

actem 2020 vision

THE CONNECTED EDUCATOR

CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

ACTEM 2020 VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 20 – 21, 2020: 2:30 – 8:00 PM

IMPORTANT CHANGES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTEM 2020 FALL CONFERENCE

1 As we mentioned in the June newsletter, the ACTEM Fall 2020 conference will be virtual online.

ACTEM explored various platforms for hosting the conference and decided on Hopin (<https://hopin.to/>). Several board members have attended Hopin events and were impressed with the platform. To get a quick **90-second overview** of the Hopin Virtual Event platform **check out the following video:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpErMqMy-NN4&feature=emb_logo



2 ACTEM is offering the conference for FREE to all current (2020-21) individual members. If you are not a member of ACTEM you can join for the \$20 annual individual membership fee. We know school budgets are impacted in these difficult times, so we want to provide this valuable PD experience for a very modest cost (just membership). Registration is open at the following link: <http://www.actem.org/event-3932165>

3 We have adjusted the schedule to mid-afternoon/evening because of the uncertain status of districts plans for returning to school this fall (in person, hybrid or totally online learning). We have also adjusted the schedule to shorter 45-minute

sessions. Over 60 workshop proposals were submitted that have been sorted into strands featuring: Emergent Topics (info lit, trauma-informed teaching, distance learning), Assessment, Coding, Project-Based Learning, and Engagement Technologies. There will also be a strand with sessions from several of our vendors. Here is the schedule for ACTEM 2020:

- 2:30pm** Login and Check out Hopin
- 3:00 - 3:45pm** Session 1
- 4:00 - 4:45pm** Session 2
- 5:00 - 5:45pm** Session 3
- 6:00 - 6:30pm** Expo Hall Time
- 6:30 - 7:30pm** Keynote
- 7:30 - 8:00** Tuesday 10/20 - BrewCUE
- 4** Wednesday 10/21 - Raffle & Wrap

As traditional for our fall conference, we are bringing some exciting and dynamic Keynote Speakers for ACTEM 2020.

(Continued on page 2)

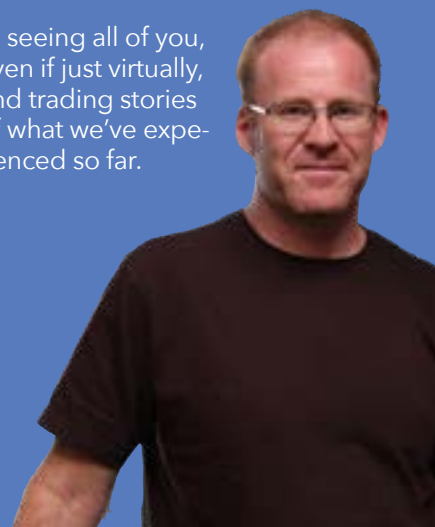
Presidents Message

Will Backman, Director of Technology for the schools of Vassalboro, Waterville, Winslow

I write this now, knowing that by the time you read this most of us will be deep into the start of the school year. Everyone I talk to is exhausted before we've even started, so I'll keep this brief. First, I hope you and the circle of people in your life are healthy. I hope you have figured out the logistics of the million little things that were never done that way before, and I hope that your community of colleagues are a source of strength and support. They say that we are

all in this together, but it can feel like we are all figuring it out on our own. Instead of "building the plane while we are flying it" I like to describe it as "inventing the parachute on the way down." We'll need to lean on others to make it through, and I hope that ACTEM can be a resource for all of us. Without intending to sound like a sales pitch, I do want you to know that ACTEM has been working hard to create a rewarding conference experience for educators this fall, and I hope you will find it to be something to look forward to and not just "one more thing." I really do look forward

to seeing all of you, even if just virtually, and trading stories of what we've experienced so far.



actem

Association of Computer
Technology Educators of

Maine

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 20-21 BUSINESS MEETINGS

Sept. 24, 2020 - Virtual Zoom

Dec. 10, 2020 - Virtual ZOOM Meeting

March 11, 2021 - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

May 13, 2021 - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

ACTEM Business Meetings are held from
9:30 AM-Noon followed by
METDA Meetings from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

2020 Conference Going Virtual!

(Continued from Cover)



Tuesday - October 20th at 6:30 PM

Anthony Johnson, Jr.

