

# Welcome to Office Hours

This training is being recorded.

Please feel free to ask questions as they come up, but we will have several Chat Box Check-Ins throughout the training.



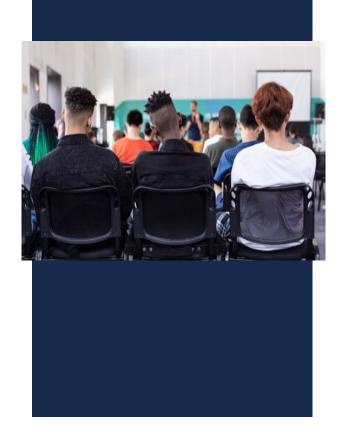
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Office Hours: IEP Meeting Essentials 09/25/24

Presented by: The OSSIE Supervision, Monitoring and



Support Team



## **Agenda**

#### 1. Introductions

Meet the team

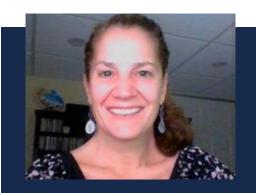
#### 2. IEP Meeting Essentials

- IDEA and MUSER requirements for the IEP decision making process
- Required participants
- Major IEP responsibilities and timelines
- 3. Questions and Resources

  Time for questions and links to resources



#### **Meet The Team**



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# SPECIAL SERVICES & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



#### **Includes links to:**

- Child Development Services
- IDEA Supervision, Monitoring and Support
- Effective Dispute Resolution and Legal Resources
- Special Projects for Inclusion
- IDEA Data and Reporting
- Funding and Fiscal Accountability





IDEA SUPERVISION, MONITORING, & SUPPORT

# IDEA Supervision, Monitoring & Support

The Maine State Department of Education has developed monitoring and data collection processes to meet the general supervision requirements outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) of 2004. These processes are compliant with the IDEA State Performance Plan Indicators and focus on growth in Federally mandated performance areas.

**Forms** 

Procedural Manual

School Administrative Unit Supports

Special Purpose Private School Supports

**Monitoring Home** 

Supervision, Monitoring, & Support | Department of Education (maine.gov)

Meet the Team - The Maine DOE Supervision, Monitoring, & Support team is here to answer questions and assist schools & educators with special education information.



# The IEP Decision Making Process



# What is the Purpose of an IEP?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says the purpose of an *Individualized* Education Program (IEP) is "to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a *free appropriate public education* (FAPE) that emphasizes *special education* and related services designed to meet their *unique needs* and *prepare them* for further education, employment and independent living", and to promote movement back to general education.



# IEP Decision-Making Process (MUSER VI.2 I)

#### The IEP Meeting

Serves as a communication vehicle between parents and school personnel and enables them as equal participants, to make joint decisions regarding:

- 1) The child's needs and appropriate goals.
- 2) The extent to which the child will be involved in the general curriculum and participate in the regular ed environment and assessments.
- 3)The services needed to support that involvement and achieve agreed-upon goals.



# IEP Decision-Making Process (MUSER VI.21)

#### Remember

The parents are considered equal partners with school personnel in making these decisions and the IEP team must consider the parents' concerns and the information they provide.





The IEP Team should work toward consensus, but the SAU has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that a child is appropriately evaluated, the IEP provides FAPE and the placement is in the least restrictive environment.

# IEP Decision-Making Process (MUSER VI.2 I)

What if the parents and the IEP team disagree?

If the team cannot reach consensus, the SAU must provide the parents with prior written notice of the school's proposals or refusals, or both, regarding their child's educational program, and the parents have the right to seek resolution of any disagreements by initiating an impartial due process hearing or a state complaint investigation.



#### Effective Dispute Resolution | Department of Education (maine.gov)

#### **IEP Facilitation**

ated IEP is one where an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) is c rative team whose members share responsibility for the meeting ere decision-making is managed using facilitation skills (Key2Ed, s that offer facilitated IEP meetings, data suggests that there is a m member communication, and increased levels of trust and coll

**IEP Facilitation Handbook** 

Facilitated IEP Meeting Request Form

**IEP Facilitation FAQ** 

#### **Complaint Investigation**

omplaint Investigation is a written complaint requesting an investigal ations of the IDEA/MUSER requirements. A State Complaints Office rmal investigation, considering the information and interviews of the I issue a written decision.

