

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 318

H.P. 243

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

**An Act To Prepare All Students for Work and Life by Requiring
That Students Receive Instruction in Vocational Preparation and
Practical Life Skills**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KESCHL of Belgrade.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, BRYANT of Windham, FOSTER of Dexter,
REED of Carmel, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, TUELL of East Machias,
Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§46** is enacted to read:

3 **46. Vocational preparation and practical life skills.** "Vocational preparation and
4 practical life skills" means experiential instruction of students, regardless of career choice
5 or pathway, that develops their understanding of interests, aptitudes and options related to
6 work and study; develops core workplace skills in areas such as planning,
7 communication, problem solving, teamwork and computer applications; and includes
8 practical workplace and home economics experiences that maximize learning through
9 hands-on application.

10 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4711**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §11, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **§4711. Elementary course of study**

13 The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction
14 of all students in ~~career~~ vocational preparation and ~~education-development~~ practical life
15 skills, English language arts, world languages, health education and physical education,
16 mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as
17 described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject
18 to the schedule specified in section 6209.

19 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4712**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §12, is amended to
20 read:

21 **§4712. Junior high school or middle school course of study**

22 The basic course of study for the junior high schools or middle schools must provide
23 for the instruction of all students in ~~career~~ vocational preparation and ~~education~~
24 ~~development~~ practical life skills, English language arts, health education and physical
25 education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing
26 arts and world languages, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and
27 graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209.

28 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4721, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §13, is
29 amended to read:

30 **1. Comprehensive program of instruction.** A secondary school shall provide a
31 comprehensive program of instruction of at least 2 years in length, which must meet the
32 requirements of this chapter and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation
33 requirements established under section 6209. The program must include instruction for
34 all students in ~~career~~ vocational preparation and ~~education-development~~ practical life
35 skills, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics,
36 science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages.

37 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §3, is further
38 amended to read:

1 The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a
2 comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which may include a core of
3 standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12
4 established in common with the other states, as set forth in this section and in department
5 rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The department must
6 establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of mathematics; reading;
7 and science and technology. The department shall establish parameters for essential
8 instruction in English language arts; mathematics; science and technology; social studies;
9 ~~career vocational preparation and education-development~~ practical life skills; visual and
10 performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages. Only a
11 public school, a public charter school as defined in section 2401, subsection 9 or a private
12 school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students, as
13 determined by the previous school year's October and April average enrollment, is
14 required to participate in the system of learning results set forth in this section and in
15 department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The
16 commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for instances where course
17 content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of a student's parent or
18 guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate children with disabilities as
19 defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B.

20 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§2, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 259, §5, is
21 further amended to read:

22 A. ~~Career Vocational preparation and education-development~~ practical life skills;

23 SUMMARY

24 This bill changes the requirement in the system of learning results from "career and
25 education development" to "vocational preparation and practical life skills." The bill
26 defines "vocational preparation and practical life skills" to mean experiential instruction
27 of students, regardless of career choice or pathway, that develops their understanding of
28 interests, aptitudes and options related to work and study; develops core workplace skills
29 in areas such as planning, communication, problem solving, teamwork and computer
30 applications; and includes practical workplace and home economics experiences that
31 maximize learning through hands-on application.