Anthony Johnson is not your regular educator who followed a traditional path in life. Early on, he had to endure a myriad of hardships, which caused him to drop out of school on several occasions. For Anthony Johnson, failure was the only option he had, however, it did not deter him from pursuing a life-long dream of becoming an educator. After obtaining a GED and working hard to provide for his family financially, Mr. Johnson earned a Bachelor's degree in education. This was the impetus for the innovative educator he has become today. What makes Anthony Johnson a gem is that he cultivates and fosters a learning environment unlike any other seen in this country.

Wednesday - October 21st at 6:30 PM

Kerry Gallagher

Kerry is the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at St. John's Prep in Danvers, MA. She is also the Director of K-12 Education for ConnectSafely.org - internet safety non-profit in Palo Alto, California - a FutureReady Instructional Coach, ASCD Emerging Leader, Adobe Education Leader, PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator, and EdSurge Columnist.

Kerry has served as a middle & high school teacher and digital learning specialist for nearly 20 years, and her passions include digital citizenship and effective integration of curriculum, pedagogy, and edtech. She is on social media @KerryHawk02 and her website is www.KerryHawk02.com.



DUE JULY 1ST YOUR ACTEM MEMBERSHIP

ACTEM has a fixed membership year from July 1st - June 30th annually.

All memberships are up for renewal on July 1st 2020

Individual ACTEM Membership Benefits (\$20 annually)

- Quarterly newsletter "The Connected Educator"

- Lunch at quarterly business meetings

- Discounted registration fees at the annual ACTEM conference and other sponsored PD

- Opportunity to apply for Professional Development reimbursement up to \$400

- Access to OverDrive eBook & audio book PD library

- Educational discounts on software & other items (as permitted by vendor)

Membership can be renewed by sending a PO or check to the ACTEM office at P.O. Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038. Members may also renew online with a credit card or PayPal at <http://actem.wildapricot.org/join>.

Hopin Virtual Event Platform Overview

Hopin is a virtual event venue with multiple interactive areas that are optimized for connecting and engaging. Event attendees can move in and out of rooms just like an in-person event and enjoy the content and networking connections built into the system.

ACTEM's 2020 Fall Conference will be hosted on the Hopin Virtual Platform.

Pictured on the right is what the app will look like in the App Stores.

Hopin offers the following areas inside the ACTEM virtual conference once you login:



VITA-LEARN ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEFF MAO



Burlington, VT (July 23, 2020) Vita-Learn is excited to welcome Jeff Mao as our new executive director.

Jeff has deep roots in education technology in New England dating back to his first teaching position at Brewster Academy in NH where he was part of their launch of a 1:1 laptop program in 1993. Later, he served as the Education Technology Director for the State of Maine for ten years leading programs including the Maine Learning Technology Initiative and helping to establish Network-Maine. He has collaborated with the Vermont Agency of Education to help establish a multi-state contract to facilitate purchasing 1:1 solutions. He was also a keynote speaker at VITA-Learn's 2016 Dynamic Landscapes conference in Burlington. He has extensive experience with non-profits and for-profit ed-tech partnerships and can expand the digital consortium work that Vita-Learn has started with technology solution partners.

He has served as a member of the Board for the State Educational Technology Directors Association for six years including two years as Board Chair, and he has an exciting vision for the role of educational technology in today's educational landscape.

"Jeff feels like the perfect match for our organization and its current goals. We are excited to have Vermont educators to meet him as he begins this leadership role in our organization," said Jessica Wilson, President of the Board of Directors, VITA-Learn.



Reception



Stage



Sessions



Networking



Expo

Booths

Reception - Once logged in attendees will enter the Reception area of Hopin. This area will showcase our major conference sponsors, display the schedule, and orient you to ACTEM's virtual conference to hopefully provide for a great experience.

Stage - The Hopin Stage will allow us to broadcast our content to hundreds of people on live video. This will be the area for our Keynote speakers and some other live events.

Sessions - The Hopin Sessions area is for live and prerecorded workshop sessions. All sessions are 45-minutes long and allow for a 15-minute break between sessions.

Networking - Networking lets you network just like you would at an in-person event. Hopin's connection discovery tool pairs people up in one-on-one conversations via live video.

Expo - The Hopin Expo area is your virtual vendor booth exhibition hall. Exhibitors' booth will feature pre-recorded video or live video, company and contact information along with dedicated chatrooms. Please attend the Expo hall in between sessions and at the dedicated 6:00-6:30 time just before the keynotes.

The ACTEM booth is pictured below as it appears in Hopin.

Click the following for a brief (2.5 minutes) overview video of the Hopin attendee experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRBVbUCNTTg>



Schools Will Never Return to Business as Usual. Here's How They Can Make the Most of Our New Reality.

