

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2538

S.P. 984

In Senate, February 8, 2000

**An Act Requiring Professional Development for Administrators,
Teachers and Educational Technicians.**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 206, sub-c. IV is enacted to read:**

6 **SUBCHAPTER IV**

8 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

10 **§4531. Professional development for educators**

12 The department shall require that each school administrative
14 unit provide professional development to every educator that the
16 school administrative unit employs. For purposes of this
18 section, "educator" means an administrator, teacher or
20 educational technician employed by a school administrative unit.

22 **§4532. Duties of school administrative unit**

24 A school administrative unit shall develop a professional
26 development plan that incorporates the professional development
28 standards in section 4534. A school administrative unit shall
30 grant release time and contribute funds from each year's budget
32 to provide professional development to every educator. A school
34 administrative unit that receives a grant pursuant to section
36 4533, subsection 2 shall expend the funds as directed by the
38 department to achieve the professional development standards.

40 **§4533. Duties of department**

42 To carry out the purposes of this section, the department
44 shall:

46 **1. Inventory professional development efforts.** Inventory,
48 monitor and publish a summary of professional development efforts
50 that are performed in the State, including the status of
professional development efforts and the impact of those efforts
in each school administrative unit, and report the summary to the
Legislature by January 1st of each odd-numbered year;

2. Identify needs and award grants. Identify school
administrative units that require additional funds to bring their
professional development plans to the standards in section 4534.
The department may award grants from the Maine Educators
Professional Development Fund, established in section 4535, to a
school administrative unit that requires additional funds for
special professional needs or to meet professional development
standards; and

3. Coordinate support. Seek and coordinate support from
colleges and universities, industry, educational foundations and

2 nongovernmental organizations to contribute courses, field
3 training and seminar programs.

4 **§4534. Standards**

6 Professional development plans for school administrative
7 units must comply with the following standards:

8
9 1. Time. Adequate time must be allotted for educators to
10 keep pace with content, teaching methods and assessment.
11 Professional development must be integrated into the daily work
12 routine of every educator;

14 2. Best teaching practice. Reflection on and assessment of
15 the impact of actions in the classroom must be performed to
16 determine the best teaching practice;

18 3. Networking. Opportunity must be provided for educators
19 to network among themselves and with educators of other school
20 administrative districts;

22 4. Academic content. Teachers and educational technicians
23 must be continuously reexposed to the content of the subjects
24 they teach;

26 5. Leadership by educators. Teachers and educational
27 technicians must be given shared leadership roles in professional
28 development;

30 6. Persistence. The professional development must be
31 continuous, nonsporadic and a regular part of each educator's
32 duties;

34 7. Local roots. Local talent and resources must be used
35 and local professional development needs must be addressed;

36
37 8. Long-term strategy. All professional development
38 efforts must be based upon a persistent and systematic long-term
39 plan;

40
41 9. Variety. A wide variety of approaches must be offered
42 including reflective and analytical opportunities tailored to
43 suit the needs of each educator;

44
45 10. Adequate resources. The school administrative unit
46 must provide adequate resources of its own and draw upon
47 available grants and university resources to supplement
48 operational funds; and

2 11. Evaluation. Mechanisms must be in place to evaluate
3 the effectiveness of the professional development plan and to
4 assess the impact of changes in teaching practices on student
5 performance.

6 **§4535. Maine Educators Professional Development Fund**

8 The Maine Educators Professional Development Fund, referred
9 to in this subsection as the "fund," is established as a
10 revolving, nonlapsing fund to pay the costs of professional
11 development of educators and other matters relating to educators'
12 professional development as the Legislature directs. Money in
13 the fund not currently needed to meet expenses of educators'
14 professional development must be deposited with the Treasurer of
15 State to the credit of the fund and may be invested as provided
16 by law. Interest on these investments must be credited to the
17 fund. Money in the fund may only be expended by the department
18 in accordance with section 4533, subsection 2 or by allocations
19 approved by the Legislature.

20 **§4536. Rulemaking**

22 The department may adopt routine technical rules pursuant to
23 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A to carry out the purposes
24 of this subchapter.

26 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
28 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

30 **2000-01**

32 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Educators' Professional Development**

36 All Other \$500,000

38 Provides funds for management and assessment
39 of professional development efforts of the
40 Department of Education.

42 **Maine Educators Professional Development Fund**

44 All Other \$2,000,000

46 Provides funds for grants to school
47 administrative units to bring professional
48 development plans to standards or to meet
special needs.

2 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
4 **TOTAL**

\$2,500,000

6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill requires the Department of Education and every
10 school administrative unit in the State to provide professional
12 development to the unit's administrators, teachers and
14 educational technicians and to develop a professional development
16 plan. This bill also requires the department to summarize the
performance of these plans and report this summary to the
Legislature every 2 years and to award grants to school
administrative units that need to bring their plans to standards
or that have special professional development needs.