



110th Annual Commissioner’s Conference for Superintendents

Atlantic Oceanside Hotel & Event Center, Bar Harbor

June 25-27, 2023

Conference Agenda

Sunday, June 25

	Check in for Overnight Lodging (if desired)	
5pm – 7pm	Welcome Reception (<i>Appetizers & Cash Bar</i>)	Seal Harbor Room

Monday, June 26

	Registration – open throughout the day	Seal Harbor Room
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast (Buffet)	Bass/Northeast Harbor Room
8:45 – 9:00 (General Session)	Welcome/Opening Remarks Pender Makin, Maine Commissioner of Education	Bass/Northeast Harbor Room
9:00 – 10:00 (General Session)	Keynote/Kickoff Jack Schneider, Author of <i>A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of School.</i>	Bass/Northeast Harbor Room
10:00 – 10:15	Break	Seal Harbor Room
10:15 – 11:00	<p>Concurrent Workshops: Session 1</p> <p>BARR Deeper Dive BARR staff will be available to answer your questions about the model and how to integrate it into your SAU. (Jennifer Fox & Rachel Olinger-Steeves, BARR Center)</p> <p>Legislation Update Part 1 The Maine DOE and MSMA will provide updates on current and impending legislation in this double session. With over 2,000 bills overall and close to 200 in the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee alone, this has been the busiest session yet. (Courtney Belolan & Steve Bailey, Eileen King & Vicki Wallack-MSMA)</p>	<p>Seawall Room</p> <p>Bar Harbor Boardroom</p>

	<p>Educator Workforce Development The DOE has been working with a variety of partners to attract educators, promote careers in education, and identify effective strategies to retain educators. This session will include information about these initiatives. (Michael Perry & Tammy Ranger, DOE)</p>	<p>Southwest Harbor Room</p>
11:00 – 11:15	<p>Break</p>	<p>Seal Harbor Room</p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p>Concurrent Workshops: Session 2</p> <p>Defining and Integrating the Whole Student Approach The Maine DOE’s Whole Student approach is a framework that invests in structures, people, and practices to develop educational systems that support healthy, safe, engaged, supported, challenged, and prepared students. Learn more about the research behind the Whole Student approach, how to integrate this framework into your SAU, and strategies for communicating it. (Beth Lambert & Marcus Mrowka, DOE)</p> <p>Legislation Update Part 2 The Maine DOE and MSMA will provide updates on current and impending legislation in this double session. With over 2,000 bills overall and close to 200 in the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee alone, this has been the busiest session yet. (Courtney Belolan & Steve Bailey, Eileen King & Vicki Wallack-MSMA)</p> <p>Effective Strategies to Maximize Special Education Resources With growing student needs and increasing referrals for special education services, effective strategies for managing these needs are more important than ever. This session will outline how inclusive practices can be used to address the needs of diverse learners through the use of existing resources. (Erin Frazier & Tracy Whitlock, DOE)</p> <p>Problems of Practice Have a challenge you’d like your colleagues to help you think through? Come with a topic and get feedback and ideas from others. (Daniel Chuhta, DOE)</p>	<p>Seawall Room</p> <p>Bar Harbor Board Room</p> <p>Southwest Harbor Room</p> <p>Bistro</p>
12:00 – 1:30	<p>Lunch (Plated Meal) **Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet</p>	<p>Bass/Northeast Harbor Room</p>

1:30 – 2:15	<p>Concurrent Workshops: Session 3</p> <p>Federal Emergency Relief Funding Updates and Sharing Your Story With the unprecedented amount of federal emergency relief funding, community members, media outlets, and the US Department of Education are interested in the stories of how the funding has strengthened teaching and learning and created safe environments. This session provides updates on federal emergency relief funding deadlines and shares stories and strategies that may help frame your plans to drive a positive narrative on the use of these funds. Come ask your questions, share your challenges, and highlight ways that you've shared your story locally. (Shelly Chasse-Johndro & Marcus Mrowka, DOE)</p> <p>Innovative Strategy to Support Mental Health and Deepen Learning Learn how RSU 89 - Katahdin Schools has begun transforming teaching and learning through our pilot project, Connect, Reach & Teach All Children with Outdoor Learning. Outdoor learning has been happening at Katahdin Schools for several years, but through a RREV grant the SAU has been able to further develop its curriculum, outdoor spaces, and professional learning opportunities as well as create an outdoor pre-k through 12 learning pathway. Join this session to learn more about how you can support change in your SAU to not only have a positive impact on learning, but health and wellness as well. (Marie Robinson, Jaide Berry & Brittany Arbo, RSU 89)</p> <p>Educator Apprentice Program Want to strengthen your local pipelines for individuals to become Ed. Techs and eventually teachers in your school system? Want to make the program realistic for participants - allowing them to work full time with benefits and realistically balance additional coursework for appropriate work/life balance? Want to support training for your Educational Technicians so that they actually WANT to become teachers?</p> <p>Come learn about a recent collaboration between the Gorham School Department, MDOL, SMCC and USM to create an educator apprentice program that does all these things and more and is scalable across the state! (Heather Perry, Gorham) *** Brenda Downey and Mary Jo O'Connor (SMCC), along with Walter Kimball (USM) will be joining via zoom to share.</p>	<p>Sewall Room</p> <p>Bar Harbor Board Room</p> <p>Southwest Harbor Room</p>
2:15 – 2:30	Break	Seal Harbor Room
2:30 – 3:15	Concurrent Workshops: Session 4	

