THE CONNECTED
EDUCATOR
CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

2021 SPRING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

ACTEM held its annual Spring Leadership Conference on May 4th virtually via the Hopin Event Platform. The 2021 theme focused on Adapting to the Times: Supporting Learning Through Technology. Our keynote speaker was Keith R. Krueger, CEO of CoSN with a presentation on Cha-Cha-Changes: Frontline Lessons from the Learning Revolution.

Workshops included; MLTI 2.0 update with the DOE Team; Supporting Staff with Google Remote & Hybrid Tools with Kern Kelley; A couple of G-Suite sessions with

ACTEM 2021 Fall Conference
by Cheryl Oakes & Stephanie Cheney

Well, congratulations! You've made it through another pandemic year in your local school system and in the State of Maine! You are all to be commended for your resilience, perseverance and commitment to your schools and students. Last year as we planned for the ACTEM Fall Conference 2020, the entire ACTEM Board and Conference Committee agreed that although we had never planned or been involved in a Virtual Conference it was important for ACTEM and all members that we NOT skip a year due to the pandemic. The Board had many questions, if you plan a virtual conference for educators who are online all day long will they come? Will they offer to present to their peers? Will our vendors support us? Will our conference meet our major goal of getting educators together to share? Your participation surpassed our expectations! Our virtual conference was a huge success!

The ACTEM Board and Conference Committee are pleased to report that the plan is in the works for an in-person ACTEM Fall Conference 2021 for our 34th year! Set your calendar reminder for October 14 and 15, 2021 at the Civic Center in Augusta, ME!

The ACTEM Board and Conference Committee acknowledge that while you may be really excited for this upcoming LIVE Conference you are in survival mode and planning through the remainder of the current school year. Last year demonstrated that the Conference Committee could manage with a different proposal timeline. Call for proposals will open June 15, 2021 and the last date for submission will

Save the Date

Oct. 14-15, 2021

ACTEM 2021 Fall Conference

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

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
A Sprinkling of Hope

What a year we've had. I hope you all are able to recharge this summer and catch up on a lot ofthe overdue activities that have been put on hold for too long. I'm guessing that your schools,like ours, are already starting to plan for next year. From what I've seen and heard, the planning involves a healthy sprinkling of hope that next year will be closer to normal.

ACTEM too is squinting into the crystal ball and beginning the long conversations around the various events we host. Perhaps the only certainty is uncertainty, but optimism no longer seems as foolish as my haircut (it's been clippers in the mirror for me this past year). Thank you all for your support of ACTEM and each other this year. See you all again soon!

be July 15, 2021. The committee will review proposals beginning late July, with presenters being notified by August 15, 2021. Room scheduling at the Civic Center will utilize the bigger venue rooms in order for people to be able to socially distance during the conference. Know that ACTEM will follow the Maine CDC guidelines for the conference and recommend that all presenters, vendors, and participants get vaccinated prior to attending.

The conference committee has always tried to highlight a variety of current topics and issues. As you know, technology and education issues evolve quickly. The conference committee, in an effort to be more transparent, would like to promote presenters and topics that represent a diverse variety of perspectives and backgrounds in order to meet the needs of Maine's student population that is ever changing.

As you begin thinking about your conference proposal, please consider the list of suggested topics below that was generated from attendees of the 2020 virtual conference. We also welcome you to share strategies and activities that have worked well this year. Workshop proposals can be submitted by an individual or a group. The conference fee is waived for 2 people per accepted workshop.

• Best of the Best session- sharing what is working for you and your top 10 items
• Grade level and content level sessions
• Ideas for remote learning- some schools are using remote learning for Snow Days and Pandemic learning
• Online game resources-what works best for you and your students
• Round tables topics and issues
• Science-online labs and science data resources
• Different ways to use Wakelet or other specific technology tools
• WeVideo tutorials
• Pre- K and Kindergarten with iPads
• Mental Health for students, staff and community
• Outdoor education

The ACTEM conference committee is looking forward to welcoming you to the Civic Center in October and wishes you a restful summer break. You've earned it!! Please reach out to conference co-chairs Cheryl Oakes and Stephanie Cheney if you have any questions: conference@actem.org

Spring Leadership Conference Notes *(Continued from Cover)*

Amplified IT; K-12 Computer Science Education with CSTA; Infrastructure for eSports, Joe McAllister; Innovating the future of Education in a Pandemic, Keith Krueger; Visioning the Future of Teaching & Learning, David Andrade, and many more workshops featuring our exhibitors.

