

Down East Educational Partnership

April 19, 2007

Dear Commissioner Gendron and Maine Legislators,

The work of Maine's public school curriculum leaders is complex and frequently hidden from public view. The work often extends beyond developing curriculum, which involves leading groups in interpreting Maine's state standards, aligning curricula to it, securing adequate teaching materials and resources, assisting teachers as they implement the curriculum, and assessing the effects of those efforts in order to facilitate revisions. Though this cycle constitutes full-time work, we are often called upon to complete other tasks that support the business of schooling in Maine including, but not limited to:

- Collaborating with community partners to enhance educational opportunities for students and teachers
- Coordinating meaningful professional development for all staff (including principals, administrative assistants, educational technicians, food service, etc.)
- Coordinating teacher study groups, book studies, child studies
- Acting as a liaison to educational regional, state, national partnerships
- Coordinating new teacher induction programs Leading standards-based reform efforts
- Leading local teacher recertification efforts
- Coordinating student after school programs
- Writing, managing, and reporting for federal, state and other grants
- Assisting and communicating both small and large scale district needs
- Filling auxiliary administrative roles within a district: School Health Coordinator, principal for smaller schools, Gifted/Talented Coordinator, Special Education Director, Title I Coordinator, Technology Coordinator
- Managing the No Child Left Behind Act paperwork (Highly Qualified Teachers, NCLB Report Card, etc.)
- Managing, analyzing and reporting on student, school and district data to students, teachers, administrators, school committees, communities, media
- Facilitating improvement efforts for academic achievement
- Facilitating yearly review/revision of schools Comprehensive Education Plans

Please consider the details of behind-the-scenes positions while making your final decisions about the future of Maine's schools. The elimination of the positions will not result in the elimination of the tasks currently performed by curriculum leaders. Grouping the schools together into a larger region will not eliminate the need for teachers to have timely professional development responsive to their individual needs nor will it eliminate the need to provide students with equal access to educational opportunities. The Maine Learning Results were created to ensure that all students who attend Maine public schools have opportunities to engage in quality academic programming regardless of the location or wealth of their respective communities. The proposals to consolidate Maine's school systems have not properly addressed the work that will be left in limbo or the learning needs that will go unmet once key positions have been eliminated and/or reduced. We request your consideration of the many student programs and school initiatives that will become underserved or eliminated should consolidation necessitate reductions in curriculum leadership or shifts of curriculum coordinators' workloads to other administrators. And lastly, please ensure that curriculum coordinators are members of the Regional Steering Committees.

Sincerely,

Down East Educational Partnership

Katrina Kane, Ellsworth Schools, Executive Director

Lyn Wilson, Coordinator

Joanne Harriman, Union 98 schools

Ann McCann, Union 96 schools

Gail-Breslin Keith, Union 93 schools

Bruce Ives, Union 76 schools

Susan Smith, Union 92 schools

Jon Geiger, Jackson Laboratories

Judith Cox, College of the Atlantic

Bonnie Sparks, Hancock County Higher Education

Raney Bench, Abbe Museum

Cynthia Ocel, Acadia National Park

Serving schools in:

Hancock
Lamoine
Surry
Trenton
Eastbrook
Waltham
Otis
Mariaville
Blue Hill
Brooksville
Castine
Penobscot
Winter Harbor
Gouldsboro
Steuben

Ellsworth
Sedgwick
Deer Isle
Stonington
Brooklin
Southwest Harbor
Tremont
Bar Harbor
Northeast Harbor
Islesford
Frenchboro
Swan's Island
Mt. Desert
Sullivan
Franklin