Literacy Links

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# Spotlight On… Professional Learning: Supporting Growth and Achievement

This summer, the Maine DOE will not host the annual Summer Literacy Institute. The Institute has been a tradition for more than a decade, providing some extraordinary learning opportunities with guests like Kylene Beers and Bob Probst and the Vermont Writing Project. Our approach to the Institute included structures that helped teams learn together, develop a plan, and start a new school year with clear direction.

We are taking a time-out to develop our own plan for the next year and will return with a robust Summer Literacy Institute in 2018. In the meantime, we want to support your continued literacy learning with the following options.

Text Study

Professional texts provide a wealth of information to support understanding of broad concepts, clarify current initiatives, and model strategies for effective practices. Many recent texts include accompanying websites that provide updated information, video demonstrations, and printable documents such as graphic organizers. Some of these websites are accessed with a QR code within the text.

Close reading: If you are working to include more complex texts in your curriculum and want to help all students engage with those texts, Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey provide a wealth of knowledge.
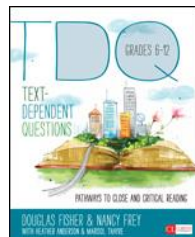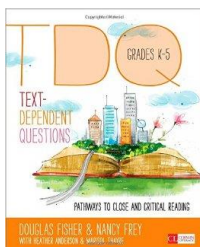
Text-Dependent Questions: Pathways to Close and Critical Reading is available for grades K-5 or 6-12. *TDQ* presents a four phase


What teachers actually do during the summer:

1. Read – on the beach if you're lucky
2. Teach summer school
3. Be a student
4. Lesson planning
5. Professional development
6. Department and District meetings
7. Odd jobs
8. Coach
9. Volunteer
10. Update supply stockpile
11. Prepare their classrooms

approach to developing questions: What does the text say? How does the text work? What does the text mean? What does the text inspire you to do? Each phase aligns with Maine's ELA/literacy student learning standards. This text provides a good foundation for increasing student engagement with rigorous texts.

Teaching for transfer: Learning transfer is a critical concept that informs understanding of proficiency. Transfer of learning occurs when students can take what they have learning in one context and apply it to another situation. Near transfer occurs when the new situation is similar to the learning context and far transfer is when the new situation is entirely different from the learning context.
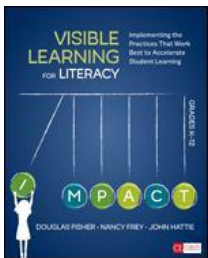
In *Visible Learning for Literacy: Implementing the Practices That Work Best to Accelerate Student Learning*, the authors team with researcher John Hattie to present instructional moves that reflect the strongest methods for literacy learning suggested by Hattie's research. For example, Hattie's research found that the effect size for feedback is .75 or the equivalent of two year's growth. Fisher and Frey explain feedback in the ELA context and provide strategies for successful implementation. The text is organized to maximize surface, deep, and *transfer* level learning.
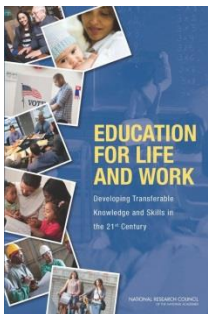
Education for Life and Work: Developing Transferable Knowledge and Skills in the 21st Century is a report published by the National Research Council. Educators today are preparing students for jobs that don't currently exist using technology that has not yet been developed. This report presents the importance of moving to deep and transfer learning as a critical component of work readiness for the 21st century. The entire report is available as a free download or as a bound book.

Online Resource Exploration

Summer provides opportunity to educators to explore a wide variety of online resources that can support their professional learning and instructional planning for the coming school year. As you explore online resources, here are a few that you may have visited previously but want to discover what new resources have been added or may be sites you haven't had time to visit until now.

Cross Discipline Literacy Network (CDLN)

The Cross Discipline Literacy Network produced a series of webinars for educators focused on instructional strategies that
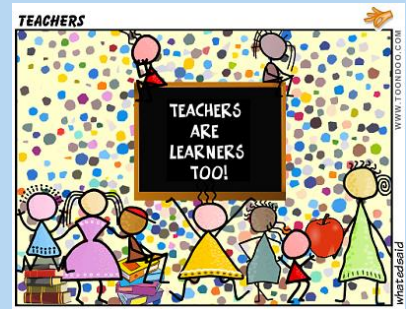
Principles of Professional Development

From NCTE

Professional development of teachers/faculty is a central factor leading to student success.

