Maine’s Alternative Certification and Mentoring Program

For special educators with conditional certification

A project of the University of Maine and the Maine Department of Education
What is MACM?

Maine’s Alternative Certification and Mentoring (MACM) Program provides mentoring and a yearlong, seminar-style course in special education to new teachers. This online course is designed to address topics of critical importance to practicing teachers in areas like special education law, individualized education planning, collaboration, assessment and evaluation, instructional design, behavior management, and supervising paraprofessionals.

Mentors help participants develop an action plan to move them toward professional certification, observe their teaching, and provide ongoing support and problem-solving throughout the school year.

Why does Maine need a mentor program?

Like other states, Maine has a critical and chronic shortage of highly qualified special educators. MACM is designed to provide new, conditionally certified special education teachers with an experienced mentor and intensive special education training during the critical first year of practice. Research suggests that mentoring helps new teachers become more successful as educators and less likely to leave the field within the first five years of practice.

Who are the mentors?

Mentors are practicing or recently retired special educators or special education administrators. Mentors receive training and support from project staff. They may or may not teach in the same district as the participant/mentee.

Participants, or mentees, are conditionally certified special educators in their first year of practice.

When does MACM start?

Mentors will be recruited during spring 2018, and participate in training June 19–21 in Orono. Mentors will be paired with mentees in August and September, and the special education course will begin in mid-October. The project is expected to run for three to five years.

How can I get involved?

If you are an experienced special educator or special education administrator (currently working or retired within the past five years) who is interested in mentoring a new teacher, MACM staff will train you. Mentors will guide a colleague for one school year and will either teach a section of the stand-alone special education course for adjunct faculty pay, or receive a stipend for time and effort. Mentors will be matched with someone who they are NOT responsible for evaluating — each school district will use its existing Professional Evaluation and Professional Growth (PEPG) plan to evaluate the mentee.

If you’re interested in serving as a mentor, upload a resume and letter of interest that includes your teaching philosophy to: umaine.edu/edhd/outreach/macm/macm-mentor-application

Prospective mentors are required to provide three recommendations: one from a colleague, one from your building administrator, and one from your special education director or superintendent. If you are a retired educator, recommendations must come from a former colleague, building administrator, and director or superintendent. Recommendation forms can be found at the MACM website (umaine.edu/edhd/outreach/macm/macm) and must be uploaded with your resume and letter of interest.