Who can file a State Complaint Investigation Request?

State Complaint Investigation Request Form

State Systemic Complaint Investigation Request Form

#### Mediation

Mediation is a voluntary process option when filing a Due Process Hearing State Complaint Investigation. A neutral person assists the parties in comn exploring possible options for resolving a conflict. The goal of special educ is to help the parties reach their own mutually acceptable resolution of the related to a student's special education services. Stand-alone mediation is without filing for a Due Process Hearing or a State Complaint Investigation

Who can request mediation?

Stand Alone Mediation

Stand Alone Mediation Request Form

Mediation Handbook

#### **Due Process Hearing**

Due Process hearing is a process involving a Hearing Officer who condiich like a formal court proceeding. The Hearing Officer considers the intal timony offered by each side and issues a written decision.

Who can file a due process hearing request?

**Due Process Hearing Request Form** 

<u>Due Process Expedited Hearing Request Form</u>

Guidance for preparation of evidence for hearings



### IEP Decision-Making Process (MUSER VI.2 I)

#### Recap:

- IEP Meeting serves as the communication vehicle for parents and SAUs to make decisions.
- Parents are equal partners.
- The SAU has the ultimate responsibility for FAPE.
- Dispute resolution options are available in the case of disagreement.



# **Required Participants for IEP meetings**



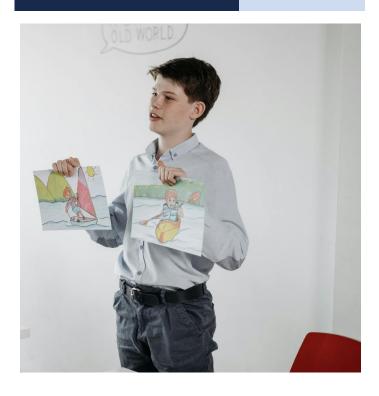
# Required Participants for IEP Meetings (MUSER VI.2.B)



- ✓ The <u>child's parents</u>
- ✓ No less than <u>one regular education</u> teacher which should include career/technical/adult ed teachers when appropriate
- ✓ No less than <u>one special education teacher</u>
- ✓ A <u>representative from the SAU</u> that
  - is qualified to provide or supervise special education instruction
  - Is knowledgeable in general education curriculum
  - is knowledgeable about the availability of resources and has written authorization to obligate funds for the SAU



# Required Participants for IEP Meetings (MUSER VI.2.B)



- ✓ At the discretion of parents or SAU, others who may have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, including <u>related service providers</u>.
- ✓ An <u>individual who can interpret the instructional</u> <u>implications of evaluation</u> results, who may be otherwise a member of the team.
- ✓ Whenever applicable, the child.
- ✓ For a child who is a state ward or state agency client, the child's caseworker representing a youth serving agency.



#### What if an IEP team member can't attend the IEP meeting?

# Attendance Not Necessary

A member of the IEP Team is not required to attend an IEP Team Meeting if the parent and the SAU agree in writing that attendance is not necessary because the member's area of curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed in the meeting.

#### **Excusal**

A member of the IEP Team may be excused when the meeting involves a modification to or discussion of the member's area of curriculum or related services, if—

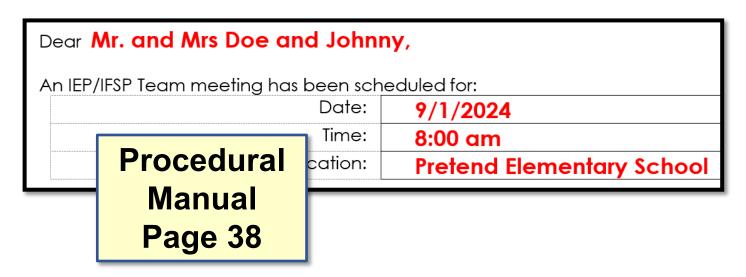
- (1) The parent, in writing, and the SAU consent to the excusal; and
- (2) The member submits, in writing to the parent and the IEP Team, input into the development of the IEP prior to the meeting.
- The SAU must ensure that the child's IEP Team is informed of any changes

