

The challenge...is to build a system that prepares every student for some type of post-secondary education and the high-skill careers of today and the future....We have to address the basic architecture of the industrial-era model of schooling built more than a century ago. – Education Evolving

Getting to **PROFICIENCY**

Helping Maine Graduate Every Student Prepared

Getting to Proficiency provides technical assistance, resources and guidance for school districts to implement the Proficiency-based Diploma, and to do so in a way that promotes student learning and achievement of the Maine Learning Results. At *Getting to Proficiency* you will find a self-assessment tool that will help you understand your districts specific needs.

The Maine DOE **Center for Best Practice** contains resources for districts trying to implement school improvement measures, such as proficiency-based or learner-centered systems. At the CBP, you will find extensive case studies of school districts that have begun implementation of such systems, sample documents from those districts (policies, report cards, etc.), and videos showing what PB/LC education looks like on the ground!



www.maine.gov/doe/proficiency
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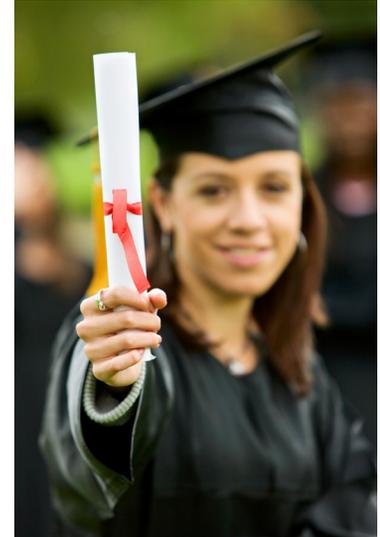
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What are the **benefits** of proficiency-based education? ...for students? ...for districts? ...for parents?

Evidence from school districts around the country (such as Lindsay, California, and the Adams 50 district in Colorado) indicates that the adoption of proficiency-based practices leads to increased student achievement. Students report that they understand academic expectations more clearly and can identify their own strengths and weaknesses in relation to those expectations. Students are better able to connect what they are doing in a classroom activity or assignment to the acquisition of skills and knowledge. Qualitative data from within Maine suggests the same outcome (see the Maine DOE Center for Best Practice online at www.maine.gov/doe/cbp).

What educators are seeing in Maine is increased student engagement, increased personalization of instruction, and increased targeting of interventions to the specific needs of students. Educators also report that implementation of a proficiency-based system leads to greater collaboration and articulation of curriculum within and across schools, more reflective practice, and a greater capacity to respond to the individual needs of students. The reporting system provides parents with more specific information about their child's growth and achievement. Parents are better able to understand school and grade-level expectations and more thoroughly support their child in achieving those expectations.

How will **colleges** react to this new system? Will students be at a disadvantage?

For more than 10 years, adopters of proficiency-based systems have approached colleges and universities, asking whether or not a proficiency-based system would disadvantage students. Overwhelmingly, these institutions of higher education have said "no."

In 2013, the New England Secondary Schools Consortium began approaching colleges, asking them to endorse proficiency-based learning and graduation and to pledge that no student would be disadvantaged because their school has a proficiency-based system. Many have done so (see www.newenglandssc.org/endorsement). Colleges and universities accept students from a wide range of educational settings every year, including international students and those who have been home-schooled. In considering students, admissions officers look at a variety of transcript styles to determine admissions.

How does proficiency-based learning impact teachers?

The shift to a proficiency-based system will provide teachers with the information and structures they need to address the individual needs of their students. The following videos provide insight into these Maine teachers' experiences:

Shelly Moody and Valerie Glueck, of Williams Elementary in Oakland
www.maine.gov/doe/cbp/videos/williams.html

Kirby Reardon and Elizabeth Firnkes, of the James H. Bean School in Sidney
www.maine.gov/doe/cbp/videos/bean.html

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