

## Introduction to *Bright Futures* "Meeting Plan"

<http://www.maine.gov/education/ml/>

*Bright Futures: A Framework of Twelve Core Practices for Maine Middle Grades Schools Developing Full Academic, Personal and Social Potential for Maine Young Adolescents*, the Report of the Commission on Middle Level Education, has recently been published by the Maine Department of Education. In 2009 - 2010 there will be a series of free webcasts focusing on this document. Information about the webcasts can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/education/ml/>. Each webcast will explore several of the 12 Core Practices and have an accompanying "meeting plan" that school leaders can use or adapt to facilitate faculty meetings, conversations, or study groups looking at the Core Practices.

### Meeting Plan # 1

Introduction to Bright Futures and Its 12 Core Practices

#### Materials needed:

- Bright Futures' posters for each participant available from Argy Nestor at Maine DOE ([argy.nestor@maine.gov](mailto:argy.nestor@maine.gov)) or the 12 Core Practices downloadable from <http://www.maine.gov/education/ml/> (If participants have their laptops they can just download the pdf file and thus avoid duplicating in paper.)
- Chart paper and markers or computer/LCD projector or overhead or Smart Board

#### Set-up:

- Participants should be in small groups of four so they can work with partners and as a quartet. Set up the groups so they are diverse in nature. Consider grade levels, content, role, years of experience, and group chemistry (Think like a teacher forming cooperative learning groups!).
- Think about what roles members of the leadership team can play in this process. For example, might they set up the groups or facilitate the meeting? This action models courageous, collaborative, and democratic leadership, Core Practice # 5.

**Time needed:** Between 45 minutes to an hour

#### Process:

##### 1. So...what do you think might be in this document?!

(Accessing/Building Prior Knowledge)

- Introduce posters
- Use a Think-Pair-Share process
  - Ask each person to think about what s/he thinks about what information might be contained in this document. (Give a time frame of 1 or 2 minutes of quiet time.)
  - In pairs, participants share and chat about their ideas.
  - Participants share with entire faculty & facilitator/volunteer charts responses

## 2. Core Practices—What do they say? (Delving into the document—text based discussion)

- Give each group of four 1 or two of the Core Practices to read (The size of faculty will determine how many Core Practices each group receives.)
- Each group read their Core Practice(s) and considers the following:
  - Surprises?
  - What's interesting?
  - What ideas from first activity or from own thinking were confirmed?
  - Questions? Concerns?
- Reconvene as an entire faculty and share highpoints of the conversations

After this session, we suggest that the administration and leadership team meet to process the results of this activity. Questions to ask yourselves include:

- ✓ How did it go? Would we do anything differently in another meeting?
  - Small group make-up
  - Facilitation
  - Recording of information
- ✓ What information do we want to remember and use in the future?
- ✓ How did the process model effective teaching and learning?



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