

Maine ED 2050

Maine ED 2050 is a project to bring communities, educators, and youth together to discuss how education and schooling can be designed for personal, civic, and economic thriving in the next few decades. Libraries can play a key role in the project as a trusted convener and a center of community learning. We are asking Maine libraries in every county to consider playing a role.

What will I be asked to do?

- Invite and encourage your community to participate using the channels you already use, using the flyers we share with you or your own.
- Post a link to find out more and sign up on your website's home page.
- Let patrons know you believe in the value of the project.

Does the library have to manage registrations or host conversations?

- No. Participants sign up for a specific day and time online through a google form we have designed and they use zoom links we provide.
- No. We provide a host. However, facilitating a conversation is enriching and easy. A librarian or other community member can facilitate the conversation using a guide we provide. It is as simple as reading a script, but hosts are free to flex with the flow of the conversation and go "off script" using their own judgment.

How do the conversations themselves work?

- Participants simply click the zoom link and join a group of up to 2 to 4 other community members.
- Participants introduce themselves with their first name only, or even a pseudonym.
- The host gains consent for recording the conversation and records the conversation on Zoom.
- The group uses a circle process and healthy conversation agreements to make sure all voices are heard.
- Questions from the guide focus on personal experiences, not positions on issues.
- At the end, and up to a few days afterward, participants can ask us to delete statements or even their whole audio file, if they say something they wish they hadn't!

What happens afterward?

- We upload the audio file to [Local Voices Network](#) through our partner [Cortico](#).
- The audio is transcribed and analyzed using artificial intelligence.
- Conversation participants are invited to view their now visually appealing transcript and listen to the audio recording online.
- Participants can then use a highlighting tool to show what is most important to them about what they said.
- The public can see and listen to the conversations too, searching for keywords and themes, statewide, by county, or even by conversation date.

What will we do with the data?

- Educate Maine and Education Action Forum of Maine will analyze the data and share it with major education stakeholders in a **Fall 2022 Summit**, a kick off event to create a strong network committed to designing the education system for the Maine our communities want. It will also provide data for white papers and reports to be shared with legislators.