

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences  
Pre-Opening Visit – Threshold  
August 9, 2017

Maine Academy for Natural Sciences: Tonya Arnold, Emanuel Pariser, Dani Best, Christine Sullivan, Ana Rothschild, Kenlyn Clark, Lisa Sandy  
Maine Charter School Commission: John Bird, Nichi Farnham, Jana Lapoint, Bob Kautz, Gina Post, Roberta Lucas  
(Department of Education – Special Services)

On August 9, 2017 the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) Review Team for the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS) and MCSC staff met at MeANS to review the school's plan to open the new Threshold Program.

MeANS provided documentation of its preparedness to open. Below is a summary of information received and/or discussed at the visit:

Education:

- Student files have been analyzed and teachers are preparing for instruction.
- IEPs are being read and IEP meetings are being planned.
- Professional development for Curriculum Implementation and Development is scheduled for this month.
- Initial student interviews have been developed to be used at the first meeting.
- Books and laptops have been ordered. Laptops are being set up.
- PD Plan for Threshold teachers is being developed.

Organization:

- There are currently 21 students enrolled in the program (22 is the maximum)
- 2 teachers have been hired to provide instruction to the students in the Threshold Program. One has a humanities background and has been at MeANS for several years; the other teacher is new to MeANS and has a science and math background.
- 2 special education teachers at MeANS will also case manage any Threshold students with an IEP.

The Threshold Program is a home-based program designed for students who have not been able to successfully engage in a traditional school program; it has attracted students who are parenting or pregnant (currently 3) as well as those who have emotional and academic needs.

Student locations:

SAD#49 - 3  
AOS #92 - 7  
RSU 54 - 5  
RSU 9 - 1  
RSU 74 - 2  
RSU 19 - 1  
RSU 59 - 1  
Augusta – 1

Based on information given to the MCSC by MeANS, the Review Team asked about the feasibility of getting to all the students based on their geographic spread. MCSC also asked about MeANS' ability to fund and staff the program appropriately. MeANS staff was optimistic that the staff would be able to visit each student as planned.

It is the opinion of the Review Team that MeANS is prepared to open for the Threshold Program. MCSC staff will continue to monitor the Threshold program and will conduct a 90-day visit in December.