



Legislative Briefing Book

130th Legislative Session

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Vision

The people of Maine are lifelong learners served by an innovative, equitable, and learner-centered public education system that supports students – early childhood throughout adulthood - in achieving healthy, successful, and fulfilling lives that allow them to shape the future.

Mission

To promote the best learning opportunities for all Maine students by providing information, guidance, and support to our schools, educators, and leaders and by providing adequate and equitable school funding and resources.

Strategic Priorities: 2019-2021



Inspire **TRUST** in our organization, and in our public education system



Develop, support, and sustain a robust **EDUCATOR WORKFORCE**



Promote **EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE** and **EQUITY** for all Maine learners



Ensure **STUDENT** and **SCHOOL SAFETY, HEALTH, and WELLBEING**



Support a **CULTURE** of **INNOVATION** and **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**, led by all of the experts in the field

Commissioner Pender Makin



Across her more than 20-year career, Makin has devoted herself to the mission of public education. From 1997 to 2003, she served as a classroom teacher at Fred C. Wescott Junior High School in Westbrook. She went on to become principal at The REAL (Regional Education Alternative Learning) School on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, a position she held for more than a decade from 2003 to 2015. As principal at The REAL School – an alternative and service-based high school for students who have struggled in traditional school settings – Makin and her team supported high risk students from 28 sending school districts through innovative academic and experiential programming. Since 2015, Makin has served as the Assistant Superintendent of the Brunswick School Department.

Makin was named the 2013-2014 Maine Principal of the Year by the Maine Principal's Association and has also received the Milken Educator Award, a national distinction bestowed upon educators for exceptional educational talent, exemplary educational accomplishments, and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students. Makin has also won the MTV Local Hero Award.

Makin is charged with leading the state agency that administers both state education subsidy and state and federal grant programs; coordinates the authoring of the rules for Maine State education statutes passed by the Maine State Legislature; provides professional development, information, supports and resources, as well as a system for educator credentialing; and leads many collaborative opportunities and partnerships in support of local schools and districts.

Makin, grew up in Saco, attended local schools, and graduated from Thornton Academy. She worked as a mate and deckhand on her father's deep-sea fishing charter boat during the summers beginning at age eight. She earned both her B.A. in English Literature and her M.S. in School Leadership from University of Southern Maine and received her teacher certification from the University of New England's Department of Education in 1996. She lives in Scarborough with her husband, Mike – a middle school science teacher – and their two rescue dogs.

Office of the Commissioner



Dan Chuhta **Deputy Commissioner**

Before his appointment as Deputy Commissioner in February of 2019, Dan was superintendent in MSAD 75 (Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell, Topsham) and was assistant superintendent there for six years prior. Originally a middle school science teacher, he has been motivated in each of his roles to help all students and educators achieve success.



Kelli Deveaux **Director of Communications**

Prior to joining the Department of Education in March of 2019, Kelli most recently served as Principal of Westbrook High School, a position she held since 2016. Deveaux also served as an Assistant Principal at Windham High School and began her more than two-decades long career in education as an English teacher in South Portland. Deveaux lives in Gorham with her husband and their three children.



Jessica Nixon **Chief of Staff and Operations**

Jessica brings to the role her experiences in service, including hospitality as an event and hotel manager, and previous public service including agricultural marketing and promotions, education, and Agricultural Resources Development Division Director at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Jessica has supported efforts for small business development, agricultural market expansion, and managed federal and state grant programs.



Mary Herman **Director of Special Projects**

Mary has been a secondary social studies teacher, a special education teacher, a nurse, substance abuse counselor, lobbyist/advocate at the Maine State house for health, education and social services providers. She has worked as membership coordinator for Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance and most recently served as an organizational and development consultant to nonprofits and small businesses statewide. Currently Mary serves as Special Projects Director in the Office of the Commissioner of Maine DOE. Included in her “portfolio” are support for the Office of Opiate Response Prevention Task Force, The Wabanaki History and Culture Work Group, DOE Staff “team” to the Maine Children’s Cabinet, DOE’s Office of Innovation (GEER, RREV, WAVE, Student Re-engagement), DOE’s Equity work (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team), SEL 4 Maine, the Maine Commission to End Child Hunger, and serves as needed as liaison to outside organizations at the request of the Commissioner.