IEP Forms | Department of Education (maine.gov)

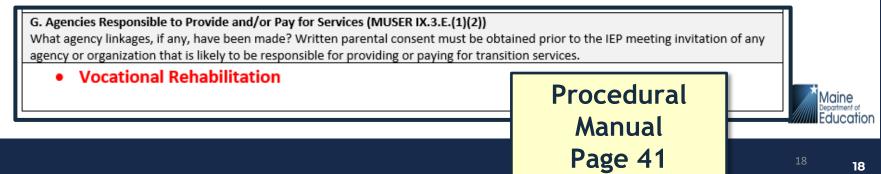


#### What if the student is of transition age?

If a student is of transition age, they must be invited to the meeting!



And, if any agency is likely to be responsible for paying for transition services, they must be invited by the school and the school must request consent from the parent before inviting.



### What if a parent can't attend the IEP meeting?

Each public agency must take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at each IEP Team meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including—

- (a) Notifying parents of the meeting early enough to ensure that they will have an opportunity to attend; and
- (b) Scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place.

If neither parent can attend an IEP Team meeting, the public agency must use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls



### What if a parent can't attend the IEP meeting?

A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the public agency is unable to convince the parents that they should attend. In this case, the public agency must keep a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed on time and place, such as—

- (a) Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls;
- (b) Copies of correspondence sent to the parents and any responses received; and
- (c) Detailed records of visits made to the parent's home or place of employment and the results of those visits.







# **Major IEP Team Responsibilities**



# 1. Determine Eligibility:

 Review, as part of initial or reevaluation, existing evaluation data including evaluations and information provided by the parents, classroom-based assessments and observations and teacher/service provide observations to determine if or what additional data are needed to determine whether a child is a child with a disability.

Referral to Special Education | Department of Education (maine.gov)

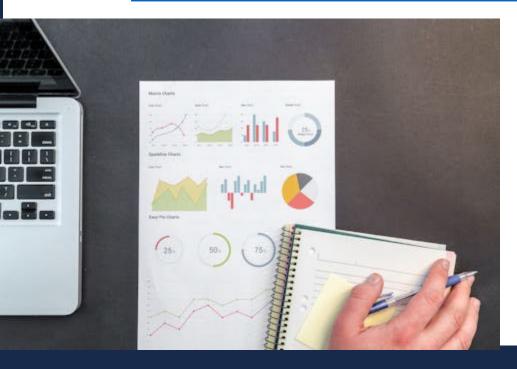


### 2. Determine Present Levels

• Determine present levels of performance and educational needs in all affected academic and non-academic areas.

**Teacher IEP Input Form (maine.gov)** 

### Office Hours Archives – Data Collection Modules



IEP Teacher Input Form		
Student:		
Teacher:	Date:	
Strengths:		
Concerns:		
Functional Performance (e.	.g., social skills, friendships, attention, homework habits):	



# 3. Determine Modifications and/or Accommodations

 Determine any necessary modifications/adaptations in the regular ed program if existing data is insufficient to identify the child as eligible for special services.

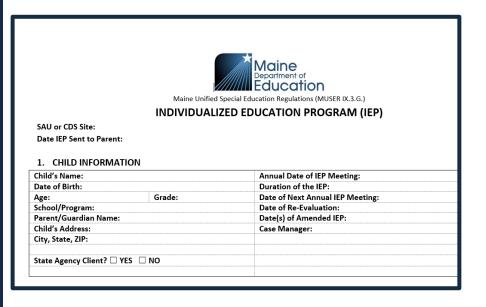


<u>Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) | Department of Education (maine.gov)</u>



# 4. Develop IEP

 Develop or revise an IEP to provide FAPE to any identified child with a disability



In general, when developing each child's IEP, the Team must consider:

- (a) The strengths of the child;
- (b) The concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child;
- (c) The results of the initial evaluation or most recent evaluation of the child; and
- (d) The academic, developmental, and functional needs of the child.