Right now schools are making—and, in some cases, already implementing—tough decisions about where learning should take place this fall. Elected officials are making decisions contrary to recommended guidelines that can leave school leaders in an impossible situation of shouldering accountability for health and safety while lacking the control to do so. Yet educators are still doing their best to prioritize students' psychological and developmental needs in this vacuum of resources, guidance and personnel.

All of this effort may get schools to the starting line in the short-term, but schools need to be thinking about the long-term, too. We—two psychologists at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence—spoke to educational leaders and one futurist about what is needed to make this new reality work for educators and students in the long run.

"Schools will never return to business as usual," predicts futurist Andrea Saveri. A futurist analyzes quantitative and qualitative data from current trends in order to predict the alternative scenarios that could play out in conditions of uncertainty, and Saveri's work focuses on education mapping specifically. "The U.S. education system was designed 100 years ago to support the Industrial Revolution," Saveri explains. "A shock like the pandemic shows just how rigid the institution really is. The future will only be more 'VUCA'—volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous—because of pressures like globalization, greater connectivity and climate change. How schools reorganize now, in response to the pandemic, may only be a dry run for what will be increasingly needed in the future."

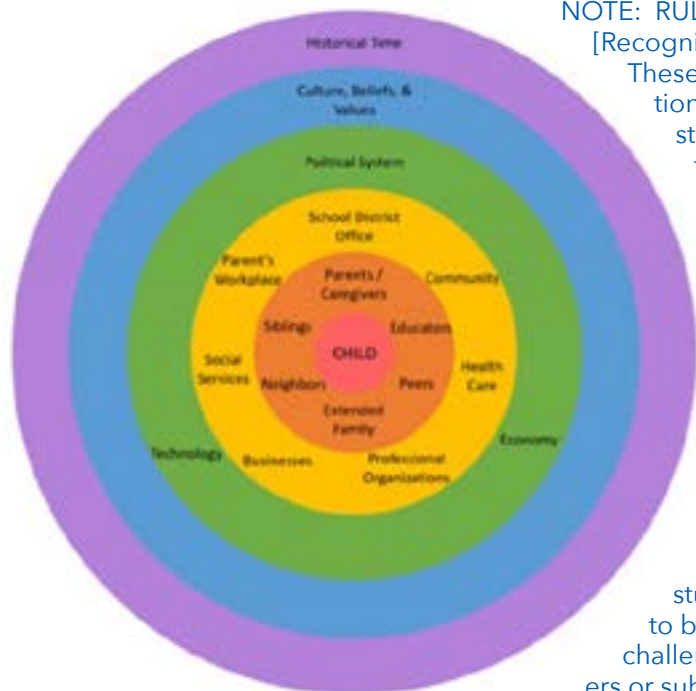
Saveri's analysis places emotional, interpersonal and cultural competencies at the center of adapting to a rapidly-changing post-industrial world. Uncertain conditions demand creativity and innovation. People will need to be emotionally intelligent and interpersonally skilled in order to collaborate across diverse perspectives to find solutions, as well as to manage the overwhelming feelings of grief, despair and anxiety that a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world can trigger.

One school that has already adopted this mindset is the New York City Lab School for Collaborative Studies, a public high school led by principal Brooke Jackson. The Lab School laid groundwork years ago by training staff in RULER, a schoolwide approach to social-emotional learning from our Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence; Courageous Conversations, a model for training and coaching organizations on racial equity; restorative circles for community development and conflict resolution and more.

NOTE: RULER is an acronym for the five skills of emotional intelligence [Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating].

These approaches teach adults and children how to use their emotions wisely and how to support inclusive, positive relationships to strengthen and grow their communities, which in turn support them. "We can have hard conversations in a way that is caretaking and doesn't create more anxiety, depression and isolation for kids," Jackson says.

In response to COVID-19, the students at the Lab School have been organized into intimate, amphibious squads that can function either in person or at a distance. The squads are autonomous and choose the focus of their interdisciplinary projects together. Courses are taught by two teachers, allowing learning to continue if one develops health issues or leaves. Teachers serve as case managers for students, communicating with families, administrators and guidance counselors. Every morning begins with an in-person or distanced check-in, with mental health the top priority. Jackson's high school students will have virtual spaces for student-led affinity clubs, and students will have opportunities to be teaching assistants, helping younger students with learning challenges and deepening their own relationships to favorite teachers or subjects. Their school day, also shorter, will end with an enrichment "band" where students can choose a deep dive into topics like the 2020 election or a creative writing project about life under COVID-19—without



homework or tests.

