**SPPS DIRECTORS MEETING   
Date: 12/13/2023 10:00 AM**

**ZOOM recording:**

[https://mainestate.zoom.us/rec/share/90vT6Zq9ug4eoWfGln4tTz6dRFb10a6KtNC8LlQ15zA0kHl4RBbSl89cMh5rMNR2.MZNGBgtkm6yXi9Zk](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainestate.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F90vT6Zq9ug4eoWfGln4tTz6dRFb10a6KtNC8LlQ15zA0kHl4RBbSl89cMh5rMNR2.MZNGBgtkm6yXi9Zk&data=05%7C02%7Cgaye.erskine%40maine.gov%7C29feab5e7e974937cb7a08dbfbf7486c%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638380811717931456%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QXrfeCCDc75STsZZUuwEcqGoPadPIHY2RLl3L%2BYLhs4%3D&reserved=0)

**Passcode:** .?Ldj884

1. Guests: Titus O’Rourke and Leora Byras OSSIE – Transition Maine, Developing Post-Secondary and Leadership Opportunities for SWD. There are 2 paid opportunities for students, especially asking for representation of students who attend SPPS.
   * Executive Student Transition Committee, composed of SWD and lived experience to guide the transition experiences in the State of Maine. Your Future, Your Voice.
   * Self-advocates to join the Steering Committee to help guide the planning for the Maine Youth Summit with the theme “I Belong”

Also asking for a staff of an SPPS to join the Steering Committee.

Email: [titus.orourke@maine.gov](mailto:titus.orourke@maine.gov); [leora.byras@maine.gov](mailto:leora.byras@maine.gov)

1. Guest: Jane Armstrong, ESOL State Specialist: [The policy and resource guide for multilingual learners with disabilities](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdoe%2Flearning%2Fmultilinguallearner%2Fresources%2FMLdisabilities&data=05%7C01%7CSarah.Ferguson%40maine.gov%7Cbb6a7ab45699462c5bf808dbeaa2e6d8%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638361757609570835%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eOm4tjgtpDHGSq%2BhqsoGRql1hzib0E5vOYyVowGNQfQ%3D&reserved=0)
   * Email: [jane.armstrong@maine.gov](mailto:jane.armstrong@maine.gov)
   * Phone: 207-446-3294
2. Erin Frazier’s Director of Office of Special Services updates: 11/16/23 Meeting

* Help Me Grow is offering a limited number of spots for a free training for parents of students with Autism and Developmental Disorders.  Here is the [link](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.attendbehavior.com%2Fmaine%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CGaye.Erskine%40maine.gov%7C8f5077f296a045b59c2508dbe7ab08bd%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638358495102017801%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BJkxgeVXPTHn2mKeGU1LSLokw7hKGsZlS%2BDPNNr6zFY%3D&reserved=0) to provide to parents. The contact for this program at DHHS is Jessica Wood ([jessica.wood@maine.gov](mailto:jessica.wood@maine.gov)).
* **There is still time to access Dyslexia screening kits**. Please contact Dee Saucier ([Danielle.m.saucier@maine.gov](mailto:Danielle.m.saucier@maine.gov))  for these free materials.

[Dyslexia screening project and Dyslexia Awareness Kit](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainedoenews.net%2F2023%2F11%2F02%2Fdyslexia-resources-for-schools-screener-reimbursement-project-free-dyslexia-awareness-kit%2F&data=05%7C01%7CGaye.Erskine%40maine.gov%7C8f5077f296a045b59c2508dbe7ab08bd%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638358495102017801%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=B7G2UIRXcq4A%2FM5eVJUuTv2PpmDwysOuaYtPNBH7QsY%3D&reserved=0)

* **This week we heard from Connor Archer, Executive Director of The Courageous Steps Project and Dylan Campbell, co-chair working with Maine Parent Federation**. Connor and Dylan are the co-chairs of the Executive Student Transition Committee (EST), working to support individuals with disabilities transition from high school to adulthood. Join the Executive Student Transition Committee to help support these students. In 2024 EST Committee will be hosting a Youth Summit. Please encourage students to sign up for the steering committee. See the attached flyer at the bottom for more information.