# 4. Develop IEP

Before the Meeting	During the Meeting	After the Meeting
Choose several IEP dates/times  Check with admin., teachers, etc. before speaking to parents  Call/email parents to schedule meeting with selected dates/times ready  Document dates you contacted parents  Determine set day and time and share it with the IEP Team	☐ Introduction of team members ☐ Review rights and procedural safeguards	Finalize Written Notice  Mail home ideally within 3 days to provide at least 7 days prior notice of proposed or refused actions
	☐ Purpose of meeting ☐ Share concerns	Finalize IEP  ☐ Send home a copy within 21 school days of the IEP meeting
IEP Invite  ☐ Mail home IEP invite (Advance Written Notice) to parents  ☐ This must be sent at least 7 days prior to the scheduled IEP Meeting ☐ Include Enclosures e.g., Procedural Safeguards, Evaluations	□ Review current IEP-Goals/Programming/Assessment data  Reevaluation (if appropriate) □ Review evaluations □ Determine eligibility	File documents  ☐ Advance Written Notice, Written Notice, IEP and any other documents filed in student file
	Complete eligibility form as Team  Transition (starting in 9th grade or year turning 16, whichever comes first) Goals Transition services  Determine components of IEP Strengths and skill gaps Present levels-baseline data of skill gaps Measurable annual goals Accommodations/modifications for instruction and assessment Participation in state and district wide assessments and how they are assessed Services needed Placement (Least Restrictive Environment-LRE)	☐ Keep a copy of the new IEP for your records
□ Send out teacher input form  Review the current IEP □ Review current progress monitoring data		Update tools for implementation of the IEP  ☐ Data sheets ☐ Create necessary materials ☐ Instructional practices
☐ Are the IEP goals still appropriate and/or realistic?		☐ Share updated IEP and/or accommodations with teachers or special area teachers that will have an impact in their classroom
Draft the new IEP  ☐ Write proposed goals  ☐ Write proposed updated behavior intervention plan (if applicable)		
	☐ Determine ESY eligibility	

Sample IEP Meeting Checklist (maine.gov)



### 5. Annual Review

 Review, at least annually, the IEP to determine whether goals are being achieved, revise the IEP as appropriate to address any lack of progress towards annual goals and general education, consider any results of reevaluations, and consider any information provided to or by the parents.

Questions and Answers (Q&A) on U. S. Supreme
Court Case Decision Endrew F. v. Douglas County
School District Re-1 - Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act



### **Amendments**

- In making changes to a child's IEP after the annual IEP meeting for a school year, the parent and the SAU may agree not to convene an IEP meeting and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP.
  - The SAU must provide prior Written Notice to the parent
  - The SAU must inform the IEP team of any changes made
  - The SAU must provide the parent a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments



## Major IEP Team Responsibilities (MUSER VI.2 I)

#### Recap:

- 1. Determine Eligibility
- 2. Determine Present Levels of Performance and Educational needs
- 3. Determine Modifications/and or Accommodations in general education
- 4. Develop the IEP
- 5. Annual Review of the IEP





#### **Advanced Written Notice**

• Each SAU must take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at each IEP Team meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including, notifying parents of the meeting early enough, *at least 7 days prior to the meeting*, to ensure that they will have an opportunity to attend

#### This section is used to:

• Document the parent's willingness to waive the 7-day notice of the IEP meeting.

#### Waiver of 7 Day Advance Notice of IEP Meeting

Each SAU or IEU must take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at each IEP/IFSP Team meeting, or are afforded the opportunity to participate. These steps include notifying the parents of the meeting early enough, but at least 7 days prior to the meeting to ensure that they will have an opportunity to attend and scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place.

If you have not been provided notice of the meeting at least 7 days before the meeting date, your signature waiving your rights to the timeframe is required below before the IEP/EFSP Team meeting may be convened.

Signature of parent/guardian for waiver Date

Parents must sign here whenever the IEP meeting is held less than 7 days from when notice was provided.



#### **Evaluations:**

- The initial evaluation must be conducted within 60 calendar days of receiving parental consent for the evaluation for children in the Child Development Services System, or within 45 school days of receiving parental consent for the evaluation for children 5-22 years of age under the responsibility of the public school system, and must consist of procedures to determine if the child is a child with a disability and to determine the educational needs of the child; and
- (ii) Following the completion of the initial evaluation, and within the above timeframe, the agency or SAU shall proceed to determine if the child is a child with a disability under 34 CFR 300.8 [Section VII].

