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**111th Annual Commissioner’s Conference for Superintendents**

***‘Measuring What Matters’***

*Atlantic Oceanside Hotel & Event Center, Bar Harbor*

*June 26-28, 2024*

 ***Conference Agenda***

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| ***Wednesday, June 26*** |

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|  | **Check in for Overnight Lodging** |  |
| 5pm – 7pm | **Welcome Reception** *(Appetizers & Cash Bar)* | **Seal Harbor Room** |

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| ***Thursday, June 27*** |
|  | **Registration – open throughout the day** | **Seal Harbor Room** |
| 7:30 – 8:30 | ***Breakfast (Buffet)*** | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room** |
| 8:45 – 9:00**(General Session)** | **Welcome/Opening Remarks****Pender Makin, Maine Commissioner of Education**  | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room** |
| 9:00 – 10:00**(General Session)** | **Keynote/Kickoff** **Dr. Tony Wagner, Author and Senior Research Fellow at the Learning Policy Institute** | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room** |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | **Break** | **Seal Harbor Room** |
| 10:15 – 11:0010:15 – 11:00 | **Concurrent Workshops: Session 1****Legislative Updates**The Maine DOE Legislative Team will give an overview of the 131st Second Session. Join us for a discussion of what passed, what didn't, and the related work we have underway.We'll laugh, we'll cry, we'll remember the bills that never made it, and we'll debrief on the surprises we all faced. **Courtney Belolan, Laura Cyr, Jennifer Belanger****Continuing The Conversation with** **Dr. Tony Wagner**Dr. Tony Wagner will host a session to continue the conversation and themes from his keynote. **Dr. Tony Wagner****Federal Emergency Relief Stories through Spending Updates**   Community members, media outlets, and the U.S. Department of Education want to hear about the impact the Emergency Relief Funds had on student learning, teacher retention, and classroom environments. In this session, we will share stories and strategies that may help frame your plans to drive a positive narrative on the use of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Come ask your questions, share your challenges, and highlight ways that you’ve shared your story locally.  **Shelly Chasse-Johndro and Kendra Carter** | **Seawall Room****Bar Harbor Boardroom****Southwest Harbor Room** |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | **Break** | **Seal Harbor Room** |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | **Concurrent Workshops: Session 2****Legislative Updates**The Maine DOE Legislative Team will give an overview of the 131st Second Session. Join us for a discussion of what passed, what didn't, and the related work we have underway. We'll laugh, we'll cry, we'll remember the bills that never made it, and we'll debrief on the surprises we all faced.**Courtney Belolan, Laura Cyr, and Jennifer Belanger****School Construction and Facilities Updates**DOE staff will provide an overview of school construction and renovation programs, an update on the school building inventory project, and answer your questions related to school construction and facilities. **Scott Brown****Literacy on Literacy**Have you been receiving questions from teachers, parents, and community members about your school system’s approach to beginning reading/literacy instruction and assessment?  Are you interested in making sense of what has been learned about language and literacy development? Do you want to become more literate on literacy? In this session, we’ll give you the basics on navigating the literacy landscape, showcase the practices that are essential to promoting strong literacy foundations, and share literacy-related resources and supports from the Maine DOE. **Lee Anne Larsen and Tracy Whitlock** | **Seawall Room****Bar Harbor Board Room****Southwest Harbor Room** |
| 12:00 – 1:30 | **Lunch** \*\****Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet***  | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room** |
| 1:30 – 2:15 | **Concurrent Workshops: Session 3****Exploring Flexibilities Through Innovation**This session provides an overview of the programs and supports the Maine DOE provides to support education innovation and a discussion on the additional flexibilities being used by SAUs or that SAUs and schools need to allow them to pursue innovative ideas and models. **Page Nichols and Beth Lambert** **Creating and Sharing the Narrative- Maine Loves Public Schools** Maine’s public schools have awesome stories to share and be told. Now fully running, the Maine Loves Public Schools movement brings together staff, students, schools, and communities to display the many exceptional happenings and people who make our schools the educational centers that they are. Come learn how you can contribute and how you can pass the word along to ambassadors within your districts. See the work plan and the effort to keep these positive stories in the news and to be the news. Your help is desired and needed.**Steve Bailey and Eileen King****Maine School Safety Center Trainings and Supports**Join Maine School Safety Center staff to learn about the trainings and programs they offer, including developing emergency operations plans, behavioral threat assessment, and the School Safety Specialist program. School Safety Center staff will be available to answer all of your school safety-related questions. **Karen Barnes, Wendy Robichaud, and Stacey Barlow** | **Sewall Room****Bar Harbor Board Room****Southwest Harbor Room** |
| 2:15 – 2:30 | **Break** | **Seal Harbor Room** |
| 2:30 – 3:152:30 – 3:15 | **Concurrent Workshops: Session 4****CDS Updates**With the passage of Public Law 2024, chapter 643, Part W, all the responsibilities of child find and the provision of a free appropriate public education for children ages 3 through 5 years of age will shift from Child Development Services (CDS) to local SAUs by July 1, 2028. The first cohort is already taking this on and other SAUs will be able to opt into subsequent cohorts. This session provides updates on the immediate work with the first cohort and the longer-term work underway. **Megan Welter and Sandy Flacke****School Construction and Facilities Updates**DOE staff will provide an overview of school construction and renovation programs, an update on the school building inventory project, and answer your questions about all things construction and facilities. **Scott Brown****EPS Basics**Does the Maine School Funding formula, also known as the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding model, make you feel like you are having a pop quiz in a math class?  Does the ED 279 School Funding Report seem overwhelming and unable to be understood unless you have a college degree or are a Certified Public Accountant? Join us for a simple discussion of how to understand the EPS funding model and unpack the ED 279 reports so you are better able to explain it to others, and truly understand how this portion of taxpayer money is being used to improve education in the State of Maine for all students.**Paula Gravelle**  | **Seawall Room****Bar Harbor Board Room****Southwest Harbor Room** |
|  | **Dinner on Your Own****(Enjoy the evening in Bar Harbor!** | Downtown Bar Harbor |