Page Nichols **Chief Innovation Officer**

Prior to her appointment as Chief Innovation Officer in August of 2019, Page was Dean of Students for a special services program in Southern Maine and a Restorative Learning Specialist for the Brunswick School Department where she helped to develop and implement restorative disciplinary practices and protocols using evidence-based best practices and emerging brain development research as guides. She is the co-founder of the Collaborative for Perpetual Innovation, a Maine-based, educational consulting company focused on innovative solutions to complex problems. Page and her team support and leverage innovation in education across the state, drawing on the creativity and expertise of educators in the field.

Office of the Commissioner



Chelsey Fortin-Trimble **Director of Policy and Government Affairs**

Chelsey has served as the Director of Policy and Government Affairs since December of 2019. Previously, she led the Department's ESEA Federal Programs and School Turnaround teams. She has focused on improving outcomes for students as a classroom teacher, curriculum

specialist, school leadership coach, state Title I director, and nonprofit leader. Chelsey began her career in education as an elementary school teacher through Teach for America in Washington, DC. She later worked for Teach for America training novice teachers in Philadelphia. Prior to returning home to join the Maine Department of Education six years ago, Chelsey was the Senior Program Manager for Reading Partners, a national evidence-based and community-driven literacy intervention program. In her role, she managed a team of literacy interventionists and programming in Title I elementary schools throughout Washington, DC. Chelsey lives in Waterville with her husband and their two children.

For support with legislation, email Chelsey Fortin-Trimble at Chelsey.A.Fortin@maine.gov.

For support with rulemaking, email Jaci Holmes at Jaci.Holmes@maine.gov.

For support with constituent questions and concerns, email Monique Sullivan at Monique.Sullivan@maine.gov.



Jaci Holmes **Federal and State Legislative Liaison**

Ms. Holmes is responsible for monitoring the state legislature, congressional delegation, congressional action and local, state and federal education groups to gather and exchange information, to determine status and impact of legislative actions, and to provide

responses as directed by the Commissioner and the Commissioner's office. Her work includes planning, research, tracking legislation, legislative document, rule and regulation review, and analysis and summary of materials. Prior to state service, Jaci chaired the Early Childhood Education program at Westbrook College teaching many of the courses and supervising students in their student teaching placements.



Monique Sullivan **Legislative & Constituent Services Specialist**

Prior to joining the policy team, Monique served as the Title I Coordinator for the Department's ESEA Federal Programs team. She began her career in public education as a Mississippi Teacher Corp recruit teaching high school French and Social Studies in the

Mississippi Delta. From there Monique moved into school administration where she served as a building principal at every level including elementary, middle, and high school in both rural and urban settings. Throughout her journey as an educator Monique has always focused on providing the highest quality of education to her students regardless of their economic status, ethnicity, or cultural background.

Innovation



Beth Lambert Director of Innovative Teaching and Learning

In addition to her day job at the Maine Department of Education, Beth is a MSAD 49 school board member from Fairfield. In her nearly 20 years in education Beth has been a school administrator as well as taught at the middle and high school levels where she served in a

leadership capacity around standards, curriculum and assessment, student-centered teaching and teacher leadership.

Due to the swift onset of the covid-19 pandemic, the priorities within the Office of Innovation shifted to respond to urgent needs of schools under the circumstances caused by the pandemic. However, our efforts and accomplishments over the past nine months continue to align with the Departments' strategic priorities, particularly to "support a culture of innovation and continuous improvement" and "to promote educational excellence and equity for all Maine learners." In order to achieve our goals with fidelity, our team now includes two digital learning specialists, the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) team, a Director of Innovative Teaching and Learning, and a Management Analyst and Project Director to lead and execute the work of the Reinventing Remote Education Ventures (RREV) project.

Reinventing Remote Education Ventures (RREV)

In June, the Office of Innovation team submitted a proposal to the US Department of Education Rethink K-12 Education Models (ESF-REM) Discretionary Grants Program and was awarded \$16.9M. RREV will develop a systemwide cadre of "Education Engineers" who will design remote learning prototype models to be field tested, revised, and honed by schools willing to pilot these models. The overarching goal of RREV is to strengthen our statewide capacity for innovation in education.

ConnectKidsNow!

