



Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

Jon Doty, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

576 Stillwater Ave. – Old Town, ME 04468 – (207) 827-3932 - Fax (207) 827-3926 – jon.doty@rsu34.org

November 28th, 2018 – Report to the Board

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights

- On the second page of this report please see a public overview of our state assessment results. I'm working to extract the individual student data from the state website in a form usable for deeper analyses, and will update the Board with more information as I dig further into the data.
- Our youth mentoring grant partnership with the YMCA had two big annual events in November. First, several members of our team spent the day in Cherryfield sharing strengths and challenges with the other grant sites across Maine; it was useful to learn from other's approaches as each site seeks to raise youth aspirations in very different contexts. Last Monday our River Runners program leader (Jessie Dumont) hosted our annual visit by the Lerner Foundation president (Eliot Cutler) as well as grant officer Don Carpenter. Our students and parents represented us well!
River Runners is inspired by Trekkers, Inc. and their 10 Youth Programming Principles and is part of the Emanuel and Pauline A. Lerner Foundation's Aspirations Incubator Program (a pilot initiative focused on establishing long-term, mentoring-based youth development models in eight rural communities and small cities across Maine).

Chapter 104 Program Highlights

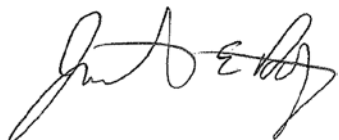
- We had a large and diverse team attend the Maine Educators of the Gifted and Talented annual conference. In addition to the keynotes, breakout sessions included assessment/identification of students, sensitivity and intensity in the gifted individual, regional partnerships, and programming at the secondary level.
- A number of LMS staff members engaged in a great conversation about pros and cons to different options in staffing for our Chapter 104 program; several LMS teachers intend to pursue the gifted/talented certification.

Title IA Program

- Our Title I staff are developing additional efforts for engaging family members in their child's education. Parents and staff have shared some great ideas! This year we reached a funding threshold (\$500,000.00) at which we had to set aside a percentage of Title IA funding solely dedicated to family engagement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.



Jon Doty

Overview of Spring 2018 Maine Assessment Results

On November 13^h, the state publicly released assessment data from the March/April administration of the ELA, mathematics, and science state assessments. RSU #34 brings the state data together with our local assessment data to give teachers a comprehensive profile of each student's strengths and needs. With our local assessments we can use the information to guide the next day's instruction; unfortunately the state data is of limited instructional value for individual students as the data are 7-8 months old by the time they are provided to us. However, the state data can provide a snapshot of our efforts.

The ELA state assessments are given in grades 3-8 (eMPowerME) and 11 (SAT). RSU #34's participation rate in ELA exceeded the state average and our students' achievement at or above state standards was better than the state on the SAT, but not on the eMPowerME. Our staff continues to work hard at implementing and refining our instructional plans in reading and writing.

The mathematics state assessments are given in grades 3-8 (eMPowerME) and 11 (SAT). RSU #34's participation rate exceeded the state average and our students' achievement at or above state standards was better than the state as a whole on both the SAT and the eMPowerME. It's important to note that the state has set its mathematics standards at a point where 63% of the students tested in the state do not meet the standard. We continue to implement and refine our carefully chosen mathematics program; we are in the fourth year of implementation at the elementary grades, the second year of implementation at the middle school, and the first year of implementation at Old Town High School.

The science state assessments (MEA-Science) are given in grades 5, 8, and 11. RSU #34's participation rate exceeded the state average; our students' achievement did not quite meet the state average. However we're careful not to read too much into the state's science assessment; we began revising our science programming in 2012 to meet modern "Next Generation" science standards including engineering and robotics; the state still assesses based on the older 2007 standards which do not include some important fields to which we dedicate substantial instructional time.

Parents can access and get help understanding their student's "ISR" (individual student report) by contacting RSU #34's Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Dr. Jon Doty, at Jon.Doty@rsu34.org.