Teachers' relationships with one another are also critical, Jackson says. Every Friday, Lab School educators hold a Zoom space for sharing and processing. "I'm going to try to hang on to my teachers," Jackson says. "We might not have a computer lab or new furniture, but I know everyone will chip in to help problem-solve. We are brothers and sisters, and the water's too heavy for any one educator."

Dawn DeCosta, principal of Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School in Harlem, has always prioritized emotional and social skills but is leading her fall planning with new, developmentally appropriate opportunities. DeCosta's elementary school students will be able to have question-and-answer sessions with their teachers about living with the new safety guidelines. They'll also spend the first month getting to know each other by creating visual projects on identity, culture and family. The school day, whether in-person or virtual, will be shorter, structured by predictable routines, and interspersed with "brain breaks" for meditation, gratitude practices, checking in with feelings or community kindness projects. But DeCosta adds, "Our teachers responded to distance learning in inspired ways, but teachers, alone, cannot do everything that's being asked of them. Schools need real help from their communities."

DeCosta's holistic view is consistent with 40 years of research in developmental science, which shows that an individual does not shoulder wellbeing alone. The systems in which an individual is embedded are also responsible. When the people in environments outside of families and schools support children's needs, children do better.

DeCosta details the kinds of support she'd like to see from the wider community, for distance and in-person learning:

The map of each school's needs and resources will be different, but emotional wellbeing and community support must be consistent priorities throughout.

Children do better when environments align to support development. (Adapted from Bronfenbrenner, U. & Morris, P. (2006))

The Lab School and Thurgood Marshall Academy are models for how schools can rise to meet the challenges of these trying times. They also hold the promise of the systemic transformation needed to benefit our children's futures.

Technologists	Can help families and teachers secure and learn to use the tools in creative ways that advance distance learning, such as Wi-Fi, devices and virtual learning platforms.
Architects and builders	Can share expertise around creating new spaces or reconfiguring existing for learning, eating and playing to provide greater distances between people while retaining humanity and connection.
Psychological services	Can support children, parents and educators through unprecedented emotional distress. State psychological organizations can help by linking psychologists, therapists and trauma specialists with local schools, and schools can create nimble Psychological First Aid teams to respond to incidents of critical need.
Community social services	Can connect with schools to help parents with housing insecurity, unemployment and financial assistance, childcare, and family and medical leave rights.
Pediatricians and nurse practitioners	Can provide frequent COVID-19 testing, routine vaccinations and screening for other health concerns since people are avoiding hospitals and delaying routine health checkups.
Bodyworkers and somatic therapists	Can mitigate trauma by teaching adults and children how to settle stress in their bodies, since many children are experiencing more severe bouts of stress and grief now than normal.
Food providers	Can creatively address food insecurity among families that are facing a loss of income, or who rely on schools to provide up to three meals a day.
Artists and designers	Can create aesthetic, compassionate solutions to problems like children's fear of masks, their need for a physical hug or touch of reassurance or their sadness over sick or deceased family members.
Philanthropists	Can underwrite innovative education trials and grantors can continue to step up to supplement educational funds.
Parent associations	Can maintain lists of resources for food, employment, financial assistance, violence prevention hotlines, psychological and medical services, substance abuse and more. They could host gatherings or webinars to share coping strategies and provide other resources.



By Diana Divecha and Robin Stern
EdSurge, Aug 19, 2020

Diana Divecha is Assistant Clinical Professor at the Yale Child Study Center and Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.

Robin Stern is Associate Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and a psychoanalyst in practice.

This story is part of an EdSurge Research series about how school communities across the country are connecting research and practice. These stories are made publicly available with support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. EdSurge maintains editorial control over all content. (Read our ethics statement here.) This work is licensed under a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

MASSCUE 2020 Coming To You Virtually

Coming to YOU this October: the 2020 MassCUE and M.A.S.S. Fall Conference, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators (MassCUE) and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) from October 13-17, 2020.

We are collaborating with Tech & Learning to provide an innovative, user-friendly digital platform to bring over 250 workshops, social events and keynotes live and on-demand directly to you, no matter where you are. It goes without saying that this school year will be like no other. Our commitment to you is to deliver an experience that meets your needs as an educator, regardless of your role in schools. Featuring thought leaders and educators from around the country, this five-day conference can be attended from the comfort of your home, and since all sessions will be available "on demand" until December 31, 2020, you don't have to worry about missing a thing. Join us as we learn and network with educators across the country. We look forward to you joining us!