The 2021 Spring Leadership Conference workshop videos are now posted on a "Members Only" section of ACTEM's website. To access these videos...
• Go to http://www.actem.org/
• Click the blue LOG IN link in the top right portion of the home page
• Enter your email address used for ACTEM membership
• Enter your password and then click the red Log in button
• If you forgot or don't know your password - click the "Forgot password" link to reset it.
Videos are located under the "MEMBERSHIP" pull-down menu and listed as:

ACTEM Spring 2021 Recorded Sessions - Members Only

The above option is only available under the MEMBERSHIP menu once you are logged in as a member. On the next page are some of the report data from Hopin and our post-conference survey:

Cha,Cha,Cha,Cha,Changes

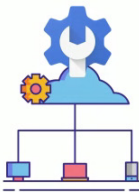*Frontline Lessons from the Learning Revolution*

Keith Krueger
CoSN CEO

Google Workspace for Education Editions & Storage

bit.ly/gwfestorage

KERN KELLEY

Technology Integrator at R.S.U. #19

STEAM Powered Learning

Author of *The Google Apps Guidebook*

@kernkelley

I <3 ???'s

Hopin Summary Report

Registrations	163
Turnout	157 (96%)
Average Time Spent	7.1 Hours
Chat Messages	1049
Expo Booths	16
Expo Visitors	100
Expo Booth Interactions	365

Hopin Workshop Participation

Session 1	107
Session 2	98
Keynote Session	75
Session 3	98

Would you attend an in-person ACTEM conference in the fall of 2021?

	Number	Percentage
Yes, I would attend an in-person conference	49	83%
No, I'm not comfortable attending an in-person	3	5%
Not sure/Maybe/Depends	6	10%
Would like a Hybrid option	1	1.7%

• Thank you for not giving up on us. I always leave learning so much.
• Couple of positive comments about the Hopin event platform

"I do miss seeing all my ACTEM friends in person. :) Stay Safe Everyone!"

"Comment about timing – Liked the afternoon/evening offering over a couple of days like last fall."

"Thank you so much for all you do to make these conferences happen! I love the opportunity to catch up with all of you and to learn a few new things along the way."

"It would be great if some sessions were run more than once. (Most sessions were recorded and **are** be available on the ACTEM website for members).

" I'd love the option to attend both in person and virtually in the fall"

My overall experience

My overall experience

ACTEM is leaning towards an in-person conference for the fall (Oct. 14-15, 2021). Would you attend an in-person ACTEM conference in the fall of 2021?
59 responses

Please rate the ACTEM Spring Leadership Conference on the following items:
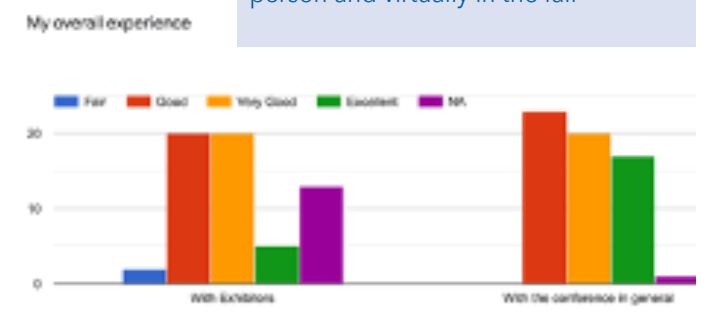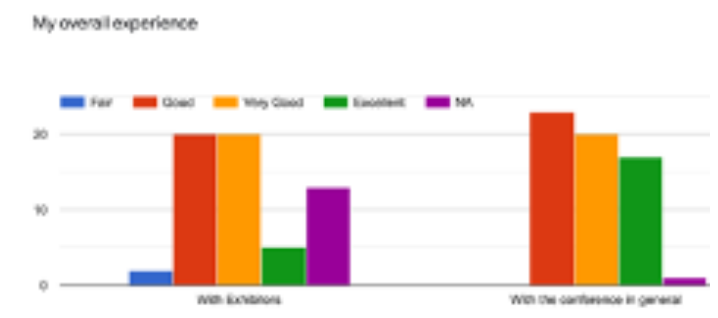
About actem

ACTEM is a non-profit 501(c)3 educational association with the mission to enhance and influence education in Maine through the use of technology. ACTEM is the Maine affiliate of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and connects with more than 70 other affiliates to share best practices, increase service to members, and strengthen impact in local education communities.

