

MLTI Advisory Board Meeting

Via Zoom
June 12, 2020
Summary

Opening Activity

The board participated in an opening equity activity as one action in the plan to redesign MLTI to MLTI v2.0. The opening activity focused on each member considering how they might develop or change a state plan for MLTI if we had a scenario in which a Chromebook was provided to every Maine student. The members were split into small groups to consider their own personal (SAU/community) situation and how they might change the state MLTI plan to address their unique situation. Each small group was charged with developing a state plan that would address all group members' unique situations.

Equity Stance Activity - background - In light of the closing of school buildings as a result of the pandemic, the abrupt move to remote learning revealed a significant difference in the availability of technology resources for student learning, this is commonly referred to as the digital divide. The gap in technology resources range from broadband connectivity to laptops.

Working in small groups for the Equity stance activity, each member was asked to take a stand on equity vs equality. Using a protocol that gave all members an equal voice, members were asked to take a position. The essential question presented was "How should Maine DOE redesign the MLTI program to best address the student digital divide.?" Each member chose and defended one of five equity stance statements from the list below:

- Equity as Initial Equal Opportunity - Maine DOE should guarantee each SAU will receive the same initial allotment of money or services, and that each SAU's unique situation would be used to determine what additional money or services, if any, it would receive.
- Equity as Ongoing Equal Opportunity - Maine DOE should provide each SAU with access to a fund or service to meet specific needs of students in specific situations.
- Equity as Personalized Opportunity - Maine DOE should provide each SAU with money or services that is well-designed to meet the SAU's unique needs.
- Equity as Equalization of Opportunity - Maine DOE should establish a minimum requirement for the state and prioritize money and services to bring each SAU up to that minimum requirement.

Project Design/Share/Collaborate/Revise

A full group discussion synthesized the group's stance on how the program should address equity vs equality and how this consensus stance will be sewn into the design of MLTI v2.0.