Professional development treats teachers/faculty members as the professionals they are.

Professional development supports teachers/faculty at all levels of expertise; its value is confirmed by external validation.

Professional development relies on a rich mix of resources, including a theoretical and philosophical base; a research base; and illustrations of good practices.

Professional development can take many different forms and employs various modes of engagement.

The best models of professional development—best in the sense of enhancing first, teacher practice leading to second, student learning—are characterized by sustained activities, by engagement with administrators, and by community-based learning.

Professional development is systematically reviewed with evidence of efficacy provided by a review process including multiple stakeholders and NCTE's own research.

support students' application of literacy skills across discipline study (e.g. science, social studies, math, visual and performing arts, etc.). The webinars are developed and delivered by Maine educators with expertise at the elementary, middle and high school levels with support from Maine DOE content specialists. These webinars are generally an hour in length and are organized by topic strands. Webinars within a strand typically build in a progression.

ACHIEVE THE CORE

This site houses an ever-growing collection of free, ready-to-use classroom resources designed to help educators understand and implement the Common Core standards. Resources are available for the K-12 span for both ELA and math.

TEACHING CHANNEL

The Teaching Channel is a thriving online community where teachers can watch, share, and learn diverse techniques to help every student grow. The site contains well annotated resources, particularly video footage that models research-based instructional practices.

EdREPORTS

EdReports is a nonprofit organization that reviews educational materials with an evidence-based process and publishes those findings. Expert educators conduct the reviews. (Think of this as a sort of Consumer Reports for education) The scoring criteria include three gateways which are explained in the "our approach" section of the website. ELA reports for 3-8 are posted with high school to follow soon. See the "under review" section for resources in the queue.

SAT SUPPORTS

Secondary educators in Maine have some powerful tools to analyze and respond to student learning. The entire SAT school day test is released along with student performance data. You need a user name and password from your assessment coordinator, then you can explore your student data. Sorting tools allow you to order reports by sub-scores, level of difficulty, or % correct response. With each item, you can see the breakdown of how many students selected each option review the item with its stimulus material. You can also use this tool to access the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10 data as well. The College Board portal can be accessed here: https://k12reports.collegeboard.org/login   Please note that this is not related to MAARS and you will need a different user name and password to access. You may also want to explore the SAT Professional Development Modules to propel your use of the SAT resources.

DOE

To explore potential training sessions that may be of interest, be sure to check our extensive list of professional development offerings at

www.maine.gov/doe/calendar/

The Maine Department of Education
Phone: 207-624-6600
Web: www.maine.gov/doe

[Khan Academy](#) is a free resource that teachers can use to target specific learning needs, provide opportunities to practice, and track growth/progress toward goals. Teachers can create class lists and assign specific tasks within the Academy. Khan Academy includes video tutorials that explain and model approaches to content learning. Tutorials also help teachers develop facility with the tools. Note that [Module 10](#) in the SAT suite for professional development addresses Kahn Academy.

Literature for Children and Adolescents

Summer is a terrific time to catch up on new literature for children and adolescents. Check out the titles that won Maine's student book awards in 2017.

[Lupine Awards](#)
Picture Book Winner – *Some Writer!* by Melissa SweetJuvenile/Young Adult Winner - *Wrecked* by Maria Padian

[Chickadee Award](#)
Land Shark by Beth Ferry

[Maine Student Book Award](#)
Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson

For additional summer reads, consider these sources:

[ILA Book Choice Awards for 2017](#)
[2017 Best Fiction for Young Adults](#)

For additional information about this edition, email:
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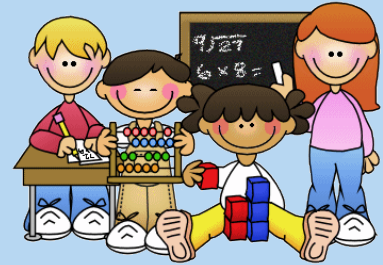
The Maine Department of Education's mission is to provide leadership and to collaborate with educators and learning communities in order to ensure that every learner has the opportunity to be successful.