OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 2012-001
DATE February 1, 2012

AN ORDER TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

WHEREAS, education in the digital age must provide students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and challenging 21st century careers;

WHEREAS, the Maine Department of Education has developed a plan to transition education in Maine to a model in which students have more of a role in organizing their education and more choice in deciding how they master academic standards;

WHEREAS, digital learning, which is learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and/or pace, has the power to transform education into a student-centered, proficiency-based system of learning;

WHEREAS, the 10 Elements of High Quality Digital Learning, as defined by the Digital Learning Council in 2010, provides a framework for reform to advance opportunities for digital learning, and

WHEREAS, Maine will benefit from the development of a strategic plan to adopt and implement the policies defined by the 10 Elements of High Quality Digital Learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. The Maine Department of Education shall develop a strategic plan to expand digital learning opportunities for Maine students.

2. In crafting the digital learning strategic plan, the Department shall:

    a. Consult with students, parents, teachers, school administrators, experts in educational and information technology, and other persons, groups or entities that have an interest in digital learning;
    b. Review and consider digital learning policies and practices adopted by other states and jurisdictions;
    c. Consider the role of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative and other Maine-based digital learning efforts should play in the advancement of digital learning opportunities;

d. Develop policy recommendations consistent with and organized around the 10 Elements of High Quality Digital Learning; and
e. Include any suggested statutory or rule changes.

3. No later than January 4, 2013, the Department shall present the digital learning strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs.

The effective date of this Executive Order is February 1, 2012.

Paul R. LePage

Paul R. LePage, Governor