CDS = 60 Calendar days SAU= 45 School days

A copy of the evaluation report must be provided to the parent at least 3 days prior to the IEP Team Meeting at which the evaluation will be discussed.



#### Requirement that Program be in Effect:

• Initial IEPs: A meeting to develop an IEP for a child is conducted within 30 days of a determination that the child needs special education and related services.

• Implementation of IEP must be as soon as possible following the IEP meeting, but no later than 30 days after the initial identification of the child with a

disability



G. Copy of IEP to Parents. A complete copy of the Individualized Education Program shall be provided to the parent within 21 school days of the IEP Meeting at which the IEP was developed.



### **Annual IEP & Duration of IEP**

3ish days for 7 days mail (Guidance) Annual **Parents Duration of**  Parent(s) can waive their right to 7-day notice • Implement IEP sooner than 7 days Meeting have the WN the IEP -• 7 Day Waiver form (optional) Date in their **IEP Begins**  Must be documented in the Written Notice hands 1/6/22 1/16/22 • The child's parents waived their right to 7-day notice prior to the IEP implementation, and gareed to make 1/9/22 the IEP effective starting the next day. Must hold next annual on or before 1/5/23. **Duration of IEP** can only run 364 days. Annual Date of IEP Meeting: 1/6/2022

Duration of the IEP: 1/16/2022-1/15/2023
Date of Next Annual IEP Meeting: 1/5/2023

can only run 364 days. Therefore, IEP must end 1/15/23

#### **Reevaluations:**

- Can be completed if the SAU determines that educational or related services needs, including academic and functional performance warrant reevaluation
- Can be completed if the parent or teacher requests a reevaluation
- Can not occur more frequently than once a year unless parent and SAU agree otherwise
- Must be completed every 3 years unless parent and SAU agree that a reevaluation is not necessary



## **IEP Meeting Timelines**

#### Recap:

- Advanced Written Notice of IEP meeting at least 7 days prior to meeting unless waived by parent
- Evaluations and determination within 45 school days (SAU) or 60 calendar days (CDS)
- Initial IEPs must be developed and implemented within 30 days of eligibility determination.
- Annual IEPs can't be written for more than 364 days.
- Annual meeting dates can't be longer than 364 days.
- Reevaluation not more than once per year, but at least every 3 years
- A full copy of the IEP must be sent home to the parent within 21 days



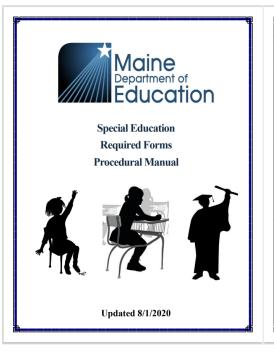








**Procedural Manual** 



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The IEP Committee: attricia Block, RSU #12 Many Adley, Maine DOE aunie Lemieux, Winthrop School Dept. loberta Lucas, Maine DOE fris Michaud, CDS Schelbelly Thibodeau, Augusta School Dept. Dan Hemdal, Maine DOE yann Meserve, RSU #38	
tiley Donovan, RSU #64	



#### Maine Unified Special Education Regulations (MUSER)



05-071 Chapter 101

Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two

Effective Date: July 26, 2024

2024-25 Cohort IEP Quick Reference Document \*Compliance \*Best Practice Maine Education Maine Unified Special Education Regulations (MUSER IX.3.G.) INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) SAU or CDS Site: Date IEP Sent to Parent: FOT7- Compliance: ☐ Date sent to parent is < 21 school days from Annual Date of IEP Meeting 1. CHILD INFORMATION Child's Name: Annual Date of IEP Meeting: Date of Birth: Duration of the IEP: Age: Grade: Date of Next Annual IEP Meeting: FOT8- Compliance: ■ Date of next annual is within 364 days of annual meeting date School/Program: Date of Re-Evaluation: Parent/Guardian Name: Date(s) of Amended IEP: Child's Address: Case Manager: City, State, ZIP: State Agency Client? ☐ YES ☐ NO 2. DISABILITY □ Autism □ Deaf-Blindness □ Deafness ☐ Developmental Delay (3-5) □ Developmental Delay (Kindergarten) ☐ Emotional Disturbance ☐ Hearing Impairment ☐ Intellectual Disability ☐ Visual Impairment (including Blindness) ☐ Other Health Impairment □ Orthopedic Impairment ☐ Speech/Language Impairment ☐ Specific Learning Disability □ Traumatic Brain Injury ☐ Multiple Disability (check all applicable concomitant disabilities) Compliance:

Only one disability checked, unless Multiple Disability is checked

☐ If Multiple Disability is checked, all disabilities making up the multiple are checked





Professional Development Calendar

**Link for Recordings and Power Points** 





**Special Education Resources** 

**Special Education Laws and Regulations** 





**Special Education Forms and Reporting** 

#### **2024-25 Professional Development Schedule**

<u>DATE</u>	TOPIC/DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION LINK
Wednesday 9/11/24	Resources	Resources Registration Link
Wednesday 9/25/24	IEP Essentials for New Teachers	IEP Essentials for New Teachers Registration Link
Friday 10/9/24	Alignment	Alignment Registration Link
Tuesday 10/15/24	All District IEP Training	All District IEP Training Registration Link (10/15/24)
Wednesday 10/23/24	Advanced Written Notice and Written Notice	AWN & WN Registration Link
Thursday 10/31/24	All District B13 Training	All District B13 Transition Training Registration Link (10/31/24)
Wednesday 11/13/24	Inclusion Presented by: Tracy Whitlock	Inclusion Registration Link
Wednesday 12/11/24	How Community Case Managers Can Help IEP Teams Presented by: KVBH	How Community Case  Manager Can Help the IEP  Team Link

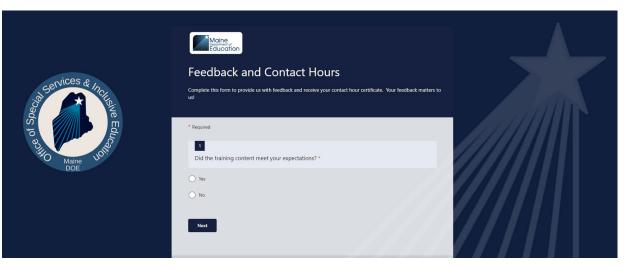
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#### 2024-25 Professional Development Schedule (cont.)

<u>DATE</u>	TOPIC/DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION LINK
Wednesday 1/8/25	Alternate Assessments	Alternate Assessment
	<b>Guest Speaker: Jodi Bossio-Smith</b>	<u>Registration Link</u>
Wednesday 1/22/25	Compliant versus Good IEPs	<b>Compliant vs Good IEPs Part</b>
	Developing a Strong IEP Part 1	<u>1 Registration Link</u>
Wednesday 2/12/25	Compliant versus Good IEPs	<b>Compliant vs Good IEPs Part</b>
	Developing a Strong IEP Part 2	2 Registration Link
Wednesday 2/26/25 Accommodations and Services	<b>Accommodations &amp; Services</b>	
		Registration Link
Wednesday 3/12/25	Transition from CDS to Public	<u>Transition from CDS to</u>
	School	<b>Public School Registration</b>
	<b>Guest Speaker: Lori Whittemore</b>	<u>Link</u>
Wednesday 3/26/25	Abbreviated Day	<b>Abbreviated Day</b>
Wednesday 3/20/23		Registration Link
Wednesday 4/9/25	Special Education Law for	<b>Special Education Law for</b>
	General Education Teachers	<b>General Education Teachers</b>
	Guest Speaker: Leigh Lardieri	Registration Link
<b>Monday 5/12/25</b>	-	<b>All District B13 Transition</b>
	<b>All District B13 Transition Training</b>	<b>Training Registration Link</b>
		<u>(5/12/24)</u>
Wednesday 5/14/25	Forms	Forms Registration Link
Friday 5/28/25	Discipline & Manifestation	<b>Discipline &amp; Manifestation</b>
	Determination	<u>Determination</u>

Maine Department of Education

#### **Professional Learning Feedback and Contact Hour Form.**



Use the link to complete the form on your computer **OR** 

Use the QR code to complete the form on your mobile device

https://forms.office.com/g/by472QQLDJ











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- @mdoenews
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