In response to the sudden switch to remote learning in March, Governor Janet T. Mills publicly emphasized her expectation that the Maine Department of Education and Maine schools take immediate actions to ensure continuity of learning for all Maine students. In reviewing the Department of Education's strategic priorities, which include *promoting educational excellence and equity for all Maine learners* and *supporting a culture of innovation and continuous improvement*, the Maine DOE Office of Innovation and its stakeholder partners immediately determined that equitable access to the internet was urgently needed for students to maintain connections with their teachers and access to instructional support during this time of unpredictability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education (MOOSE)

In order to ensure that learning can continue during the COVID-19 crisis and during future emergencies that require home-based instruction, DOE, Maine educational community organizations, and Maine educators created a library of asynchronous learning modules in a Maine Learning Results-aligned learning progression. These modules will be integrated to ensure that learning is synthesized across traditional subject areas and learning experiences are designed to be mutually reinforcing. This project is occurring in four main phases and each phase produces one quarters-worth of learning material in grades PK-12. Phase IV is scheduled to be completed by July 2021.

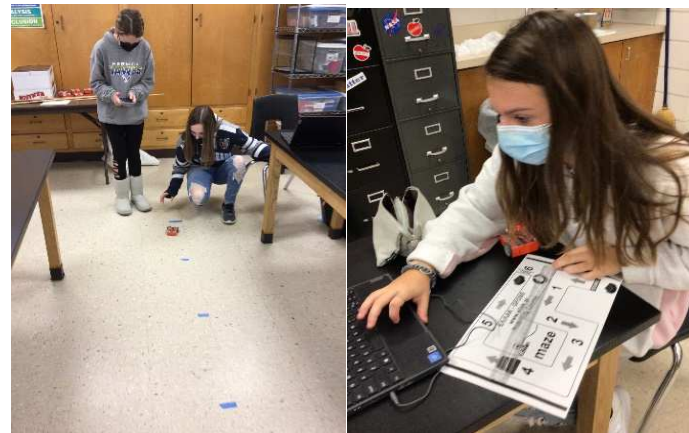
With participation from over 400 educators, the MOOSE platform is live with nearly two phases of the project complete. According to analytics, MOOSE is being used widely throughout Maine, as well as other states and countries, and most heavily between 8:00am and 3:00pm which suggests that it's being most often used by educators as part of their customized remote learning plans. Other States have reached out about the project and are using MOOSE as a model as they develop their own learning platforms. This high-quality resource includes current and future opportunities for professional learning in digital, asynchronous models, best practices in interdisciplinary approaches, and best practices in integrating trauma-informed practices – all critical elements of the Maine DOE's strategic priorities.

Maine Learning Through Technology & Computer Science

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) has experienced only minor changes in the nineteen years since the plan was first introduced in 2001. Therefore, in January 2020 the Maine Department of Education formed a 31-member MLTI Advisory Board charged with developing a recommendation for the next phase of the MLTI, the MLTI 2.0 Program. Advisory Board members were nominated from among sixteen different education organizations and represented the diverse needs and welfare of all interested parties. The MLTI Advisory Board met eleven times over an eight-month period concluding in August 2020 by submitting a recommendation that focuses on the future and establishes a program that proposes a thoughtful phased-in implementation strategy. The recommendation creates a plan with inter-dependent elements and forms a community with systems of continuous process improvement and accountability. The redesigned program aligns and compliments Maine's Economic Development Strategy, 2020-2029 and focuses on methods, systems, plans, and processes that will provide Maine students with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed in a digital economy. The plan focuses on developing a foundation for innovation and invests deeply in educator preparation and professional learning.

Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) 2.0 will be a state-level program promoting and supporting the intentional use of researched-based educational technology practices in student learning. The program will provide equitable access to technology and talent development for all students so that they can create, problem-solve, and innovate for a global economy. In order to achieve this vision, the program will support equitable access for all to technology equipment and software tools meeting specified standards. The program will be an inter-related dependent system of professional learning for educators and technicians, a community of accountability connected to people, participation, continuous improvement, and rewards. The program will be guided by an advisory board with membership that includes state-level staff and advisor/leaders in order to ensure continuity and consistency of the implementation strategy.

Over the past two years the Department has invested in, and made a commitment to, promoting and supporting computer science education in Maine as part of the newly designed, MLTI 2.0. Just over a year ago, Maine DOE convened a team of computer science educators to develop a computer science education state plan. Shortly after the launch of the plan, in Spring of 2020, the Department hired a computer science specialist to lead this statewide work. Over the last year, Maine DOE has convened a leadership team consisting of representation from the Computer Science Teachers Association of Maine, Educate Maine's Project>Login, Maine Math and Science Alliance, and the University of Maine's RiSE Center. This team worked in partnership with the Expanding Computing Education Pathways (ECEP) alliance to conduct an inventory of computer science offerings in Maine. This team's work will continue into 2021 with the development of a full landscape study to collect more information about computer science education in the Maine classroom, including computer science teaching in non-computer science designated courses, promotion of ongoing computer science activities, events, and successes in the classroom.