The full conference website went live on August 28th! Check it out at: <https://www.masscue.org/event/virtual-fall-conference-2020/>



ISTE News

COVID-19 Education Coalition Update

The COVID-19 Education Coalition is continuing to release resources and tools to support educators and parents during extended school closures. ISTE and EdSurge have curated a list of free tools and resources as well as an Educator Help Desk where experts will answer your online learning questions.

The Social & Emotional Learning working group has released a SEL Resource Center: Whole Child Approaches . A collection of curated resources promoting students' social, emotional, and cognitive development during remote learning. Using a Whole Child approach, the resources focus on how to build and maintain the 3Rs: relationships, resilience and routines. Access the resources here and help amplify the message. Special shout out to Illinois Digital Educators Alliance for their work in this release.

The Personalized Learning working group has supported the release of building Blocks for Equitable, Remote Learning . A project spearheaded by LearnLaunch, this will help guide and support district and school leaders as they plan for the implementation of high-quality, equity-centered remote and hybrid learning as schools prepare for fall reopening. Special shout out to New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education for their work in the release of this.

The Centering Equity working group has released two additional resources: Questions for Proactive and Equitable Educational Implementation and Associated Resources. Their Questions for Proactive and Equitable Educational Implementation identify 4 key considerations (accessibility, capacity, learning opportunities, and outcomes) for 11 systematically disadvantaged groups: American Indian students, Black students, other racial and ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, English Learners, homeless students, low income students, students in the foster system, LGBTQ learners, migrant learners, rural and remote learners.

Keep up-to-date with the Education Coalition and the tools being released at the following link: <https://www.learningkeepsgoing.org/education-coalition>.

ISTE Student Standards Videos

Today's students must be prepared to thrive in a constantly evolving technological landscape. The ISTE Standards for Students are designed to empower student voice and ensure that learning is a student-driven process.

The ISTE Standards for Students videos, show what the standards look like in action. Videos feature educators across age-bands, content areas and in a wide variety of lesson types. The series of 28 videos have now been embedded into the ISTE Standards website. Check them out at the following link: <https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>

MAINE APP CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2020 Maine App Challenge winners were celebrated virtually on June 23rd. Congratulations to our top three finishers, all female, a first for the Maine App Challenge! Casco Bay High School received a \$500 award for having the most submissions. The Challenge is sponsored by Tyler Technologies.

1st place: How to Help Parker Harnett - Junior, Yarmouth HS Find ways to donate time, money, and stuff. Organizations can register so people can find them.

2nd place: Physics Phone A Friend Sarah Hagan - Sophomore, Cape Elizabeth HS An educational tool to help students with physics. The core is a calculator to allow students to fill in known values for the kinematic equations and includes a mascot and jokes shown when correct answers are given.

3rd place: Scoregenix Elena Miller - Sophomore Yarmouth HS Scoregenix will keep a scorebook for a softball or baseball game. The user enters the result of each pitch and the app keeps track of everything that happens during the game. After the game is finished, the user can export the scoresheet to Excel.



ISTE 2020 Live

November 29 - December 5, 2020

Every year for four decades, the ISTE conference has brought together a passionate community of teachers, education leaders, tech providers and researchers from around the world. By building on our tradition of “learning first, technology second” and sharing innovative practice to enhance learning, the ISTE Conference has become the premiere event for changemakers and innovators in education.

That’s why when the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to meet in our normal time at the end of June, we were grateful to be able to reschedule the event for this November. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has not been contained and it has become clear that it would not be safe to bring our community together face-to-face in 2020.

At the same time, we have heard from so many of you that this may be the most important year ever to hold the ISTE conference. Fortunately, for the last several months we’ve had a team planning for the potential scenario that a face-to-face conference might not be possible. We’re excited to announce that ISTE20 will be held entirely virtually from Nov. 29 through Dec. 5, 2020.

What we have planned will be anything but your typical online conference. We’re developing a custom platform just to build in the types of interactivity we feel are so important for our ISTE community. You can expect an immersive experience with seven (shorter) days of amazing learning opportunities led by outstanding educators on relevant topics like creating equity and community in blended and online environments, teaching creative project-based learning, and offering meaningful feedback and assessment in remote settings. You can expect opportunities to easily connect with educators, presenters and exhibitors in chats, meetups and virtual hallway conversations, as well as hands-on tool demos and peer-to-peer collaborations.

