Winter Harbor Think Tank

Maine Defines School Success

September 30, 2019

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| Ideas | Questions  | Comments |
| * Include Portrait

of a School in strategic planning process* Imbed Portrait of a School into school improvement process
* Use language that invites participation from all areas (replace “indicators” with elements, for instance)
* Include Maine Guiding Principles in accreditation process
* Tap into stakeholder groups that already convene rather than separating this work (MPA conference, PTO meetings, etc.)
* Add an additional (optional) component of the school report card that allows schools to highlight the indicators/elements that make their school successful 🡪 offer guidance and support to schools who wish to do this but don’t have the resources
* Provide DOE “coaches” to schools who want to incorporate this model but need/want support and guidance
 | * Can we focus on what schools are doing well and what they do have rather than weighting the state assessment so heavily and making judgements about schools based only on their rank?
* Could “Portrait of a School” replace or accompany existing report cards? If so, how can the DOE use that information to celebrate greatness in schools based on what individual communities are proud of?
* Are there more systemic (and acceptable ways) for schools to honor learning that happens outside of school?
* Can data be combined so that the data points that represent schools are shown with the demographics of that school (for a fuller picture of “the situation”)
* Can we move away from seat time mandates?
* How can we market “Portraits” other than only on a school website?
 | * Quality of teaching / climate of a school is represented in assessment results
* Shifting the mindset around scoring and ranking schools based on information other than standardized test scores will be challenging in a national environment that has historically weighted test scores
* Portrait of a School is great way to attract teachers and administrators to communities facing an educator shortage
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