Students at Hermon Middle School using Edison robots to learn about uniform motion and acceleration.

Learning Systems

Assessment, CTE, ESEA, Standards and Instructional Supports



Janette Kirk Chief

Janette has served in multiple roles within her 6 and half years at the Department. Prior to February 2019 and serving as the Chief of Learning Systems, Kirk served in roles including Deputy Director for the OLS team, ESEA Federal Programs Team and Title I Director. In her current role, she strives to develop increased collaboration

and cohesion between the five teams that comprise the Office of Learning Systems. Kirk began her 20+ year career in Education as an Elementary teacher in Liverpool, England followed by 13 years with The Salvation Army supporting and developing educational programming across Northeast Ohio for undeserved and marginalized populations. Kirk moved to Maine during the summer of 2014 beginning her work at the Department as the Title I Director.

Career and Technical Education

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) team has an updated Memorandum of Understanding between the CTE schools and community colleges benefitting Maine students statewide. The team has also created an annual training for CTE Directors, employed a new CTE program approval process, and supported the successful statewide release of \$1.8million in additional funding to support Industry Recognized Credentials in CTE. Lastly, the team has been instrumental in the implementation Coronavirus Relief funding (CRF) and Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) funding to support regional CTE centers throughout the pandemic.

Assessment and Accountability Redesign

The COVID-19 pandemic provides the realization that education will never be the same. The ESEA Federal Programs, SIS, and Assessment teams have initiated the redesign of Maine’s comprehensive assessment system and Maine’s accountability system. Ensuring that in Maine the needs of students remain at the core of this work and recognizing redesign cannot be completed in isolation, educators and administrators alike will have the opportunity to contribute to discussion, development, revision and redesign of both systems. This work also includes the redesign of the ESSA Data Dashboard.

Professional Learning

All teams within the Office of Learning Systems (OLS) continue to provide weekly/monthly office hours in addition to professional learning opportunities for Maine educators. OLS team members continue to hear from Maine educators and administrators regarding needs and adapt and implement professional learning and office hours accordingly. Professional learning is recorded and posted on the Maine DOE’s **Professional Learning site**. Professional learning opportunities have included, but are not limited to:

- Professional learning series for education technicians that included sessions on literacy, math, MTSS, social-emotional learning, family engagement, dyslexia, digital learning, and early childhood (reached thousands of educators)
- Student trauma and mental health book studies for early childhood educators
- PreK4ME curriculum use
- Read and Discuss sessions with Elementary Literacy Educators
- Early Mathematics Diagnostic Interview (EDMI) series focusing on remote learning strategies and engagement in mathematics
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Distance learning and grading
- Supporting SEL4ME curriculum implementation
- Lenses on Learning in mathematics
- Professional learning around implementation of Maine’s revised content standards
- Webinars with national experts related to relevant topics such as but not limited to civics/election, diverse perspectives in history, and online learning

Higher Education and Education Support Services



Ángel Loredo Director

Mr. Loredo supports the development of higher education policy and manages the approval of educator preparation programming, additional degree granting for institutions of higher education, and Maine proprietary schools and the Certification Unit. Aside from his responsibilities at the Maine Department of Education, Mr. Loredo is the president of the National

Association of State Directors of Teacher education and Certification (NASDTEC). Mr. Loredo brings a passion for access to higher education and multicultural programming. He has gained his expertise working with professors and students at the University of Houston (TX) and Southern Methodists University (TX). Most recently, Mr. Loredo worked at the University of Maine where he served as the Associate Dean of Students, the Wabanaki Center and has taught multicultural leadership for the Higher Education program. In addition to working in postsecondary institutions in Maine, and Texas, Mr. Loredo was a Chicano activist in immigration reform, serving as a consultant for not-for-profit organizations. While in Dallas he was the political analyst for the Univision Network, providing educational programs to the Latino community. In his spare time, Mr. Loredo enjoys deep sea fishing and volunteering for his church. He is the president of CHISPA Centro Hispano of Maine, a Latinx organization dedicated to promoting Latinx culture and language. He and his wife Eunice have two children Angelica and Ángel, Jr., both attend the University of Maine.