You can expect a variety of formats, a flexible schedule, and hundreds of learning opportunities, with ongoing access to session videos and content for six months after the event. Attendees will experience interactive sessions, powerful stories of inspiration, thought leadership, and just-in-time strategies to address the challenges of the moment.

We agree that this is the most important year to ever hold the ISTE conference, and we’re going to push the limits on what online collaboration can be. We hope you’ll join with us for our most transformational ISTE event ever! Click the following to register for ISTE 2020 Live: https://conference.iste.org/2020/index.php#rates_section

Vermont Fest 2020

October 28-31, 2020

We are excited to announce that the annual Vermont Fest Conference dates have been set for October 28-31, 2020, and we’re looking forward to hosting another terrific event! This year, we’ve joined with VTVLC and the Northeast Online Learning Institute’s Online & Blended Learning Conference. Together we will gather experts and innovators in digital learning from around the region and the nation.

We are still seeking more featured speakers and workshop presenters. If you are interested in presenting, please contact us!

The event will be held online using an event platform designed to host conferences so that you can not only attend live interactive sessions, but video chat with speakers, other attendees, and exhibitors in ad-hoc video chats. The schedule will begin in the afternoon hours and extend into primetime hours in the evening to minimize conflicts with the school day. We will hold birds-of-a-feather dinner gatherings, and we encourage you to bring your dinner and eat with friends and colleagues, new and old! Just be careful you don’t spill on your computer!

Registrations will open soon! Visit the conference website: <https://vita-learn.org/vermontfest/>





ACTEM's OverDrive PD Library

Are you an individual ACTEM member? If so, one of the benefits of membership includes access to ACTEM's OverDrive Professional Development Library.

Your membership allows you to borrow up to 2 books at a time for up to 3 weeks. Our collection includes books from many of our previous keynote speakers including: Joe Sanfelipo, Jennie Magiera, Carl Hooker, Rushton Hurley and also our 2019 keynote speakers, Tom Murray and Michael Cohen.

To access the library go to <http://bit.ly/ACTEM-overdrive> All you need to login to your account is your email address that is associated with your ACTEM membership.

OVERDRIVE TRAINING RESOURCES

Learning how to use OverDrive is easy and can fit into your busy schedule. OverDrive features access to on-demand training modules, downloadable PDFs, upcoming webinars, and tools to help you any time of day or night.

To access these resources go to: <https://resources.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/how-to-videos/sora/>

FBI ISSUES WARNING OVER WINDOWS 7 END-OF-LIFE

The Federal Bureau of Investigation sent a private industry notification (PIN) on Monday to partners in the US private sector about the dangers of continuing to use Windows 7 after the operating system reached its official end-of-life (EOL) earlier this year.

From a report: "The FBI has observed cyber criminals targeting computer network infrastructure after an operating system achieves end of life status," the agency said. "Continuing to use Windows 7 within an enterprise may provide cyber criminals access in to computer systems. As time passes, Windows 7 becomes more vulnerable to exploitation due to lack of security updates and new vulnerabilities discovered. "With fewer customers able to maintain a patched Windows 7 system after its end of life, cyber criminals will continue to view Windows 7 as a soft target," the FBI warned. The Bureau is now asking companies to look into upgrading their workstations to newer versions of the Windows operating system.

WONDER LEAGUE ROBOTICS COMPETITION

The Wonder League Robotics Competition (WLRC) started in 2015 and has now reached more than 78,000 kids over the last four years. This growing network of coding and robotics teams uses our all-inclusive program to inspire an early love of coding, computer science, tangible learning, and STEAM education. Through a series of story-based missions, the teams develop problem-solving, growth mindset, and creativity skills while learning to code.

Why should you join the Wonder League Robotics Competition?

- To develop computational thinking skills - Through coding and problem solving, teams can equip themselves with essential 21st century skills.
- To build teamwork and community spirit - 63% of coaches found a growth in teamwork, collaboration and perseverance in their teams.
- You can participate for FREE - There are no entry fees, no fees for accessing challenges, and did we mention, no travel required?
- You will compete virtually from anywhere in the world - It's a virtual competition! Teams complete missions at their own pace and submit results via our online portal.

Timeline:

- September 14th - Mission will be released
- Dec. 31st - Registration close
- Jan. 15th - Submissions Due

To find out more information about the Wonder League Robotics Competition, check out the following website: <https://www.makewonder.com/classroom/robotics-competition/>



Register Today for ACTEM 2020 Virtual Fall conference

- Individual ACTEM members are FREE
- Non-Members - \$20 (Includes Membership)
- Out-of-State Educators - \$30
- Online Registration Here - <http://www.actem.org/event-3932165>



REMEMBRANCE: SIR KEN ROBINSON

Sir Ken Robinson had a distinguished career in education spanning more than three decades and was one who championed creativity and railed against an obsession with testing in education, passed away in August at age 70.

