



Date: November 29, 2021

Source of Report: [LD 572, PL 2021 Chapter 75](#), An Act to Assist Students in Preparing for Opportunities to Live and Work in Maine

Topic: Update of Career Readiness Resources for Students

Context

Career readiness coupled with robust economic development will allow Maine to attract and retain a creative and productive workforce. Career readiness is a process that informs individuals about career opportunities, helps them identify their talent, become aware of how their talent transfers into a wide range of occupational opportunities, and enables them to make effective decisions on the academic and post high school pathways that will enable them to pursue their career and life goals.¹ In the 21st century, economic development is about investing in people and their communities and in order to grow, communities need to attract and retain talent. Maine is in competition with other states and the world to build and retain a creative and productive workforce.²

LD 572, PL 2021 Chapter 75 requires collaboration among the Maine Department of Education (DOE), the Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Research and Information (DOL CWRI), and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to develop age-appropriate guidance and information for students in junior high or middle school and students in high school regarding statewide employment projections, career exploration, extended learning opportunities, internships apprenticeship programs, and career planning.

Actions

Using Statewide Employment Projections to Inform Career Exploration

Timeline: October 2021- June 2022

Purpose: Work is underway with representatives from Maine DOL CWRI, Maine DOE, and educators with expertise working with adolescents in middle and high school. The purpose of the collaboration is to create resources to support students' understanding of changing statewide employment projections to inform personal learning, career exploration, career development, and career planning. The work group was established in October and meets every four to six weeks.

Applying Statistical Reasoning to Understand Maine Workforce Data

Timeline: January-August 2022

Purpose: A team of educators has been tasked with developing a sample middle school unit of study and a sample high school unit of study aligned with the Maine Learning Results Statistical Reasoning Standards and performance indicators. The units of study are designed to support students' development of statistical reasoning skills so they may understand and purposely use the employment trend data to inform their coursework choices, exploration of a variety of post high school options and career plans and their goals.

Understanding the Economic Themes Informing Maine Regional Economic Development³ and Their Relationship to Workforce Development

Timeline: January-August 2022

Purpose: In collaboration with educators with expertise teaching adolescents and expertise in economics, develop a middle school unit of study and a high school unit of study aligned with Economics and Personal Finance Standards of the Maine Learning Results. These resources will be designed to support students' understanding of economic development themes and their connection to workforce development so students in each grade span can read the economic landscape and make informed decisions in their career exploration and planning.

Extended Learning Opportunities Sample Resources

Timeline: October 2020-April 2021

Purpose: Developed in collaboration with Maine educators, Maine Department of Labor Bureaus of Labor Standards, United States Department of Labor, and Maine DOE, these resources were designed to be adaptable samples to support the work-based learning opportunities for students in high school.

[Extended Learning Opportunities Definitions](#)

[Internship Agreement Packet](#)

[Job Shadow Agreement Packet](#)

Continually Update Career Development Resources

The [Maine DOE Life and Career Ready website](#) is continually updated with resources to support career readiness and career exploration opportunities for students, including links to resources, highlighting high wage in-demand jobs, and extended learning opportunities.

Summary

When students understand the relationships in a system (self-knowledge, life skills, problem-solving, aspirations, planning, and career awareness and adaptability) they can make intentional choices that produce desired outcomes. Maine's career resources need to foster transfer of

learning at the conceptual level so students can discover, conceptualize, and organize as they learn to construct and apply knowledge in authentic ways in daily life and the world of work.⁴

References

1. Coalition for Career Development Center. <https://www.ccd-center.org/about-us>
2. Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029: A Focus on Talent and Innovation https://www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov/decd/files/inline-files/DECD_120919_sm.pdf
3. [A Thematic Approach to Regional Economic Development: Technical Report for the State of Maine Development Strategy 2020-2029](#) by Andrew Crawley and Angela Hallowell from the University of Maine
4. [Learning that Transfers](#)

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