

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1292

H.P. 910

House of Representatives, March 9, 2007

An Act To Ensure the Provision of Necessary Conditions for Effective Education Reform

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative NORTON of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator BOWMAN of York and
Representatives: CANAVAN of Waterville, EDGECOMB of Caribou, FARRINGTON of
Gorham, JACKSON of Allagash, MAKAS of Lewiston, MUSE of Fryeburg, SIROIS of
Turner, Senator: MARTIN of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6201, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. D, §§3
3 and 4, is repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6201, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 454, §28, is
5 repealed.

6 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6201-A** is enacted to read:

7 **§6201-A. Implementation of standards-based education system**

8 Assessment of student learning must be done at the local level to assess student
9 learning instead of student achievement. A classroom teacher shall design, determine
10 and implement the assessment of an individual student at that student's level, with the
11 assistance of a teacher learning community. For the purpose of this section, "teacher
12 learning community" means a teacher working with other teachers to establish assessment
13 standards to study student learning. A teacher learning community must be organized
14 according to this section.

15 **1. Within the building.** A teacher learning community is within each school
16 building and must be composed of all the teachers within that building and any other
17 person as determined by the teachers.

18 **2. Minimum time.** Teachers must meet in a teacher learning community for a
19 minimum of one hour daily within the normal school day.

20 **3. Teacher coverage.** Teachers meeting in a teaching learning community must
21 have coverage for their assigned responsibilities for student supervision, direct instruction
22 or other assigned duties during the time allocated to the teacher learning community.

23 **4. Activity plan.** The teachers may determine the specific activities during the
24 allocated teacher learning community time and may include group discussion regarding
25 professional practice, peer consultations, research, individual teacher preparation,
26 planning and reflection and other professional activities.

27 **5. Time provided.** The time provided for a teacher learning community must be to
28 supplement, not replace, time otherwise provided for teacher planning, preparation and
29 professional development by any school administrative unit.

30 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §6202-A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 446, §4 and c. 593, §§1
31 and 2, is further amended to read:

32 **§6202-A. High school graduation decisions**

33 ~~Each school administrative unit shall establish a local assessment system to measure~~
34 ~~student achievement of the learning results established in section 6209. Local~~
35 ~~assessments may include portfolios, performances and demonstrations in addition to other~~
36 ~~measures of achievement. Commercially produced assessment tools may be part of a~~

1 ~~local assessment system but may not carry a majority of the weight in determining~~
2 ~~student performance. The local assessment system must be implemented as follows.~~

3 ~~**1. Technical assistance.** The department shall provide technical assistance to school~~
4 ~~administrative units in using student achievement data to inform teaching and learning.~~
5 ~~The department shall establish quality standards for the statewide assessment program~~
6 ~~and the local assessment systems.~~

7 ~~**2. Implementation.** By the end of the 2003-2004 school year, the local assessment~~
8 ~~system established pursuant to this section must be fully implemented in school~~
9 ~~administrative units as the measure of student progress.~~

10 ~~**2-A. Moratorium.** Notwithstanding subsection 2, a moratorium is imposed for the~~
11 ~~2006-2007 school year for activities associated with assessments designed to certify~~
12 ~~student achievement. Assessments used for informing teaching and learning are exempt~~
13 ~~from this moratorium. This subsection is repealed June 30, 2007.~~

14 **3. Public high school graduation decisions; learning results endorsements;**
15 **annual targets.** Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each school administrative
16 unit may award learning results endorsements in addition to the high school diploma
17 awarded pursuant to section 4722. The awarding of the learning results endorsements
18 must be determined by student achievement of the standards of the system of learning
19 results in English language arts, health and physical education, mathematics, science and
20 technology and social studies, based on the school administrative unit's local assessment
21 system established pursuant to this section in addition to other requirements as
22 established by school board policy.

23 A. By the 2009-2010 school year, learning results endorsements may be awarded to
24 students who, at a minimum, demonstrate achievement of the content standards in
25 English language arts and mathematics based on the school administrative unit's local
26 assessment system.

27 B. By the 2010-2011 school year, learning results endorsements may be awarded to
28 students who, at a minimum, demonstrate achievement of the content standards in
29 English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and health
30 and physical education based on the school administrative unit's local assessment
31 system.

32 C. By the 2011-2012 school year, the awarding of learning results endorsements
33 must be determined by student achievement of the standards of the system of learning
34 results in each of the 8 content areas of the system of learning results based on the
35 school administrative unit's assessment system.

36 Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, the commissioner shall recommend to the
37 Legislature annual targets for the percentage of students to whom school administrative
38 units may award diplomas based on the awarding of credits and the percentage of
39 students receiving learning results endorsements in addition to the high school diploma
40 awarded pursuant to section 4722. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, school
41 administrative units must include in their annual basic school approval reports to the
42 commissioner the percentage of students receiving learning results endorsements.