* **Brenda Drummond, Director of Division of the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), along with members from her team, presented DBVI services for individuals statewide.**  There are 11 orientation and mobility instructor positions in the state of Maine, however several positions are currently vacant. There is a national shortage for Teachers of the Visually Impaired. DBVI works with all consumers from birth to death in the state and must prioritize safety in the work they do.  The staff shortage is affecting the capacity to provide some services.  Most of the shortage is in the southern part of the state. If you currently hold a bachelor’s degree and are interested in becoming certified, please contact Brenda Drummond - [Brenda.G.Drummond@Maine.gov](mailto:Brenda.G.Drummond@Maine.gov) for more information. This graduate level work is federally funded. Brenda Drummond has retired - **Elissa Rowe is the new DBVI Director**, and may be reached at [elissa.rowe@maine.gov](mailto:elissa.rowe@maine.gov).
* Thursday, November 16th recording can be found [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainestate.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FNihyBbQWQpEsF2cyFF3KDCCV51HqYegh7VyZeALBJN_OP-EzLX3fHChgXr2bvmEp.3mgtoUVPMTY1KTki%3FstartTime%3D1700150416000&data=05%7C01%7CGaye.Erskine%40maine.gov%7C8f5077f296a045b59c2508dbe7ab08bd%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638358495102173521%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BtF%2BE6y70JSlpDD19mas6ckfBhm7Vjhzvr%2BGr9y7eCY%3D&reserved=0).
* The next director’s meeting is Thursday, December 22nd at 11:00

Join the zoom call - <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/86706069635>

Have a great holiday!  
Erin and the OSSIE Team

1. Announcement: [Apply Today for the 2024 Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative. Applications Due by January 12](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmaine.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da582edd6473e477ef6307c769%26id%3De3d4861e3c%26e%3D56218216ae&data=05%7C01%7CGaye.Erskine%40maine.gov%7Cfbc8f7b34e9f4eecfc6508dbf8320dfb%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638376666097725056%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DQ3bO6vNW0AlDf9B7OtMFaZtBab8z%2FYgGZah2jwrXe4%3D&reserved=0)

Apply Now! Schools and community-based organizations can now apply for the 2024 Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative grants through the Maine Department of Education (DOE). These grants support hands-on, engaging, interdisciplinary outdoor learning and career exploration opportunities that connect students with Maine’s amazing natural environments and landscapes.

<https://mainedoenews.net/2023/12/01/apply-today-for-the-2024-maine-outdoor-learning-initiative-applications-due-by-january-12/>

1. Review: Drummond Woodsum’s The Decades Top 10 Case Rulings in Special Education

Mary provided a summary of the countdown of the decades top ten case rulings in special education, which includes highlighting the topics covered, basic information and lessons learned from each case. For more specific information regarding the factual background of each case and the specifics of the appeals processes observed, please refer to the official documents of each court case listed below. Due to the lengthy agenda today, this legal review may be partially completed with the remainder covered in next month's meeting.

* Change of Placement – one case
* Child Find in Referral – two cases
* Compensatory Services/Compensatory Education - two cases
* Eligibility - two cases, one SLD, one ED
* Evaluation Duty - one case
* Expedited Hearings – one case
* Extended School Year Services - one case
* FAPE/Delivery of FAPE/FAPE during COVID – six cases
* FBA - two cases
* Graduation - one case
* IEP Predetermination- one case
* Inadequate Achievement in Reading Fluency - one case
* LRE – two cases
* Manifestation Determinations – two cases, one during referral)
* Need for Special Education - one case
* Parent Obstructionism one case
* Placement one case
* Reading Methodology - one case
* Reimbursement of Costs/Reimbursement of Private Placement – two cases
* School Refusal
* Social Maladjustment
* Stay Put – two cases
* Staff Shortages - one case
* Substantial Likelihood of Injury - one case
* Transition Programming - one case

10. *Disability Rights Maine v. Portland Public Schools, No. 21. 040CS. (Me. DOE 4/15/21 and 6/9/21)*

9. *Jane Doe v. Regional School unit. No. 21, 2012 WL 7653507. (July 31, 2012), aff’d, 2013 WL 793755 (D. Me. 2013), upholding 111. LRP 8484 (SEA Me. 11/17/2010).*

8. *Falmouth School Department. v. Mr. And Mrs. Doe, 44 F. 4th 23 (1st Cir. Aug 9, 2022).*

7. *Mr. And Mrs. Doe v. Cape Elizabeth School Department, 832. F. 3d 69 (1st Cir. 2016).*

6. KC et al. v. *Regional School unit. No. 73, 616 F. Supp.3d 63. (D. Me. 2022).*

5. *Regional School unit. No. 4. 114 LRP 10846 (SEA Me. 11/05/2013).*

4. *Mr. And Mrs. Doe o/b/o Jane Doe v. Cape Elizabeth Sch. Dep’t, 382. F. Supp. 3d83 (D. Me. 2019).*

3. *C.D. v. Public School District, 924. F.3d 621 (1st Cir. 2019).*

2. *Parents v. Wells-Ogunquit Consolidated School District, No. 20.081C (Me. DOE 6/17/20), and Parents v. Wells-Ogunquit Consolidated School District, No. 20.082C (Me. DOE 6/18/20)*

1. *Parents v. Sanford School Department, N0. 23.067H (DOE Me. Oct. 27, 2023).*

1. Legislative Updates:

**Legislative Statutes passed during the last Legislative Session** from Danielle Mckay

The Legislative website has been updated online to include legislation passed in the 131st First Regular and First Special Session. Their notice is on this [page](https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/homepage.html).  Just click on Title 20-A for education related statutes.

