

3/1/18 Westbrook Meeting – Audio Time Stamp: 6:02

Andres Larson – Sanford HS

Hi my name is Andres Larson. I teach at Sanford Junior High School. We used to use the Maine Learning Results in the social studies and then we moved to a ...we are working with a cohort... MCCL and we found those targets lacking so we created our own using a lot of guidance from what they had done in North Carolina. One of our initial issues with the Maine Learning Results...we really like them in general, but there is just too much. If taking any of them, you will have a standard and then a A, B, C, D, E, F, G sometimes and it was just a little overwhelming. You know, just the sheer volume. One of the things that we have been trying to do is to simply because despite that this is all great, there is just no way that we could come even close to covering the content and the skills and everything else in there.

Came back to respond to Holly Graffam (the third speaker of the evening) – Audio Time Stamp: 14:13

So on the point that you just made, I couldn't agree more that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade learners have a skill set that they are most likely able to achieve as do the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and there is a big difference there. One issue I think that we need to take into account is materials. At our school, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning ancient history and Maine history. So we've been collecting here and there materials for that. Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders is more of a U.S. studies, so our teachers over the years have been collecting that. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade is a world geography and cultures course. So if the Maine Learning Results were to specifically push a 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum toward a very specific content area instead of skills, I don't know how to do that to still give schools flexibility to say our 7<sup>th</sup> grade is a really strong U.S. studies course. So how do we design the learning results to be flexible enough so another school might say our 7<sup>th</sup> grade is really a world studies course. Rather than having all those systems in schools having to flip. So keeping them with some flexibility in them in terms of content, but I don't know how to solve that, but it would be nice if that was somehow built into it. Again your point is well, because our 6<sup>th</sup> grade learners are so far from our 8<sup>th</sup> grade learners so you have to be able to discern that somehow.