Educator Recognition

Maine's Teacher of the Year Program celebrates 16 Maine county teachers and provides ongoing professional learning to the cohort around teacher leadership and advocacy. Cindy Soule of Portland is Maine's current Teacher of the Year.



Stephanie Fyfe Certification Team Leader

Stephanie grew up in Maine and graduated from Colby College with a BA in English. From there she moved to Arizona where she attended Rio Salado's teacher prep program, earning her teaching certificate in English 6-12 in Arizona. While teaching in a public charter school, she attended Northcentral University where she earned her M.Ed. in Education Leadership. She moved to teaching in an online school in Arizona and eventually became a senior manager in student services, client services and operations for a national education provider. During that time Stephanie added certifications to teach in Florida, Massachusetts, and Maine and continued teaching a few online courses. Prior to joining the Maine DOE, she worked for five years as the Senior Director of an online international private school overseeing the Gifted and Talented Academy, Admissions, Operations, Business Development, Partnership and Strategy divisions. She has now served as the manager of certification for three years at the Maine Department of Education.

Learning Facilitator Credentialing Program

The program was developed in collaboration between the DOE and Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC) and is available for individuals who are interested in supporting students under the direction of a certified teacher. As of December of 2020, the program has attracted more than 150 prospective participants who are interested in entering the field of preK-12 education.

Maine Leadership Development Program

The yearlong fellowship is an initiative intended to build and strengthen instructional leadership skills among Maine's educational leaders at the school, district, and state levels. The Maine DOE partnered with the National Center on Education and the Economy to provide the Executive Development Program under the facilitation of Maine education leaders. Maine's second cohort was selected in September of 2020.

Special Services



Erin Frazier Director

Erin Frazier serves as the State Director of Special Services Birth to 20. In this role Ms. Frazier oversees services provided to students in special education. In the Special Services Department, we work with all stakeholders to make sure students with disabilities are supported in their schools and in early learning centers. Erin works with an incredible team of dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to

support schools, teachers, students and parents of children with disabilities in Maine. They make going to work every day exciting and fun. This job provides an opportunity to work with government agencies to support and advocate for children. Before coming to the Department, she worked in special education in a variety of roles throughout the state. She always wanted to work at the Department to support students in Maine in a larger context. She loves walking with her dog on the countless trails and exploring the state. Erin used to be a professional artist and still maintains close ties to the art community.



Roberta Lucas Acting Director of Child Development Services & 619 Coordinator

Dr. Lucas oversees the provision of services of children birth to 5 under IDEA who require special education. Since 2011 she has been working on the Special Services Team at the Department of Education (DOE) working closing with local school districts supporting the provision of special

education to school aged children. Over the past nine years she has been able to visit every district in the state and provide professional development and technical assistance to support compliance with Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Maine Alternative Certification & Mentoring Program for Special Educators (MACM)

Through a partnership with the University of Maine Orono, MACM is an alternative pathway to certification to support Maine's need for highly qualified special educators. The program offers intensive, focused support and mentoring during the special educator's critical first year of practice. MACM ensures that new conditionally certified special educators are mentored by a trained special educator. New special education teachers in the program also complete a one-semester graduate course designed for MACM participants. The course, MACM Special Education Mentorship, focuses on application of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

Math4ME

As a component of Maine's State Systematic Improvement plan, Math4ME was designed to implement evidence-based professional development to improve math proficiency of students with disabilities in grades 3-8, and to improve the instructional practices of teachers of these students. Math4ME training is grounded in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics ([NCTM](#)) [Mathematics Teaching Practices](#). This training includes hands-on activities and interactive professional learning experiences that allow participants to gain a deeper understanding of core mathematics concepts and strategies. Program content includes operations with whole numbers, fractions and decimals, and algebraic and geometric reasoning; problem-solving skills and processes; and assessment, diagnostic probes, and formative feedback.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

The Maine Department of Education has partnered with the University of Maine system to provide Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) training and coaching for schools and districts throughout the state. PBIS is a multi-tiered approach to supporting the social, emotional and behavioral development of students in K-12 settings. The purpose of PBIS is to improve the social, emotional and academic outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities and students from underrepresented groups.