Funds Available for Professional Development
THROUGH THE PD REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

One of the benefits of being an ACTEM individual member, is the ability to access funds through our Professional Development program. In accordance with ACTEM's mission to enhance and influence education in Maine though the use of technology, individual ACTEM members, who have held membership for at least 180 days, are invited to apply for assistance in the form of reimbursement on qualifying technology professional development opportunities.

WHAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES QUALIFY?
The training may be in the form of a conference, workshop, a one or more day seminar, university course, online course or combination thereof. ACTEM will reimburse individuals for course and registration fees associated with the professional development activity. Course materials, lab fees, travel, hotel, meals and other similar costs will not be reimbursed. Reimbursement is limited to one approved activity per ACTEM membership year. The intent of the PD reimbursement program is to pay for activities that your district is not able to support. PLEASE NOTE: Any ACTEM sponsored professional development is not eligible for PD reimbursement (ACTEM conferences or ACTEM sponsored workshops).

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO ME?
Maine Educators with current Individual ACTEM memberships are invited to apply for up to $400 per year for professional development reimbursement. Your membership must be current when submitting your application. New ACTEM members must hold an individual membership for at least 180-days prior to the start of the professional development activity to be eligible for the reimbursement benefit.

HOW DO I APPLY?
1. Complete an online application at this link BEFORE your PD activity begins: http://www.actem.org/Online-PD-Application-Form
2. Your application must be received and approved prior to the start date of the professional-development activity.
3. You will need to pay for you PD activity upfront with personal funds. ACTEM does not reimburse districts through this program.
4. Complete you PD activity.
5. Submit proof of completion and personal payment to Dennis Kunces, ACTEM PD Administrator at dennis.kunces@gmail.com
6. Reimbursement payments are generally processed within a few days after submitting your completion and payment documents.

Dynamic Platform, Powerful Voices, Treasure Trove of Resources – That's ISTELive 21!

ISTELive 21 is happening virtually from June 26-30, 2021

This fully immersive online event is where you'll get the strategies you need to move from surviving disruption to reimagining learning! It's where you'll join a global corps of educators to discover fresh approaches and share cutting-edge ideas, all focused on ensuring your students are prepared to meet the challenges of the moment.

Whether you're looking for guidance on a student filmmaking project, want to learn how to incorporate computational thinking into literature, or are eager to hear from a district leader who has pulled off a complicated tech initiative, there's something for you regardless of your role, grade level or subject area.

This summer, gather with educators worldwide on our custom-built platform where you'll learn from experts, communicate with each other in real time and access a rich archive of over 1,000 learning experiences that you can return to again and again for six months.

More than 13,000 participants attended ISTE20 Live, our first-ever virtual event, and the response was overwhelmingly positive:

Registration includes:

- Hundreds of presentations, featuring powerful voices from education and beyond, sharing inspiring stories about how innovations can change lives and improve learning for students.
- A custom-built, dynamic platform that makes it easy to ask questions, share ideas and make connections.
- Hundreds of sessions and learning experiences archived for you to return to again and again for six months.

ISTELive 21 Registration Link: https://conference.iste.org/2021/attend/

PLEASE NOTE: ACTEM members could use the PD Reimbursement program to pay for ISTELive21. See article about the Professional Development Reimbursement program in this newsletter (on page 4).

My hat is off to #ISTE for innovating and creating an experience that is different and gives us a chance to connect and learn from one another in a dedicated space.

— Debbie Campbell, Dean of Instruction, Houston Independent School District, Texas

Maine DOE Newsroom

Virtual Workshop for Teachers: Middle School Science & Engineering Fair

OPPORTUNITY HOSTED BY THE MAINE MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ALLIANCE.

WHEN Wednesday, June 23, 2021
WHERE Online (Interactive)
BENEFITS Participation stipend, Subscription to Science News
REGISTER BY May 28, 2021
FMI Contact: Stefany Burrell

Did you know that Maine has a science fair for grades 6-8? The Maine State Middle School Science & Engineering Fair (MSSEF) provides youth with a chance to share their independent STEM projects with judges and their peers. The event encourages students to explore their own area of interest, engage in authentic science and engineering practices, and hone their science communication skills.

