

# Maine Course Pathways

*Guaranteeing all Maine students opportunity to learn the knowledge and skills essential for their future in postsecondary education, career and community.*



As required by Maine statute, students in Maine will demonstrate achievement of Maine's *Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction*. The Maine Course Pathways Project is developing a system to document that all high school students, through course syllabi, are given fair opportunity to demonstrate achievement of the *Learning Results* through multiple pathways that honor student choice, learning preferences and career aspirations.

After a two year pilot, Maine Course Pathways is launching statewide to include up to 24 schools in 2009-2010.

## Why should schools participate in the Maine Course Pathways project?

Maine Course Pathways (MCP) is an opportunity to participate in an innovative approach to identifying students' *opportunity to learn*. Opportunity to learn focuses on the scope of curriculum and instruction that is available to students.

Participation in MCP gives teachers access to SyllabusMaker, an online tool for creating a high-quality syllabus that demonstrates evidence of Maine's *Learning Results*. Teachers will receive feedback from trained content area experts on each syllabus' alignment with Maine's *Learning Results*.

Schools that participate in MCP will benefit from educational research and technology. After Maine's *Learning Results* have been verified in each syllabus, schools will have access to reports that show the multiple pathways that students can take to meet the standards within a content area or across multiple courses, programs and learning opportunities.

## Why does Maine Course Pathways use the syllabus as evidence?

EPIC has conducted years of research on college and high school course syllabi. There are many benefits to creating high-quality high school syllabi:

- Students and parents have a clear, written document that outlines the expectations required to succeed in each course.
- Students and parents have a clear, written document that states Maine's *Learning Results* addressed in each unit of the course.
- Students become familiar with a document that is important in post-secondary courses.
- Teachers receive non-prescriptive external feedback from content area experts.
- Teachers, school administrators and curriculum leaders use reviewed syllabi and Pathways reports to improve curricula alignment.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who are the expert, external reviewers for this project??**

A: Recruitment of reviewers comes from EPIC's large database of contractors or people who were referred by the Maine Department of Education (MDOE). All potential reviewers are scored on a list of criteria or have been successful in syllabi review projects with EPIC or MDOE. Nearly all of the reviewers are instructors or professors at postsecondary institutions.

**Q: Will the software accommodate the submission of a syllabus that may cross content areas, either for Career and Technical Education or a course that includes multiple content areas?**

A: Yes, administrators will be able to select all of the content areas covered in a course. This will allow the teacher of that course to have access to the complete list of Standards for multiple content areas.

**Q: Can schools post syllabi, once verified, on school or district websites?**

A: Once a syllabus is created, the school may use it however it likes – electronically or in paper form.

## Contact

**For questions or information about the MCP project, please contact**

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