Building a sustainable infrastructure that strengthens rural science education

MainePSP
Partner Benefits

Community

- Expanding partnership including over 20 districts working together to strengthen science education (a multi-district improvement community)
- Active professional learning community that includes practitioners, education researchers, and STEM/STEM Ed faculty from the University of Maine
- Focus on community-based, evidence-guided problem solving – together we identify persistent problems of practice, leverage research and best practices to target instructional strategies, develop our proficiency and implementation of these strategies, and collect data to measure the impact of the strategy and inform future approaches
- Focus on vertical alignment of rich, connected science experiences in the physical sciences from grades 6-9
- Regional “Collaboratives” bring together teachers, administrators and University faculty for engaging evenings doing hands-on science and discussing science teaching and learning

Professional Development

- Teacher slots at paid week-long Summer Academy (two summers) at Schoodic Institute, focusing on science content knowledge and pedagogy
- Ongoing paid professional development and cohort work throughout the year to support science teaching and student learning (video-based reflective practice, analysis of student work and embedded assessments, etc)
- Opportunities for emerging teacher leaders to participate in an experiential learning-based Leadership Academy
- Opportunities for teachers to work over the summer as paid Teachers in Residence to analyze data across the project, carry out project work, and propose evidence-guided modifications to our programs
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Instructional Resources

- Access to high quality instructional resources that were selected by a rigorous, evidence-based, multi-stakeholder Resource Evaluation Task Force process to promote research-supported science education that is aligned with Maine Learning Results and A Framework for K-12 Science Education
- Full year of student-centered middle school Earth Science scope & sequence and supporting materials based on SEPUP’s Issues & Earth Science, a well-scaffolded issues-based inquiry curriculum
- Full year of student-centered middle school Physical Science scope & sequence and supporting materials based on Project-Based Inquiry Science, an investigation-rich program that integrates engineering design in the context of Force & Motion and Energy, and SEPUP’s Issues & Physical Science for Chemistry
- Half-year of student-centered 9th grade Earth/Physical Science scope & sequence and supporting materials based on EarthComm, modified to focus on Global Climate Change, with an optional quarter-year Astronomy unit add-on
- “Living” scope & sequence with community oversight and ongoing refinement based on classroom evidence

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