“Sir Ken Robinson was the author of bestselling books. He gave the most popular TED Talk of all time (**Do schools kill creativity?**) and was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. But his biggest legacy may be the generation of educators he inspired with his clarion call to move schools away from becoming rigid test-prep factories and toward something more artistic and liberating.”

“During the last two decades, Robinson gained a worldwide following in education and beyond for his belief that children were born curious, with natural talents that should be nurtured by schools. Though too often, he said, a top-down focus on math, reading and testing, at the expense of the arts and creative pursuits, stifled their abilities.”

“Many educators credited him with inspiring them early in their careers, and shared quotes and heartfelt stories of brief encounters and lasting impressions. “If you’re not prepared to be wrong, you’ll never come up with anything original,” read one quote favored hundreds of times on Twitter.”

“What a great loss for educators everywhere,” wrote Sheryl Abshire, a speaker and former chief technology officer in Louisiana, on Twitter. “I was fortunate to be in the company of and hear this great man speak several times. His wisdom, his wit and his considerable contributions will be missed.”

From the Edsurge Article: Tributes Pour in for Sir Ken Robinson, a ‘Source of Insight, Inspiration and Joy for Millions’ - By Stephen Noonoo a K-12 editor at EdSurge. The full version of this tribute can be found [HERE](#).



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=zDZF-cDGpL4U&feature=emb_logo



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=36&v=63Gf-8D5i59A&feature=emb_logo

Maine DOE Newsroom

Maine DOE Specialists Offering Virtual Content Specific Office Hours

As educators and schools are preparing for the 2020/2021 school year, Maine Department of Education specialists have begun once again offering regular and on-going virtual office hours in a number of content areas. During these meetings, Department specialists will be available to provide support and guidance regarding distance, hybrid and in-person learning and school supports, as well as to facilitate networking and resource sharing between educators and school staff.

Be sure to check out the Department's Professional Development Calendar on a regular basis to see what is being offered and when. As the school year goes into full swing there will be many more learning and networking opportunities posted there on a regular basis.

As a reminder, the Department also offers an ever-growing library of recorded webinars and sessions to support educators, school staff, and administrators. The library is organized by topic area and it can be found here: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/webinarlibrary>

ANNOUNCING LAUNCH OF MOOSE LEARNING MODULE LIBRARY!

The Maine Department of Education is excited to announce that the MOOSE (Maine Opportunity for Online Sustained Education) Learning Module Library will launch on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020.

MOOSE will provide free access to a-synchronous, interdisciplinary, project-based learning modules aligned to the Maine Learning Results for all grades, PK-12. Maine educators, curriculum leaders, and educational community organizations have worked all summer to produce these engaging and innovative learning opportunities for Maine's students. While the platform won't be available until September 8th, you can preview the module topics on our website.

We will continue to develop more modules throughout the year and we need Maine educators to join us! Phase II of the module creation work will begin September 8th and last until November 20th. Each participant will be trained in a-synchronous instructional design by Maine DOE digital learning specialists, as well as supported in their content by Maine DOE content specialists. Stipends of \$1000 will be provided for successful completion of the project.

Participants must be Maine educators, including but not limited to curriculum leaders and Maine educational community organizations such as museums, libraries, and educational centers. To register, click here.

For more information please contact Beth Lambert, beth.lambert@maine.gov or Page Nichols, page.nichols@maine.gov.

MILLS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES

\$25 MILLION IN CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS TO SUPPORT MAINE'S WORKING PARENTS AND SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Governor Mills announced today that her Administration will provide \$25 million in federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to support Maine schools in developing and offering day programming for students to supplement in-person instruction. The funding comes as many school districts across Maine are implementing hybrid learning models that incorporate both in-person and remote learning days this fall to protect the health of students and school staff. The funds will support Maine's working parents find alternative child care on days students learn remotely while ensuring that all Maine children receive nutrition, supervision, and learning support both in and outside of the classroom.

"As the parent of five now grown daughters I can only imagine how difficult the pandemic has been for working parents trying to balance the demands of their job with their children learning from home or finding child care for when they otherwise would have been at school," said Governor Mills. "The success of our families and the strength of our economy depends on parents being able to safely return to work. Funding these programs is critical to ensure working parents, especially those on the frontlines of our state's pandemic response, stay in the workforce while being confident their children are cared for."