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| ***Friday, June 28***  |
| 8:00 – 8:30 | *Breakfast (Buffet)* | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room** |
| 8:30 – 10:30**(General Session)** | **Measure What Matters**The Maine DOE is embarking on an exciting initiative called Measure What Matters to bring educators, school leaders, students, parents, businesses, and communities together to define school success for Maine beyond standardized test scores. The DOE is working with Battelle for Kids, who you may know from their Portrait of a Graduate work to create a Portrait of a School so that schools across Maine can highlight the great things happening in their schools and reframe the debate on school success. We want to get your thoughts and input as we roll this initiative out across the state through local focus groups and events. **Battelle for Kids and DOE Staff**  | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room**  |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | **Break** | **Seal Harbor Room** |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | **Concurrent Workshops: Session 5:****Measure What Matters Discussion**This session will allow you to kick the tires a bit more on the DOE’s Measure What Matters initiative, receive materials, ask questions, provide feedback, and learn how you can get involved. **Battelle for Kids and DOE Staff** **EPS Basics**Does the Maine School Funding formula, also known as the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding model, make you feel like you are having a pop quiz in a math class?  Does the ED 279 School Funding Report seem overwhelming and unable to be understood unless you have a college degree or are a Certified Public Accountant? Join us for a simple discussion of how to understand the EPS funding model and unpack the ED 279 reports so you are better able to explain it to others, and truly understand how this portion of taxpayer money is being used to improve education in the State of Maine for all students.**Paula Gravelle** **New Data Visualization Tools**The Maine DOE has been working to develop new data visualization dashboards for stakeholders in Maine’s public education system. The focus in the development of the new dashboards has been to increase the value of data that is collected from Maine SAUs and aggregated by the Maine DOE. This session will provide information about the navigation of these new visualizations and how we can use data to tell the story about what is happening in Maine schools. **Kathy Warren and Alexandra Cookson** | **Seawall Room****Bar Harbor Board Room****Southwest Harbor Room** |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | **Closing Remarks** **Pender Makin, Maine Commissioner of Education**  | **Bass/Northeast Harbor Room** |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | *Boxed Lunch (For the road!)* | **Seal Harbor Room** |
| 1:00 | **Conference Ends** |  |