When a speech/language clinician or pathologist responsible for case management and specially designed instruction also provides regularly scheduled consultation services, the caseload permitted shall be no greater than 50 children for each full-time equivalent speech-language pathologist or speech clinician.*

* *Consultation may be provided to special educators by related service personnel or education consultants.*
* **New things to think about regarding billing based on enrollment:**
	+ Tuition may only be billed on student instructional days, so you are not able to invoice for days the schools are closed for emergencies.

**From Governor Mills’ remarks on 10/30:**

I also recognize that this tragedy has been difficult on small businesses, particularly those in Lewiston/Auburn and surrounding areas, who are an important part of their communities and who remained closed during the shelter-in-place order to allow law enforcement to do their work.

My Administration, through the Department of Economic and Community Development, will be reaching out to you in the coming days and working with the federal Small Business Administration and the Lewiston Auburn Chamber of Commerce to assess any financial support that may be available to help you through this difficult time.

[https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-addresses-administrations-response-lewiston-tragedy-outlines-actions-days-come](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fgovernor%2Fmills%2Fnews%2Fgovernor-mills-addresses-administrations-response-lewiston-tragedy-outlines-actions-days-come&data=05%7C01%7CSarah.Ferguson%40maine.gov%7C8f5c8cb5605a4fbbd25708dbdba52894%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638345274614757404%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=38%2BSkijB%2B6RIcS0ZQhdzcR7BthoK0iO3NuI8FC73wBQ%3D&reserved=0)

* + **Billing on snow days**: Is remote instruction happening with lunch/snacks provided (delivered to homes, is how SAUs do it) on snow days? If so, yes. If a traditional snow day, it is not an instruction day which will need to be made up at the end of the year. This is CRITICAL for SPPS to understand for FAPE and for invoicing – SAUs develop a budget and can’t pay for a day twice.
1. Promising Practices:
* **Amanda Fenimore: Parent Counseling and Training**

When students are referred The Collaborative School does an intake- informal, like a meet and greet. This lets parents know what their part is in the whole treatment and programming. They like them to commit upfront which includes three hours of training. Some of this is done with the child as well, and sometimes just the parent. The Collaborative School also does a multi-family luncheon or meeting once a month on top of one hour a week with the social worker. This plan with the parent(s) is also in the IEP for the child. There is a direct coalition between parents being involved and parents that are not in the success of the child’s progress and programming.

**MUSER XI. EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN B-2 AND RELATED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN THREE TO TWENTY**

**Related Services 3 to 20**

Counseling services means services provided by qualified social workers, psychologists, or other qualified personnel.

*A licensed clinical professional counselor licensed by the Maine State Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure may provide assessment, consultation, counseling and referral services to children with disabilities and their parents consistent with the laws and regulations governing the practice of professional counseling (32 MRSA Chap. 119). A licensed marriage and family therapist may provide counseling services.*

Parent counseling and training means assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child; providing parents with information about child development; and helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child’s IEP or IFSP.

1. Questions and Comments from and for SPPS group:
* From Amanda Fenimore, The Collaborative School: As we roll into the sick season how is everyone responding or managing when you can't safely have kids at school due to the number of staff absences?
1. Upcoming PD options:
* **NEW National Center for Systemic Improvement Research to Practice Spotlight Series, Session 1: Supporting Practice Guide Implementation: Providing Reading Interventions to Students in Grades 4-9 Thursday**, November 30th, 2023, 3:30pm-4:30pm ET - About the Session:

NCSI is pleased to present our new Research to Practice Spotlight Series focused on advancing the practical application of research to support student learning in reading and math. Our first session will focus on the evidence-based recommendations in the What Works Clearinghouse practice guide: Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4–9 and facilitate discussions on ways SEAs and LEAs can support educators to implement recommendations with diverse learners in varied contexts. <https://mailchi.mp/wested/research-to-practice-session-1?e=4e26b8940b>

1. Resource Topics
* **The Mistake Imperative- Why We Must Get Over Our Fear of Student Error**

**Edutopia Youki Terada November 19, 2020**

The fear of making mistakes is often paralyzing, but cognitive science suggest that errors are part of the fundamental machinery of learning. Creating a mistake-friendly classroom will not only help your students develop the necessary skills for future success, but it’ll also encourage them to have a healthy mindset that accepts-and learns from- failure. Explore the six classroom strategies to make this a reality at:

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/mistake-imperative-why-we-must-get-over-our-fear-student-error>

* 5 Solutions to Common Problems That I Learned as a First-Year Teacher Edutopia Audra Lynman 10/23/2023

As a first-year teacher last year, this author learned a few things that she thinks Improved her practice. She found and shares five sustainable solutions to common issues for beginner secondary teachers that helped her. The five topics are: Model Work for Assignments, Written Management Strategy, Written and always visible expectations, Have a Mantra For Decision Making and Repetition in Lesson and Instructions. To explore these sustainable solutions go to:

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-tips-new-high-school-teachers?utm_content=linkpos2&utm_campaign=weekly-2023-10-25&utm_medium=email&utm_source=edu-newsletter>

* **Brain Injury Association Newsletter – November 2023** A plethora of resources within this newsletter- from support groups to stories about others as well as upcoming events. This newsletter includes information from Maine DHHS for children and families needing help after the Lewiston Tragedy. The Maine Chapter of The Brain Injury Association of America works to increase awareness of brain injury, provide information, resources, and support for individuals who have sustained brain injuries and their families, and advocate for prevention and improved funding and service across the state of Maine.

To get more information <https://www.biausa.org/find-bia/main>

To sign up for the monthly newsletter please use this link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XAWofwJ?source_id=78af204e-fcfc-4dbb-9640-ae91c47d5543&source_type=em&c=MztGGw6PVV3yaV5VjJ-RwFq78PnghhWXlW53r6fGyupas3CQf4Kz0w==>

* **Talking to Our Children about the violence in Israel and Gaza**

Dr. Adolph “Doc” Brown Psychologist “Behind Scenes”, Instagram

As parents, it’s our responsibility to guide our children through difficult conversations, even when the topic is a sensitive as the ongoing violence in Israel and Gaza. Dr. Brown says to remember these three things when discussing this heartbreaking situation with our little ones. 1.Promote understanding and empathy. 2. Foster a sense of compassion and peace. 3. Challenge stereotypes and biases that may be perpetuated by media or society. To read more go to: <https://www.docspeaks.com/blog/talking-your-children-about-violence-israel-and-gaza-doc-adolph-brown>

* **MDOE - Resources for Educators for Talking with Students About the Conflict Between Israel and Hamas** - School leaders, teachers, and staff are often tasked with helping our students and their families grapple with what’s happening in the news. The Maine Department of Education (DOE) has compiled a comprehensive list of resources to assist educators in helping students process the violence, terror, and news coming from the Middle East.  [More](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmaine.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da582edd6473e477ef6307c769%26id%3D7bfdf45f73%26e%3D4bb1694fe4&data=05%7C01%7CSarah.Ferguson%40maine.gov%7Ca7e1de4323fd4937aefe08dbd1a7f9c5%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638334291607278375%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EeEzWDLjzu4b9d37a%2BXGcGEvT0hdThBi3pMqAtCPgvo%3D&reserved=0)
* **MDOE - National Native American Heritage Month**

November is National Native American Heritage Month, which recognizes and celebrates the rich culture, ancestry, and traditions of Native Americans, the first residents of the United States. We encourage you to spend some time learning more about Native American history, such as exploring some of these resources:

U.S. Department of the Interior: Indian Affairs - <https://www.bia.gov/NNAHM>

Maine Wabanaki REACH - [www.mainewabanakireach.org/](http://www.mainewabanakireach.org/)

Maine Wabanaki Alliance - [www.wabanakialliance.com/who-we-are/](http://www.wabanakialliance.com/who-we-are/)

Did you know that **CHAPTER 403 H.P. 255 - L.D. 291**

**An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine's Schools** includes a required component of Maine studies that specifies Maine Native American studies address the following topics:

A. Maine tribal governments and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments.

B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal people throughout history.

C. Maine Native American territories; and

D. Maine Native American economic systems.

<https://legislature.maine.gov/ros/LOM/LOM120th/9Pub401-450/Pub401-450-02.htm>

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

* The Mistake Imperative
* Talking to Our Children about Violence in Gaza and Israel
* Brain Injury Associate Newsletter Info

To get information about and to sign up for SPPS Director’s listserv:

<http://maillist.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/mesppsdir>