Late each spring, the MSSEF welcomes middle schoolers from around the state to present their work in a supportive environment. Students can work alone or in teams of 2-3. There is practically no limit to the topics a student can pursue. If it falls somewhere in the realm of science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM), it fits within the mission of the MSSEF!

As a middle school teacher, you may love the idea of giving your students this opportunity. But how do you start? Join us on Wednesday, June 23 to learn how. We will convene an interactive Zoom session where you'll learn some tips for getting your students started on their projects and take away some activities to help them make the most of their independent work.

The top 10% of our state's projects are invited to participate in the national Broadcom MASTERS competition. Although the prestige of winning is reserved for a handful of projects, all students who participate learn invaluable STEM and 21st century skills. Because the MSSEF is affiliated with the MASTERS competition, the Broadcom Foundation has provided MMSA with a grant to pay stipends to teachers who attend this training.

Learn more and register here: https://mmsa.org/2021/05/middle-school-science-fair-teacher-workshop/

Two Maine High School Students Named "National Cyber Scholars" After Winning Nationwide Competition to Identify Rising Stars in Critical Industry

30,000 Students Across the Country Sought to Qualify for this Cybersecurity Competition hosted by National Cyber Scholarship Foundation

The National Cyber Scholarship Foundation has named two Maine students, "National Cyber Scholars" after winning a rigorous 48-hour competition designed to evaluate aptitude in combating cyber threats, showcasing the advanced programming available in Maine schools.
Maine National Cyber Scholars:
• Dena Arrison, Freeport High School
• Vealy Lai, Maine School of Science and Mathematics
Over 30,000 high school students across the country sought to qualify for this year's competition, and only 5,000 advanced to the first round. Of those students, only 600 nationwide performed well enough to earn the title "National Cyber Scholars." These students each won a $2,500 scholarship and an invitation to participate in the Cyber Foundations Academy, a multi-week training and certification course.

Cybersecurity is a critical issue facing this country with the potential to impact our nation's government, defense, communications and financial systems. According to recent studies, in order to properly defend our infrastructure from attack, we need to train more than 3 million cybersecurity professionals. This scholarship and competition are designed to attract and incentivize more students to enter the field.

"Congratulations to Dena and Vealy for this incredible honor! We are so proud of all the students that participated in this competition, and grateful for the schools who prepare, encourage, and support students in pursuing opportunities like this," said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. "Our state education system continues to make strides that allow us to adapt and prioritize the ever-changing advances in technology, including laying the foundational groundwork for a robust cyber security workforce here in Maine."

"This scholarship recognizes high school students who have demonstrated exceptional cybersecurity talent," noted David Brown, executive director, National Cyber Scholarship Foundation. "The NCSF mission is to help close the critical cybersecurity skills gap by identifying and developing the next generation of cyber professionals. Each and every student who participated in this competition has the potential to develop their skills and build a successful career in cybersecurity."

There are several qualification pathways for the National Cyber Scholarship Competition including CyberStart America, a free online program that helps students discover their interest in cybersecurity and develop their talent and skills. The NCSC offers 600 college scholarships to top-ranking competitors. Additionally, National Cyber Scholars, along with the competition's 1,000 finalists, are invited to participate in the Cyber Foundations Academy.
To learn more visit: National Cyber Scholarship Foundation.

2021 County Teachers of the Year Announced in Virtual Ceremony

Teachers from all 16 of Maine's counties were honored today in a virtual announcement that was broadcast live on the Maine Department of Education's YouTube page.

As part of the Maine Teacher of the Year Program, hundreds of teachers across Maine are nominated by a member of their school community. Through a rigorous application process, one teacher from each county is selected as the County Teacher of the Year by a panel of teachers, principals, and business community members within the county.

