



Maine Curriculum Leaders' Association

Annual Report

(July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

The Maine Curriculum Leaders' Association (MCLA) was formed in 2006 by a group of Maine curriculum leaders and incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) membership organization in 2008. MCLA employs no paid staff and supports its members with volunteer time and a part-time contracted director. MCLA's mission is to support curriculum leaders and to champion curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices and policies that enhance learning. The MCLA Board of Directors and members work together by:

- Promoting and providing professional learning.
- Influencing policy and decision-making.
- Advancing the use of effective practices.
- Developing and fostering partnerships with organizations consistent with our mission.
- Supporting opportunities for networking and sharing.

Board of Directors

MCLA's board of directors includes one representative from each of nine superintendent's regions and two at-large members. Board members serve three-year terms. Regional representatives are selected by the curriculum leaders in the region and at-large members are chosen by the board. The board meets every other month and an Executive Committee, composed of the past-president, president, and president-elect is empowered to act for the board in the interim. The FY '13 Board of Directors:

Lois Brewer, Aroostook Representative
Beth Clifford, Washington Representative, Board Secretary
Diana Doiron, Maine Department of Education Liaison
Wayne Dorr, Midcoast Representative
Gail Gordon, Penquis Representative
Lee Graham, Treasurer
Joanne Harriman, Hancock Representative
Chris Howell, Cumberland Representative, Past President
Tom Keller, At-Large
Gayla LaBreck, At-Large
Carol Marcotte, York Representative
Cathy McCue, Western Maine Representative, President-elect
Howie Tuttle, Kennebec Representative, President

Supporting Members

Maine has 128 school districts and 74 districts (58%) employed designated curriculum leaders during the 2012-13 school year. Those designated as curriculum leaders include assistant superintendents and curriculum directors/coordinators. MCLA enrolled 70% of the state's curriculum leaders in FY '13. Its 82 members included: 52 curriculum leaders, ten principals, five superintendents, five Maine Department of Education staff members, and 11 educators with a variety of other roles. In the spring of 2013 MCLA began accepting online member enrollment and renewal. MCLA also selects the Maine Curriculum Leader of the Year.

Promoting and providing professional learning. MCLA offered two conferences attended by 336 curriculum leaders, principals, superintendents and teacher leaders during the 2012-13 school year. National expert Joellen Killion of LearningForward provided in-depth instruction in effective professional development for teachers, and Dr. Debra Pickering of Marzano Research Labs guided learning in effective instruction.

Influencing policy and decision-making. The Maine Department of Education invited MCLA to represent curriculum leaders in several state-level policy discussions. MCLA’s members participated in an MCLA online survey gauging their capacity to implement proficiency-based diplomas beginning with the class of 2018. MCLA used the survey results when it joined other state membership organizations to offer feedback on the Department of Education’s Proficiency-based Diploma Technical Assistance Plan. MCLA also represents curriculum leaders in the department’s Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Maine Advisory Committee.

Advancing the use of effective practices. MCLA completely redesigned its web site in May 2013 to provide curriculum leaders with current resources in seven areas: assessment, organizational change, college and career readiness, Common Core State Standards implementation, education news sources, primary sources and research, and professional learning.

Developing and fostering partnerships with organizations consistent with our mission. MCLA’s proficiency-based diploma member survey indicated widespread lack of district capacity to meet the requirements of this new state mandate. The Maine Department of Education asked MCLA to help them address one requirement not addressed in the technical assistance plan – the required assessment of Maine cross-cutting standards, called the *Guiding Principles*. By June 30, 2013 MCLA and the department continued to develop the details and focus of this partnership.

Supporting opportunities for networking and sharing. MCLA maintains a general listserv for anyone interested in curriculum, instruction and assessment. The listserv was used frequently by its subscribers to collect information about local programs and practices, promote professional learning opportunities, and explore complex education issues. Subscriber-initiated topics in 2013 included: NWEA/MAP use and effectiveness; Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium pilot testing; languages offered in grades 6-12; the national arts standards; programs for four-year-olds; alternative education in middle schools; and elementary-level homework practices and policies. MCLA’s first member newsletter was distributed online in June 2013 to keep curriculum leaders abreast of state policy decisions, highlight curriculum resources on the new web site, and promote opportunities for professional learning. MCLA’s director also attended regional curriculum leaders’ meetings across the state to learn how MCLA could increase support to its members.

Financial

MCLA’s financial position on June 30, 2013:

Revenue		Expenditures	
Membership fees	\$ 7,000	Contracted services (director, conference presenters, board retreat facilitator, treasurer, web master)	\$16,724
Conference fess	\$47,742	Other expenses	\$25,847
Total revenue	\$54,725	Total expenses	\$42,571