<https://legislature.maine.gov>.

1. DOE Calendars

* **2023-24 Professional Development Schedule** see link at bottom.
* **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:

* Documenting services on the IEP – always document what the student **needs** on the IEP (amendments to IEPs are directed by **student need**, determined by IEP Teams). Conversation regarding contributing factors, alternatives considered and rejected, potential future compensatory education discussion when service delivery doesn’t meet student need, etc. should be recorded in the written notice.
* The responsibility for documenting services **delivered**, **missed**, and **made-up**; regardless of the reason (which should be recorded, specifies whether access to necessary services is not available due to student factor or provider need) lies with the provider.
* Use of **abbreviated day programming** and MUSER directed protocol is for documenting **student** **related medical and/or educational needs** **only**.
* Troubleshooting staff vacancies: Reminder, any student change of program needs to be directed by IEP Teams regardless of whether driven by student need or by agency/SAU need, develop board approved policies and procedures to maintain safety, use of Employment Services to contract for ET/BHP services (things to be mindful of), etc. Other thoughts to share?
* Notification to DOE –
  + MUSER XII.2.A(1) (n) Policy for immediate notification and reporting of serious events. In the event of serious injury or death of a child, criminal activity on the part of a child or staff member, or other serious incident affecting the well-being of any child, the approved special purpose private school shall immediately notify, by telephone and by letter, the parents, the sending school district(s), any state agency involved in child care or program placement, and the Department of Education
  + MUSER XII.2.D Revisions to Application. Any changes to the application, including but not limited to change in personnel, facilities, staffing patterns, or population served, requires the submission and approval of amendments to the relevant portions of the application.

1. Promising Practices:
2. 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? (from 11/8/2023)
  + Providing activities that create more stability when staff are out and the ratios are higher.

1. Upcoming PD options:

* **Additonal Dates: WhyTry Level 1 – Introductory Training**

The Office of Child and Family Services is excited to bring additional WhyTry trainings to those working directly with children and their families. The WhyTry Program is an evidence-based, flexible toolkit, along with structured, interactive modalities to improve one’s ability to engage, motivate, and build resilience and a growth mindset of children within a variety of settings and groups. This unique approach engages children to understand Relationships, Relevance, and Resilience to build positive social skills known as the Three R’s.   Tools can be utilized with unmotivated children individually or in group settings.  If you work with children who are experiencing adversity, trauma, health or behavioral challenges, WhyTry is a great resource to add to your toolbox.  Eligible participants will receive full access to the WhyTry training to become a certified WhyTry Facilitator with full access to the WhyTry curriculum.  This fun and engaging training overviews resources, lessons, competencies along with facilitator guidance to effectively use the program.  Eligible participants will receive access to the digital toolkit and fidelity tools. A certificate of completion will be provided upon course completion.  This is a great opportunity to add a very valuable resource at no cost to you or your agency! **Training is available to Children’s Crisis Providers, Community Mental Health Agencies, Childcare Providers, and all School Personnel.**

The online training will be via ZOOM from 9:00 am-1:00 pm each day. Please click on one of the following upcoming training dates to register:

[December 11-12](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..8AEQmPgwrhUv7dKF0EonRs1cO6bmRl65_bC-cgV_Qt8/s/1302775786/br/231318103972-l) [January 23-24](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..MTCWaSB1jDy85_OsQGq-Jan6qmRSX4bObZqNHissJVA/s/1302775786/br/231318103972-l) [February 27-28](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..L4hkxLtXkeTCK5wNAA68TDDzXPlNQMxfeQggm-ztXIY/s/1302775786/br/231318103972-l)

[March 12-13](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..1RN7GLmQvjm9O2zyPv7h-al1dnQCq5MVEBDUdewwxPQ/s/1302775786/br/231318103972-l) [April 16-17](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..Ag8Bni6hRtgiDntpGtvgxN8uW0BbWNpoZFRjOZ3x980/s/1302775786/br/231318103972-l)

Seats are very limited for each date. Registrants are encouraged to register as soon as possible to guarantee an opportunity to receive this free training!

Visit [https://vimeo.com/808916784](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vdmltZW8uY29tLzgwODkxNjc4ND91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTIxLjg1OTY1NjcxIn0.UhDpexd5YD0QFoxfqEVSzc1qkjEJbbXTjylwnSyQYUQ/s/1302775786/br/231318103972-l) to learn more about Why Try.

