
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATOR SUMMIT

SINCE 2022



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**PENDER MAKIN, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Commissioner Makin has devoted herself to the mission of public education for more than 20 years. From 1997 to 2003, she served as a classroom teacher at Fred C. Wescott Junior High School in Westbrook. She went on to become principal at The REAL (Regional Education Alternative Learning) School on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, a position she held for more than a decade from 2003 to 2015. As principal at The REAL School – an alternative and service-based high school for students who have struggled in traditional school settings – Makin and her team supported high risk students from 28 sending school districts through innovative academic and experiential programming. Prior to joining the Department, Makin served as the Assistant Superintendent of the Brunswick School Department since 2015. Makin was named the 2013-2014 Maine Principal of the Year by the Maine Principal's Association and has also received the Milken Educator Award.