During the ceremony, teachers were honored by Maine Department of Education Commissioner, Pender Makin; Educate Maine Executive Director, Jason Judd; State Board of Education member, Peter Geiger; 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year, Cindy Soule; Maine County, State Teachers of the Year Association Co-President Shana Goodall; and Maine's 2021 Poetry Out Loud Champion, Emily Paruk, a senior from Gorham High School.
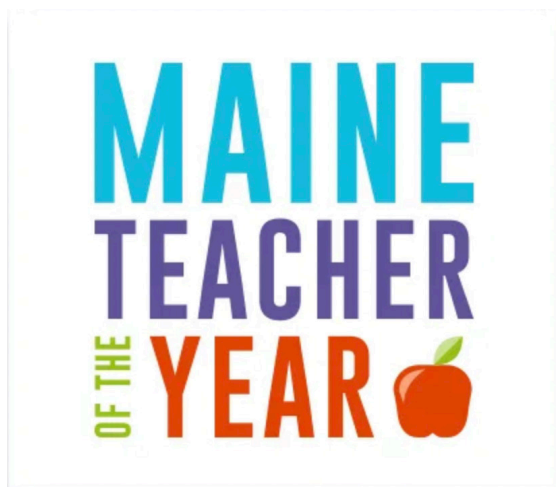
After being named, Maine County Teachers of the Year serve as ambassadors for teachers, students, and quality education state-wide throughout the year, and continue to participate in an intensive Maine State Teacher of the Year selection process.

The Maine County Teachers of the Year are available to make presentations to ers, and engineers, you all are," said Maine DOE Director of Innovative Teaching and Learning Beth Lambert. "Your work today and in the innovation challenge will lead the way for our state and the entire nation when it comes to redesigning remote learning and the shape of our public education system!"

Pre-Conference students got the opportunity to learn about the different challenges related to remote learning during the pandemic and their implications for Maine DECD's 2030 Vision + Goals so they could research interesting reports, design frameworks, innovation protocols, videos, and other information related to their challenge.

After the Conference each team of students that wishes to continue on to Part II of the $10,000 Challenge is matched with a mentor to further develop their innovation or venture and submit "a demo", "pitch deck", and/or executive summary for their product. Challenge Grand Prize winners will be announced at special online awards ceremony featuring UMaine innovation leaders, and invited to continue developing their innovation through the CATES Center for Social Innovation Summer Incubator program in prep for a fall launch.

For more information about the conference and the Innovation Challenge visit the MLTI website: https://mlticonference.com/

2021 County Teachers of the Year

- **Androscoggin: Jessica Harvey Elm Street School, Mechanic Falls**
- **Aroostook: Andrew Kirby Presque Isle High School, Presque Isle**
- **Cumberland: Dr. Paige Fournier Freeport Middle School, Freeport**
- **Franklin: Michelle Laliberte, Rangeley Lakes Regional School, Rangeley**
- **Hancock: Sarah Doremus, Sedgwick Elementary, Sedgwick**
- **Kennebec: Raye Anne DeSoto, Gardiner Area High School, Gardiner**
- **Knox: Patti Forster,Camden Hills Regional High School, Rockport**
- **Lincoln: Bill Hinkley, Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro**
- **Oxford: Melissa Guerrette,Oxford Elementary School, Oxford**
- **Penobscot: Kelsey Stoyanova, Reeds Brook Middle School, Hampden**
- **Piscataquis: Lisa Martell, Piscataquis Community Secondary School, Guilford**
- **Sagadahoc: Lianna Fenimore,Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham**
- **Somerset: Kevin Malady, Lawrence High School, Fairfield**
- **Waldo: Hillary Hoyt, Leroy H. Smith School, Winterport**
- **Washington: Diana Mahar, Sipayik Elementary School, Pleasant Point**
- **York: Christine Goulet, Biddeford Primary School, Biddeford**

Sponge Activities
Prime the brain for learning

ZOOM SPONGE ACTIVITIES

Most times, I open the Zoom class five minutes early, eliminate the waiting room and the "mute on entry" option then share my screen with instructions on it. Each of these are different ideas that you can tailor to your own subject or lesson plan.

• Bookmark five different website hosting companies. (Later on in class we do a comparison of services and price.)

• (Start class with a song from the seventies) Ask students to identify the band and/or interpret the meaning of the lyrics. Protest songs have been favorites.

• Go and find the best piece of art in the house (literally, not online) and put it in front of your computer screen (this, followed by a philosophical talk on what art is, and the ways in which we judge what 'good art' is. I really like sending them 'away' from the screens for a while, some students are coming to my Zoom class after 3+ hours of Zooming with other teachers or doing their homework online.

• Write the lede for your (future) obituary.

• Go find pen and paper to have with you for class, and when you get back with it, draw a quick self portrait.

• Write down one expectation/ hope you have for class today, or the biggest take-away you have from last class, or from the homework assignment.