* **NEW Upcoming NCII Webinar Using the ROIT/ICEL Matrix to Guide** diagnostic data to inform adaptations when students aren’t responding to an intervention? Join NCII on December 14, 2023, for If You’ve Got a Problem, ICE-L Will Solve It: Using the RIOT/ICEL Matrix to Help Guide Intensification Decisions! In this webinar, Dr. Jason Harlacher, Education Systems Task Lead and Technical Assistance Provider at NCII, will describe how the RIOT/ICEL matrix can support problem-solving by helping teams to organize their diagnostic data, refine hypotheses, and guide decision making. Dr. Harlacher will highlight examples, share and apply resources for data collection, and connect the variables in the RIOT/ICEL matrix with the dimensions of the Taxonomy of Intervention Intensity. <https://intensiveintervention.org/news-and-events/register-webinar-supporting-intensification-decisions>
* **NEW** Maine DOE: ConCEPT (Conceptual Classrooms & Educational Programs for Teachers)

**Connect to research!**

**Mapping and planning**

**Collaborate**

**Leading sustainable change**

**Customized options to support your team’s pathway**

Learn concept-based inquiry curriculum and instruction design!

Strengthen your pedagogical and content knowledge within and across content areas!

Explore active learning strategies!

Take away ideas and materials!

Integrate SEL strategies!

Learn from national experts!

**Cost:** Free

**Contact Hours:**Up to 24 contact hours!

**Reimbursement:**Districts/schools are eligible for reimbursement costs associated with planning, such as subs or after-contract hours; up to $5000

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/II/ConCEPT>

1. Resource Topics

* **SPECIALIZED RESOURCES BY THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SAFE SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS** The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) provides schools with the necessary resources to confront and counteract antisemitism and Islamophobia, while also embracing a broader spectrum of religious diversity and discrimination issues. NCSSLE’s resources aim to enlighten, foster unity, and promote an inclusive educational environment where all students, irrespective of their background, are treated with respect and dignity.

NCSSLE has curated a [collection of specialized resources](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2FmZXN1cHBvcnRpdmVsZWFybmluZy5lZC5nb3YvcmVzb3VyY2VzLXJlbGF0ZWQtY29tYmF0dGluZy1hbnRpc2VtaXRpc20tYW5kLWlzbGFtb3Bob2JpYS13aGlsZS1wcm9tb3RpbmctcmVsaWdpb3VzLWluY2x1c2lvbj91dG1fY29udGVudD0mdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fbmFtZT0mdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fdGVybT0iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTA5Ljg1NDE3NzExIn0.iHyvEYQ7m1-U1YV3AGMGfJ_klP0kSowHdxkniDbGCeg/s/1417822296/br/230455549603-l) for P-12 schools, designed for educators, students, parents, and community members. These tools equip users with knowledge and strategies to challenge discrimination, fostering spaces where every student feels valued and can thrive academically and socially. Addressing antisemitism and Islamophobia is not only about countering specific incidents but also about cultivating an environment that prevents, addresses, and ameliorates the effects of bullying, violence, and hate. Resources specifically for institutions of higher education will also be posted soon.

* **Student Achievement Partners:** Our new, free-to-download [**Essential x Equitable (e²) Instructional Practice Framework™**](https://www.learnwithsap.org/e2). This framework builds on our previous guidance in recognition of the fact that high-quality, standards-aligned instruction must also be asset-based and joyful. <https://mailchi.mp/studentsachieve/learn-with-sap-november-newsletter?e=e7ea4566ff>
* **Edutopia** - Staying on top of important discoveries in the learning science field—and then implementing those best practices in your classroom—is never easy. That’s why we’ve made it our mission to do some of the work for you. The results of our 2023 audience survey told us that our research beat is a fan favorite: 48 percent of respondents value, most of all our offerings, our research-based articles and videos that surface evidence-based teaching strategies. We took this positive response to heart and set out to create a brand-new video collection.

Now, our most popular animated videos that examine the learning sciences are gathered in one place. Say hello to our research animations page and discover the findings that matter most to teachers \*and\* students! <https://www.edutopia.org/package/research-animations-for-educators?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Fall+23&utm_id=Fall23&utm_term=fall+school+season&utm_content=research+animations>

* **Edutopia: Protocols That Get All Students Talking in Class Discussions** These intentional response strategies create entry points for students who may feel reticent to share in class discussions. There is benefit in hearing from a wide range of student voices, and intentional response protocols—frameworks for intentional sharing—ensure that every student has a pathway to participating in class discussions. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/getting-all-students-talking-class-discussions/>

**RELATED LINKS**:

 Professional Development Schedule

 Transition Maine Flyer

 Transition Maine Yourth Summit Flyer

 Transition Maine Directors Meeting Presentation

**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
* 2024 Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative

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

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



**May the holiday season fill your home with joy,**

**your heart with love, and your life with laughter.**