School and Student Supports & Maine School Safety Center



Richard Meserve **Director, Office of School and Student Supports**

Rich began his educational career as a tutor for a struggling high school student in Amherst, Massachusetts. Upon unparalleled, academic growth by this student, Rich was offered a job as an Ed Tech at Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) which quickly segued into a position co-teaching a variety of subjects. After

taking classes at UMass for certification purposes, Rich worked as a teacher at the following Massachusetts schools: ARHS, Robert F. Kennedy EWT School in Holyoke and Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield. Rich moved back to his native Maine in 2004 and was hired by RSU 14 to work as a teacher at the REAL School. During his 15 years working for RSU 14 he served as a teacher, case manager, Assistant Principal and Head of School. He prided himself on focusing on improving student attendance and engagement, family involvement and increased connection to opportunities for graduates after graduation. Rich now serves as the Director of the Office of School and Student Supports for the Maine Department of Education. He is part of a talented group of professionals that support educators, students and families across the state. He is a 2009 Milken Educator, a 2011 Lowell Milken Fellow and a 2011 James Madison Fellow. He has graduate and undergraduate degrees in American History and holds multiple certifications as a teacher as well as a building administrator.

SEL4ME

SEL4ME is Maine's first state owned PreK-12th grade Social Emotional Learning (SEL) platform, available to all educators. Lessons are aligned with industry established best practices, are leveraged through an equity lens, and include over 450 online modules that are scaffolded for grades preK-12.



Jonathan Shapiro **Director, Maine School Safety Center**

Most recently, Jonathan served as the American Red Cross Regional Disaster Program Officer for the State of Maine. In that position he performed as the organization's emergency management leader - leading a team of experts responsible for the organization's emergency efforts throughout Maine. Jonathan is a career law enforcement professional with a background in rural policing,

major crime investigation including homicide investigations. Jonathan's areas of expertise include policy development, emergency planning, to include large event planning, safe school planning and multi hazard planning for communities, juvenile behavior, juvenile justice, restorative justice, crisis intervention for adults and juveniles, and governmental policy response to the opioid epidemic.

The Maine School Safety Center provides support and training to Maine schools by focusing on safety and security efforts. The MSSC is focused on supporting our school's response to COVID-19 and has led numerous trainings to assist schools in their response efforts. The MSSC has also implemented and manages statewide PPE distribution to schools, supports the ongoing contact tracing program, and provides technical support to school statewide. The MSSC is an essential resource to both the DOE and our schools by providing the concept of command and control (ICS), logistical support, and continuity of operations planning and training.

School COVID-19 Contact Tracing Program

DOE has deployed a team of 21 retired nurses, hired to serve as school-based contact tracers. They bring with them a collective 758 years of nursing experience and have received training through the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC).

School Finance and Operations & School Construction, Facilities, and Transportation



Joanne Allen
Director, School Finance and Operations

As Director of School Finance and Operations, Joanne Allen leads three sub-teams, with responsibility for School Finance and General-Purpose Aid Administration, Data Collection and Reporting, and Child Nutrition. Some highlights of the team's current projects are compiling and reviewing data needed to

calculate the 2021-2022 ED 279 subsidy printouts; administering the Federal Longitudinal Data Grant to create a data warehouse by 2023 which will provide increased access and transparency to educational data, delivery of technical assistance and professional development to reduce child hunger in Maine, and continuous improvement to data collection systems and processes to reduce the burden of data collection on Maine schools.

Joanne has been a member of the Maine Department of Education since 1999 and holds a MBA from Thomas College. Joanne is also certified by the International Association of School Business Officials as an administrator of school finance and operations.



Scott Brown
Director, School Construction, Facilities, and Transportation

Mr. Brown serves as Director of a team that includes School Construction, Facilities, and Student Transportation. The planning and construction processes for a new major capital school project can easily take five or more years and watching the excitement of students, district staff, and community members when the facility is finally complete is always rewarding. Scott has thoroughly enjoyed working with the superintendents, principals, teachers, and community members in the process of planning and constructing over 100 major capital school projects across Maine and feels very fortunate to have had this opportunity to develop so many relationships with people dedicated to education both at the state and local level and for the experiences that have come with every project.

His education and training background are in architecture, engineering, and business. After receiving his architect's license, he worked for several firms specifically on school and other larger public improvement projects in Maine and New Hampshire. When an architect position was created in the Department in 1996, Scott knew that it was a position that he had a lot of interest in. Since then he has been impressed and motivated by so many people committed to education here at the state level and has thoroughly enjoyed many years here at the Department.