When condsidering one of these, remember that a sponge activity is intended to keep students occupied in a productive way, often this might be while you wait for other students to get to class, so that when you begin class, you can do so with the best possible attendance. It can also be set up to give you a few minutes to organize your lesson, or take attendance.

by Rachel Guthrie, M. Ed.

Sponge activities are often seen as utilitarian ways to give the teacher a moment to take a breath and do some essential chore while class is in session. Many educators begin class with a sponge activity while they take attendance or set up a project. These activity are almost always targeted toward k-12 students, but adult students too, especially college level students, are equally chatty, active or restless at the beginning of a class if there is no direction from the teacher.

In my own classroom--a computer lab at a community college--students will jump onto the Internet or open their devices and get involved with texting or posting if I don't give them something to do right away. I teach graphic design, so in face to face classes I might have a drawing up on the whiteboard, and will ask students to practice using vector drawing tools by duplicating the drawing--not so different from the brain sketch above, made using the vector pen tool in Adobe Illustrator. I usually attach a time frame, asking the activity to be completed in the 5-10 minutes it takes me to take attendance or launch whatever websites or software I might need as reference in my lesson. In an html class, I've asked students to separate and organize index cards that have a variety of html tags on them, so that they can be prepared to set them up in the a tag sequence for practice.

Some other activities have ranged from finding three examples of justified text in magazines to interviewing one another in preparation to do resume work. But during the pandemic, I came up with a whole new slew of sponge activities that are more suited to remote learning. Listed on the left are my favorites and the ones that worked the best.

I always try to have a few ideas for sponge activities ready for class, once you get going, it's easy to come up with relevant, supportive ideas. Remember that when not directed, even if it's only a minute, many students turn to their phones, a game, a text or something that will pull them out of "learning mode." This is not to say it isn't valuable to do an activity that isn't connected to the lesson plan.

In a workshop led by Alan November (novemberlearning.com) at an ISTE conference, I learned that "priming your brain" with an activity before the class lesson begins actually helps the lesson :stick." November had his workshop session attendees watch a 3D animation of one of Picasso's paintings, and write down some questions about it, then share those with their table before he began his session. As we worked on this, the late arrivers arrived, and people who needed time to settle in or adjust their space, did so. He talked about using the same strategy in studies where some teachers used similar activities and others didn't, then the measure of what the students absorbed was collected.

It was compelling data for all kinds of sponge activities, those that help build an understanding for an upcoming lesson, and those that are less connected to the lesson, but are activities directed by the teacher. Try it out, and let me know how it works.
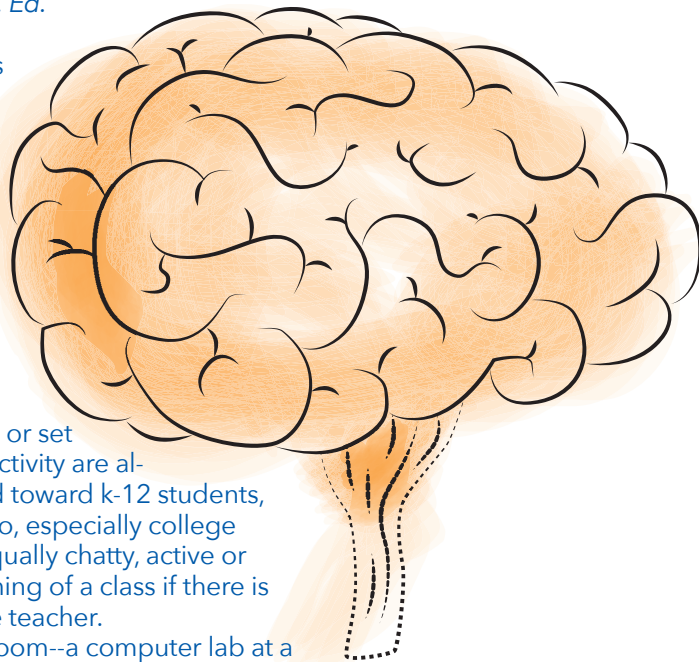
Maine DOE Newsroom

Maine DOE Hosts Students Statewide for Virtual MLTI Student Conference

Maine students and teachers came together yesterday for a day of learning, collaboration, and innovative thinking at the 18th Annual Maine Learning Through Technology (MLTI) Student Conference.
 Student Project: Maine Moose
Hosted by the Maine Department of Education (DOE) in partnership with CATES, the Conference was one of the largest synchronous student learning tech conference in the history of the world, with students from across Maine tuning in virtually to gain insights into the challenges facing Mainers during remote learning, how to develop innovations through peer collaboration to solve complex problems, and begin to develop the mindset of the social entrepreneur.

