

## **Classrooms in the Community**

### **School Union #76**

**Contacts: Lynne Witham, Coordinator of Grants & Professional Development and Director of Adult & Community Education and Mickie Flores, DISES Science Teacher**

#### **Overview:**

Classrooms in the Community, School Union #76's RREV pilot project is designed to create and expand place-based education experiences across our district. We expect the outdoor spaces built with this grant to be inclusive: ensuring that all students know they belong, are engaged, and connected. We plan to design and construct spaces to ensure that children of all abilities can explore together. The goals for these outdoor spaces are to:

- significantly boost student learning proficiencies across all subgroups of students
- create a global, integrated base of knowledge for our staff, students, and parents
- expand aspirations and awareness of continuous learning opportunities for our students and communities.
- better prepare our students for a world rapidly changing through technology and innovation by teaching and nurturing the practices of auto-didactical learning, research & exploration, and teamwork.

In order to achieve these goals, we will be utilizing RREV's new ENGINE database as well as creating and expanding outdoor learning areas on our campuses, including greenhouses, nature trails, and an outdoor classroom. We are hiring a Place-Based Education Integration Specialist who will work with students and with key community partners to create and immediately implement place-based learning activities that may occur on-campus, off-campus utilizing community partners, and around the globe by connecting with others in distant places and leveraging virtual learning experiences. We will be examining and changing many of our practices as we work with our Place-Based Education Integration Specialist and existing staff to embed these new integrated place-based experiences into our curriculum. Teachers themselves will be able to identify practices and structures that remain obstacles to integrated place-based learning and work with administrators to make the changes necessary to move the pilot forward.

#### **Student Impact:**

SY21-21 we expect to impact 400+ students in grades K-12 in four schools.

#### **Contact:**

Lynne Witham

Union 76 Coordinator of Grants & Professional Development

Director of Adult & Community Education

[lwitham@su76.org](mailto:lwitham@su76.org)

Office: 207.348.6443

The Maine Department of Education's Rethinking Remote Education Ventures (RREV) project is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Education Stabilization Fund awarded through the Rethink K-12 Education Models (REM) grant. Maine was awarded \$ 16,958,613.

-----  
The contents of this letter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.