

Priority Notice from the Maine Department of Education



PRIORITY NOTICE: Concussion Management in Maine Schools Model Policy and Resources Updated

Dear Champions of Education,

A student's academic progress is directly related to their health and wellness. A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head, that disrupts the way the brain normally works and affects a child's ability to learn. A student who sustains a concussion must have medical clearance and complete the graduated return-to-school protocol, as determined by local school policy and procedure.

In accordance with [Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §1001, subsection 19](#), the Maine Department of Education (DOE) and Maine schools have worked to improve the management of students with concussions in schools. The updated [model policy](#) and [supporting resources](#) are based on the best up-to-date practices, as published by the [International Conference on Concussion in Sport](#), and represent input, collaboration, and edits from representatives of the following groups:

- Maine DOE Coordinated School Health staff
- Maine Principals' Association
- Maine Association of School Nurses
- Maine Athletic Trainers Association
- University of New England Athletic Training Program director and medical director
- University of Southern Maine Athletic Training Program director
- Korey Stringer Institute, University of Connecticut director of sports safety

Action required: School administrative units (SAUs) should review their concussion management policy and procedure in order to update them to reflect the current [updated model policy](#) and best practices. The updated resources provide strategies for implementation of a [graduated return to school and school activities](#) protocol.

For more information or with any questions, please contact Emily Poland, Maine DOE School Nurse Consultant, at Emily.Poland@Maine.gov.

Thank you.

Sent March 18, 2025



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