

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 34 - L.D. 68

An Act To Support Life and Career Readiness Education in Maine

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4711, as amended by PL 2019, c. 106, §1, is further amended to read:

§4711. Elementary course of study

The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction of all students in life and career and education development readiness, English language arts, world languages, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4712, as amended by PL 2019, c. 106, §2, is further amended to read:

§4712. Junior high school or middle school course of study

The basic course of study for the junior high schools or middle schools must provide for the instruction of all students in life and career and education development readiness, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4721, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §13, is amended to read:

1. Comprehensive program of instruction. A secondary school shall provide a comprehensive program of instruction of at least 2 years in length, which must meet the requirements of this chapter and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209. The program must include instruction for all students in life and career and education development readiness, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4730 is enacted to read:

§4730. Life and career readiness standards

Recognizing that students will choose to enter the workforce in different ways and consistent with the life and career readiness standards pursuant to section 6209, each school administrative unit shall offer relevant opportunities that may include interactive experiences and allow for direct exposure between students and a variety of career options to help students develop habits of efficacy, resourcefulness and adaptability as the students take steps to create and implement postsecondary school plans.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §3, is further amended to read:

The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which may include a core of standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12 established in common with the other states, as set forth in this section and in department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The department must establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of mathematics; reading; and science and technology. The department shall establish parameters for essential instruction in English language arts; mathematics; science and technology; social studies; life and career and education development readiness; visual and performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages. Only a public school, a public charter school as defined in section 2401, subsection 9 or a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students, as determined by the previous school year's October and April average enrollment, is required to participate in the system of learning results set forth in this section and in department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for instances where course content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of a student's parent or guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate children with disabilities as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 259, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. Life and career readiness;

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 259, §5, is further amended to read:

3. ~~Career and education development; world~~ World languages; visual and performing arts. By the end of the 2007-2008 school year, each local school administrative unit shall implement standards in the areas of ~~career and education~~

development, world languages and visual and performing arts. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commissioner is authorized to establish rules for inclusion of some portion of the standards in visual and performing arts for the graduating class of 2011-2012.