The Department of Education will distribute these funds through December 2020. The program is modeled on the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which provide support to students across the state. Through a simplified application process, school units may apply for funds towards the initial costs of materials and supplies, facilities expansions, and staffing as they work with community partners to establish day programming. The Department will accept applications through September 4, 2020 and may prioritize available funds based on the district's number of economically disadvantaged students. The funding comports with a recommendation of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee, which highlighted child care as a key stabilization measure for Maine's economy.

"Now more than ever, Maine schools are critical to the infrastructure of our communities," said Commissioner of Education Pender Makin. "These funds will assist with the additional structures and supports that students and their families need."

The funds are the latest effort by the Mills Administration to support Maine families and child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier today, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced that it will invest \$1 million in existing funding to support well child visits, vaccinations, and dental care for children covered by MaineCare. In July, DHHS announced it would provide \$8.4 million from the CRF to more than 1,700 Maine child care providers for the extra costs and challenges of operating during the pandemic. Additionally, DHHS is preparing to issue this month the remaining awards to child care providers as part of \$11 million in separate CARES Act funds Maine received through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families' Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

The DHHS Office of Child and Family Services, which licenses child care providers, will provide technical assistance for school units interested in establishing partnerships with afterschool and child care programs in their communities, with applications for emergency licenses when necessary, and assistance with implementing COVID-19 health and safety protocols and best practices.

DOE and DHHS coordinated on this initiative as part of the Administration's broader collaboration across Departments through Governor Mills' Children's Cabinet. The Cabinet continues its work to ensure that Maine children enter Kindergarten prepared to succeed and that Maine youth enter adulthood healthy, connected to the workforce and/or education.

FIND AN ARRAY OF VIRTUAL SUPPORT SESSIONS CRAFTED JUST FOR MAINE EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL STAFF ON THE MAINE DOE WEBSITE

The Maine Department of Education's content specialists along with partnering educational leaders from the field continue to schedule, provide, and record a wide variety of virtual support sessions, professional development, and continued and engaging conversations over the summer.

Upcoming sessions include everything from supporting PreK and K teachers, remote learning, Multi-tiered Systems of Support, brain centered support, grading equity for ELA, all the way to an Iced Coffee Hour with VPA educators from across the state, and more!

Find a schedule of upcoming sessions here -- <https://www.maine.gov/doe/calendar>

Find recorded sessions here -- <https://www.maine.gov/doe/webinarlibrary>

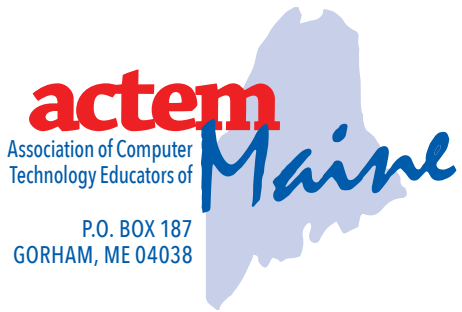
MAINE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION AND MAINE DOE CREATE SPECIAL "TEACHER TO TEACHER" BACK TO SCHOOL MESSAGE

The Maine Teachers of the Year Association, in partnership with the Maine Department of Education, has created a special "teacher to teacher" back to school message to help kick off the 2020/2021 school year.

The video message features Maine's current and legacy Teachers of the Year and County Teachers of the Year. Their message is one of compassion, inspiration, hope, self-care, and unity for teachers across Maine as schools, and educators prepare to welcome back their students in a year like no other.

Link to video: <https://maine-doenews.net/2020/08/21/media-release-maine-teachers-of-the-year-association-and-maine-doe-create-special-teacher-to-teacher-back-to-school-message/>





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UPCOMING EVENTS: Professional Development

October 13-17 MassCUE 2020 Conference
Virtual Conference.

October 20-21 actem 2020
Education Technology Conference, Civic
Center, Augusta, ME. Virtual Conference.

October 28-31 Vermont Fest Virtual
Conference.

November 29-December 5 ISTE Live
Conference Virtual Conference.

December 3-4 Educate Maine Education
Symposium.

**Week of January 11
2021**

CMTC: Christa McAuliffe
Technology Conference.
Virtual Conference.

March 1-4 2021--COSN
Conference. Austin Texas

June 27-30 2021-ISTE
2021 San Antonio, Texas.



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MLTI Professional Development

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