



Tools For Learning: The Maine Story

The First Statewide 1-to-1 Technology Initiative - But Not Another Tech Buy

Three Focus Areas for the Maine Learning Technology Initiative

Leadership

Design Team for Curriculum and Professional Development - Teachers, tech coordinators, administrators, higher ed faculty, consultants - guided design of implementation.

Teacher Leaders - One in each school - works with principal & tech coord - meet regionally twice a year and statewide 2 day summer retreat- 2 way communication between state and school.

Exploration Sites - One in each region - explored, tested, and documented the project ahead of the rest of the state. Regional Integration Mentor (RIM) at each site helps organize regional work and disseminate experience.

Leadership Team Development- Principal/Tech Lead/Teacher Leader from each school meet regionally twice a year and in a midwinter two day retreat to develop leadership skills.

School Based Vision Work - Principals, teacher leaders, and tech coordinators trained in building a school based vision for this work - encouraged for each school.

Professional Development

2 Day Summer Training - Introductory training on using the laptops and integrating into teaching. Just a start.

Content Leader Meetings - Regional, content-based meetings (several each year) to share what's working, learn best practices, and brain storm solutions to challenges. Technology training is embedded in the context of their teaching.

MaineLearns.org - Interactive web site with resources for teachers. True to shared leadership model, this site depends on teacher input and is not the traditional "sharing" site - contribution is a critical piece.

MiddleMaine.org - FirstClass email and online conference system - curriculum-based resources, online help desk, sharing of ideas, etc. Builds sense of community across the state.

Other Opportunities - Other vendors, schools, and various initiatives offer workshops and training opportunities.

Education Change Facilitators - Three skilled education change facilitators lead the design and delivery, taking advantage of and affordance of the new media in all the content areas.

Learning and Teaching

Assessment for Learning - Using assessment to guide instruction for improved learning - working with Dr. Anne Davies - rubrics.

Universal Design - Creating learning environments so everyone can be successful.

Place Based Learning - Learning connected to the community - real-life applications of knowledge & skills - kids doing real work and being active learners.

Project Based Learning - Giving students opportunities to apply and synthesize knowledge - making use of multimedia tools. "The idea for this to be fun not in spite of being hard, but because it is hard. Kids don't mind hard, they mind boring." - Seymour Papert

Online Research - A library in every child's backpack - effective and responsible consumers of information. Maine Infonet databases, including EBSCO, are provided for all students and educators.

Technology enhanced content - Rethinking content, standards and structure of school in context of the new media - media for expression and knowledge.



Supported by this Foundation:



The Five Networks

Teacher Leaders - Classroom teacher/contact person for MLTI - works with principal & tech coord - one in each school - regional meetings several times a year.

School Leadership Team - Principal/Teacher Leader/Tech Coordinator lead the work in each school - network with other teams and through job-alike meetings.

Content Leaders - Curriculum-based professional development, during the day - meet regionally by discipline - Content Leaders for each discipline facilitate work in each region - Content Mentors support Content Leaders statewide - Content Leader Meetings focus on collegial sharing, troubleshooting, and best practice.

MaineLearns.org - Interactive website - resources for teachers - information about the initiative - success stories - professional development opportunities - educators & MLTI staff submit items for posting.

MiddleMaine.org - FirstClass email and conference system - every student and teacher given an account - conferences include curriculum & assessment materials and resources, online help desk, lots of good discussion of teaching and learning with technology

Characterized by the following:

- Decentralized and distributed networks - organized regionally with regional leadership - 9 Superintendents Regions - representation in every school
- 2 way communication - MLTI passes info to schools - educators & administrators pass info to the MLTI.
- Living, growing initiative - two-way feedback allows MLTI to adapt and respond according to teachers' needs, challenges, and successes - not a stagnant "plan-implement-done" initiative.

The Technology

Apple as strong corporate partner, working very hard for us to be successful:

- Regular iBooks with software - CD-ROM, AppleWorks (including word processing and presentation), web browsers, email software, iMovie, iPhoto, & more.
- Wireless networks in each school.
- Equipment management and tracking system.
- Maintenance & repair system - dedicated tech support line - 3 day turnaround in most cases.
- 2 day introductory training.
- Provide yearly all day tech workshops for the tech coordinators.
- Participate in all Regional leadership development activities.