STUDENT PROJECT: YOU ARE IMPORTANT
In addition to participating in a number of innovative synchronous Block Sessions and asynchronous activities using Gathertown as a virtual conference platform to learn new skills and deepen knowledge, conference participants also had the opportunity to work in teams to develop a product or innovation that addresses their chosen challenge (Mental Health Support; Equity in Education; Peer Collaboration; New Ways to Learn).

"Get ready to be REALLY creative today! Be bold with your ideas and be guided by your wildest imagination," said Education Commissioner Pender Makin in her opening remarks. "Design and innovate as if the future depends upon in. Because in so many ways, it truly does."

"[The pandemic] has given you a front row seat that will inform your experience with this year's innovation challenge," added Maine CDC Director Dr. Nirav Shah in his remarks during the conference.

Students' groups "pitched" their product to conference participants, who voted for their favorite in each challenge category – 38 hours of innovative pitches were created on flipgrid!

"Your pitches demonstrate what amazing thinkers, problem solvers, designers, and engineers, you all are," said Maine DOE Director of Innovative Teaching and Learning Beth Lambert. "Your work today and in the innovation challenge will lead the way for our state and the entire nation when it comes to redesigning remote learning and the shape of our public education system!"
Pre-Conference students got the opportunity to learn about the different challenges related to remote learning during the pandemic and their implications for Maine DECD's 2030 Vision + Goals so they could research interesting reports, design frameworks, innovation protocols, videos, and other information related to their challenge.

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For more information about the conference and the Innovation Challenge visit the MLTI website: https://mlticonference.com/

> "The last year has proven just how important investing in the health of our students is to keeping our state strong," said Governor Mills. "I congratulate these deserving schools on being selected to receive a state of the art fitness center and I thank them for their commitment to the health and well-being of Maine children. These centers would not be possible without the generosity of the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils and Mr. Steinfeld and I thank them for their investment in the children of Maine."

Three Maine Schools Win New Fitness Center

Today, Governor Janet Mills and fitness icon Jake (Body by Jake) Steinfeld, Chairman of the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils (NFGFC), announced three Maine schools have won a state-of-the-art $100,000 DON'T QUIT! Fitness Center. The multi-million dollar DON'T QUIT! Campaign has selected Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School in Deer Isle, Gorham Middle School in Gorham and SeDoMoCha School in Dover-Foxcroft for new fitness centers in recognition of their commitment to the health of their students.

"We had an overwhelming response from elementary and middle schools throughout the great state of Maine. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of Governor Mills, who helped make this campaign a huge success by putting the health and well-being of children first," said Mr. Steinfeld. "Three schools really embodied our mission of building a nation of the fittest, healthiest kids in the world. I'm thrilled to announce that Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School, Gorham Middle School and SeDoMoCha School are all being awarded a brand new $100,000 DON'T QUIT! Fitness Center. Congratulations to all, we look forward to visiting these three schools during our ribbon cutting ceremonies this fall!"

Each fitness center is financed through public/private partnerships with companies like The Coca-Cola Company, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, Wheels Up and Nike, and does not rely on taxpayer dollars or state funding. Fitness in Motion provides all the fitness equipment, which is manufactured right here in the United States. The foundation's goal is to build a nation of the fittest, healthiest kids in the world.

These state-of-the-art DON'T QUIT! Fitness Centers will be unveiled during ribbon cutting ceremonies this fall. This year, the NFGFC program will have completed 40 states and will make its way into all 50 states in the coming years.

For more information about the National Foundation, visit www.natgovfit.org.

How Do I Make Sure My Young Tween Stays Safe Online?

Model safe and appropriate online communication. Demonstrate online safety with your own social media and also establish these best practices for keeping your tween safe online:

- Don't accept friend requests from strangers or open text, private messages, and emails from anyone you don't know.
- Don't share personal details of your private life, including full name, address, and school.
- Get parents' permission before sharing photos and images.
- Never take a conversation off the original platform or "go private."

