

The Maine Course Pathways Project



Guaranteeing that all Maine students have the opportunity to learn the knowledge and the skills essential for the future

What is the Maine Course Pathways Project?

The Maine Course Pathways project is a collaboration between the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) and the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) to determine the extent to which high school students have the opportunity to learn all of Maine's Learning Results (MLRs). The project:

- Helps high schools validate curriculum and academic programs, while maintaining local control over the content and sequencing of courses.
- Makes public the knowledge and skills schools teach, and how these are taught and assessed.
- Identifies gaps in a school's academic program.
- Improves curricular alignment (vertical and horizontal) as teachers and administrators collaborate to develop syllabi and identify standards for each course.
- Gives high schools a tool for showing evidence of multiple pathways to demonstrate achievement of the MLRs, as required by LD 1325.

How does the project work?

High schools go through an online syllabus creation and review process to confirm the MLRs present in each course. The process consists of four basic steps:

1. School administrators create course catalogs.
2. Teachers create and submit syllabi, identifying the MLRs they teach in each curricular unit.
3. External reviewers confirm the MLRs in each syllabus. Teachers receive a report of which MLRs were confirmed, and which need more evidence in the syllabus.
4. The Pathways system uses the results of the syllabus reviews to analyze the extent to which the MLRs are covered in four-year combinations of courses in each content area.

Recruitment and Implementation

The project began piloting during the 2008-2009 school year with seven schools, and continued piloting during the 2009-2010 school year with twelve schools. MDOE is inviting additional schools to participate starting in June 2010. Schools interested in participating should contact Lora Downing at lora.downing@maine.gov.

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