



MAINE DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

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# Youth-Centered Initiatives with JJAG Implications

# Youth-Centered Initiatives

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Maine School Safety Center (MSSC)

Office of Innovation

Office of School & Student Supports (OSSS)





# Maine School Safety Center: Maine Safe Schools Initiative

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Creating safer schools through training, guidance, and technical support for the whole school and whole student.

# Maine School Safety Center

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## Behavioral Threat Assessment Management

- Train school-based teams in the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines
- Director Susi chairs the state-wide Threat Assessment Advisory Committee to bring together key stakeholders to identify needs in the field
- MSSC members also sit on the Maine Threat Assessment Group where we continue to help guide the processes established to interact positively and effectively with young people

## Restorative Practices

- Program, “Creating a Culture of Care in Schools,” focuses on training all school staff to create a restorative school culture by emphasizing relationship from both a preventative and responsive
- MSSC Restorative Coaches train school implementation teams in 4-day in-person training
- Restorative Coaches support implementation to full staff through a 9-module asynchronous training
- Assist in creating Restorative Codes of Conduct and additional trainings
- Coaching continues one year beyond initial training







# Maine School Safety Center

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## School Safety Specialist Program

- Train school staff in nationally recognized practices in school emergency management
- Assist administrators and school staff and acts as an informed resource
- Part of a community of practice throughout the state
- Credentialed program offered through EMCC; participants earn a micro credential

# Office of Innovation: Prevention Strategies

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By empowering bold innovators in education,  
we will develop, nurture, and foster  
educational innovation and new ideas



# Office of Innovation

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## Building Assets, Reducing Risk (BARR)

- Reorganizing staff to work in smaller teams with the same groups of students
- Educators use structured teaming protocols to build relationships and more effectively support the needs of students
- Uses data to realign existing structures and resources to support student success
- 71 new BARR schools; 90 BARR schools in Maine

## Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative

- Statewide effort to increase student access to hands-on, outdoor learning experiences and career exploration.
- Provides opportunities for MS and HS students to participate in either marine and coastal ecology or inland forestry experiences that allow them to learn about and interact with nature.
- Designed to reach students who do not typically have access to outdoor, educational summer programs due to geographical location or economic barriers.





# Office of School & Student Supports (OSSS): Prevention Strategies

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OSSS strives to ensure that Maine schools are inclusive, healthy, safe, and supportive communities where every student thrives.







# Office of School & Student Supports

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## Stronger Connections Grants

- Funded through Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)
- Expands vital mental health services & provides additional supports to districts to design and enhance initiatives that will promote safer, more inclusive, and positive school environments for all students, educators, and school staff by establishing safer and healthier learning environments, and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact our school communities.
- Maine awarded \$4.8 million in subgrants to 14 SAUs

## Preventing Student Homelessness

- State pilot project to help Maine students avoid homelessness
- Maine DOE will provide McKinney-Vento liaisons access to emergency financial assistance for the families of students to address housing-related needs that will help students avoid homelessness.
- \$750/student

# Office of School & Student Supports

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## Expanding Access to Supportive Environments (EASE) Maine

- Maine DOE was awarded a \$9 million, 5-year grant to increase mental health providers in schools
- Funded through the School-Based Mental Health Provider program of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
- Focuses on recruiting, respecializing and retaining school-based mental health providers across Maine
- Identified 9 SAUs whose ratios of school counselors, school social workers, or school psychologists were lower than the State average
- Maine DOE is working with providers, higher ed, and SAUs to build a robust pipeline of providers to serve students in school settings





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