	<p>Driving a Positive Narrative on Public Education As public education becomes increasingly contentious and politicized, efforts to drive a positive narrative around the amazing teaching and learning happening in Maine schools has never been more important. In this session, we'll discuss strategies to drive a proactive positive public education narrative in this contentious environment. (Marcus Mrowka, DOE & MSMA)</p> <p>Developing Principals with Purpose: From Good Intentions to Intentional Leadership In early 2021, Tim Matheny and a colleague interviewed 47 superintendents, assistant superintendents, and leaders of charter and private schools in 12 states and Puerto Rico. After analyzing this data, the "Principals with Purpose" framework was developed with three key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a Culture of Equity and High Expectations • Ensuring Great Teaching • Creating Effective Systems <p>During this interactive session led by South Portland Superintendent Tim Matheny, participants will learn about the framework and discuss strategies for the intentional development of highly effective principals. (Tim Matheny, South Portland)</p> <p>The Science Behind Foundational Reading and Literacy Development—What We've Learned and How We Adjust Have you been receiving questions from teachers, parents, and community members about your school system's approach to beginning reading/literacy instruction and assessment? Are you interested in making sense of what has been learned about language and literacy development through neuroscience and what that means for instruction during the elementary years? If so, this session is for you. We'll take a look at what happens in children's brains as they become literate and what practices are essential to promoting strong literacy foundations within a whole student approach. (Lee Anne Larsen, DOE)</p>	<p>Seawall Room</p> <p>Bar Harbor Board Room</p> <p>Southwest Harbor Room</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Dinner on Your Own (Enjoy the evening in Bar Harbor!)</p>	<p>Downtown Bar Harbor</p>

Tuesday, June 27		
8:00 – 9:00	<i>Breakfast (Buffet)</i>	Bass/Northeast Harbor Room
9:30 – 10:30 (General Session)	<p>Integrating the BARR Model in Maine Schools</p> <p>The BARR Model embeds the Whole Student approach and allows staff to better understand and build on students’ strengths, proactively address the non-academic reasons why a student may be falling behind in school and identify what resources they need and steps they can take to thrive. It uses eight interlocking strategies that build intentional relationships, utilize real-time data, and enable schools to achieve concrete academic, social and emotional outcomes for each and every student. This panel discussion will provide details on the BARR model and how Maine schools are using the BARR model and the resources available to bring it to your SAU. (Shelly Lajoie & Nancy Simard, SAD 60)</p>	Bass/Northeast Harbor Room
10:30 – 10:45	Break	Seal Harbor Room
10:45 – 11:30	<p>Concurrent Workshops: Session 5:</p> <p>School Safety Specialist Program The Maine School Safety Center (MSSC) will share information about the School Safety Specialist program and how these specialists are involved in the development and refinement of a school’s emergency operations plan (Wendy Robichaud, DOE)</p> <p>Electric School Buses: A Way Forward for Maine Electric school buses are being adopted by schools across the U.S, including more than 30 electric buses in Maine. Electric buses provide a quiet and environmentally friendly ride while reducing operational expenses. This clinic will cover vehicle basics, funding opportunities, and best practices and feature real-world insight from school transportation professionals. It will also cover opportunities available through the new Maine Clean School Bus Program, including significant funding from the US EPA. (Jessica Scott, Governor’s Office, & Alex Pine, VEIC)</p> <p>Superintendents Supporting Innovation! Hear from Maine superintendents from Brewer, RSU #34, St. George, and RSU #89 on the importance of incorporating new and innovative engagement strategies, including outdoor education, multiple pathways, pre-K through 12 CTE programs, and remote learning at the SAU level. Join this discussion to learn more about statewide collaboration opportunities to foster and deepen innovation. - Gregg Palmer, Brewer - Michael Felton, St. George</p>	<p>Seawall Room</p> <p>Bar Harbor Board Room</p> <p>Southwest Harbor Room</p> <p>(cont. on next page)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jon Doty, RSU 34 - Marie Robinson, RSU 89 	
11:45 – 12:00	Closing Remarks Pender Makin, Maine Commissioner of Education	Bass/Northeast Harbor Room
12:00 – 1:00	<i>Boxed Lunch (For the road!)</i>	Seal Harbor Room
1pm	Conference Ends	