

October 29, 2008

## **Welcome to Maine Department of Education Social Studies Listserv**

*This service is an attempt to keep Maine educators informed about current issues, upcoming opportunities and resources in Social Studies. Do not respond to this message or post messages to the listserv as this is not a discussion forum.*

PLEASE FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO OTHERS WHO MAY WANT TO JOIN THE LISTSERV.

Just click on the link below to subscribe.

[http://mailman.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/mdoe\\_social\\_studies](http://mailman.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/mdoe_social_studies)

### ***Jana Boody***

State Social Studies Specialist & Regional Representative  
Maine Department of Education

[jana.boody@maine.gov](mailto:jana.boody@maine.gov)

<http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/ss/index.html>

---

## **Changes to the Maine Educational Assessment at Grades 3-8**

The following critical information was released by the commissioner in Informational Letter #31 which can be found at this link:

[http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=edu\\_letters&id=63022&v=article](http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=edu_letters&id=63022&v=article)

While Social Studies is not included on the MEA, this change will impact your students and school. Highlights are as follows:

Due to budgetary considerations, several changes to the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) will occur in March 2009:

- Writing will not be assessed at grades 5 and 8 in either the
- standard MEA or the Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio (PAAP).
- Computer-based assessment, the MEA online, will not occur at
- grade 8.
- We have proposed moving to the NECAP assessment starting October
- 2009.
- SAT will still be part of the high school assessment system.

For information on the New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP). To see released items, please go to

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_assessment/necap/resources/released\\_items.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/necap/resources/released_items.html).

Please note that NECAP assesses writing quite differently than MEA. You will find multiple choice items, not unlike the ones which appear on the PSAT and SAT. You will also find short constructed response items which require about a paragraph of writing as well as an extended response prompt. If the decision to join the NECAP states and participate in this assessment, further information will soon follow.

### **Sample Lesson Plan for High School Social Studies Teachers**

#### *Can Election Futures Markets Be More Accurate Than Polls?*

In this activity-based lesson, you'll introduce your high school students to a) an economic system (in this case, an election futures market), and b) reinforce the importance of civic engagement. Please go to: <http://www.ncee.net/civics/>

The following lesson is included in the upcoming resource "Focus: Understanding Economics in Civics and Government". You can sign up to be notified when the book is available at <http://www.ncee.net/civics>. Courtesy of the National Council on Economic Education.

For more economic and personal finance lesson plans, visit <http://store.ncee.net>.

### **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest**

The annual John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest invites high school students from across the nation to write an original essay about an elected official who has demonstrated political courage. The contest is a companion program of the Profile in Courage Award, named for President Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, which recounts the stories of eight senators, the obstacles they faced, and the special valor they demonstrated despite the risks.

Winning essayists will receive awards totaling up to \$8,500. The first-place winner will be invited to accept the award at the Profile in Courage Award Ceremony hosted each May by Caroline Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. To encourage student leadership and civic engagement, the nominating teacher of the first-place winner will receive a John F. Kennedy Public Service Grant for \$500.