Manage your childs' online activity. Discuss basic safety rules with your young tween, and explain that you're in charge until they demonstrate responsibility, maturity, and compliance with the rules. A few to start with:

- Children must ask permission before downloading anything, registering for anything, and logging into anything.
- Parents get copies of all accounts, online logins, and passwords.
- Parents can use settings (such as enabling private accounts, disabling private messaging on social media, and implementing downtime at night) to aid in keeping kids safe.

Monitor your child's communication and well-being. Staying engaged and curious about your child's online interactions and keeping your eyes and ears open for any potential red flags will help keep tweens safe online. Be sure to include whether your child's emotional health may be negatively impacted from their budding digital social life in your conversations. Here's how:

- Perform regular, unannounced, in-person spot checks of their phones and devices to make sure their chats, comments, and social feeds are appropriate.
- Make sure they're talking online only during times you've allowed (i.e. not when they're supposed to be asleep, in school, or doing homework or chores).
- Ask questions about their online friends and get a gauge of how they're feeling about online socialization. If it's not great, then help them pull back.
- Make sure they know that they can come to you or another trusted adult (such as a teacher or coach) –even if they made a mistake or something bad happened online.

by Carrie Rogers-Whitehead

Keeping your tween safe online seems to be becoming more difficult. Children's screen time has been nudging steadily upwards for years. And young tweens 7-10 years old are spending more time than ever communicating with others in games, social media, shared homework documents, texting, email, etc. Kids this age can be challenging because they are eager to be independent but still need lots of parent support.

In addition to keeping their online interactions safe, you also want to guide your child to make good choices and use smart judgment when you're not around to provide hands-on help. Digital Respons-Ability's 3M's of Digital Parenting—Model, Manage, and Monitor–will help you teach your kids to recognize potential online dangers, empower them to take appropriate action, and strengthen your relationship so that they know they can come to you when something goes wrong. Here's how to use our method to keep young tweens' online interactions safe:

Check out Digital Respons-Ability's Free Resources page for more tips and guidance. We also offer Digital Parenting Consultations – schedule one with me or Carrie to get started on your family's media plan with a little extra help.

Caroline Knorr is a journalist and expert on parenting in the Digital Age. Reprint permission by Digital Responsibility - https://respons-ability.net/

IMAGE BY MARC THELE FROM PIXABAY

BUSINESS PHOTO CREATED BY RAWPIXEL.COM - WWW.FREEPIK.COM

OverDrive

📖 eBooks
🎧 Audiobooks

Fcc To Launch $7.17 Billion Connectivity Fund Program

New Program Provides Funding to Schools and Libraries Critical to Closing the Homework Gap

WASHINGTON, May 10, 2021—The Federal Communications Commission today unanimously adopted final rules to implement the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. This $7.17 billion program, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will enable schools and libraries to purchase laptop and tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, and broadband connectivity for students, school staff, and library patrons in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Far too often, students, teachers, and library patrons lack the access they need to broadband and connected devices. This need has become even more apparent during these unprecedented times," said Jessica Rosenworcel, Acting Chairwoman of the FCC. "Between this Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, we are investing more than $10 billion in American students and households. These investments will help more Americans access online education, healthcare, and employment resources. They will help close the Homework Gap for students nationwide and give so many more households the ability to connect, communicate, and more fully participate in modern life."

The Report and Order adopted today establishes the rules and policies governing the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. The new rules define eligible equipment and services, service locations, eligible uses, and reasonable support amounts for funding provided. It designates the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as the program administrator with FCC oversight, and leverages the processes and structures used in the E-Rate program for the benefit of schools and libraries already familiar with the E-Rate program. It also adopts procedures to protect the limited funding from waste, fraud, and abuse.

Recent estimates suggest there may be as many as 17 million children struggling without the broadband access they need for remote learning. The Acting Chairwoman has long made closing the Homework Gap a priority during her tenure at the Commission.

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov
This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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. Login to your account (email associated w/ACTEM membership).

OVERDRIVE TRAINING RESOURCES
Learning how to use OverDrive is easy and can 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/

MLTI - Stories of Impact

Large Scale EdTech 1:1 Was Born in Maine - Let's Collect Our Stories

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative ("The MLTI" or "The Laptop Project")

It's time to collect stories from teachers, learners, librarians, technology staff, school leaders, and community members - everyone whose lives were impacted in the early days of the original MLTI; 2001-2009

Now that the Maine Learning Technology Initiative is being replaced by "MLTI v2.0," a couple of things are clear. First, the arrival of the original MLTI was unique, forever changing the education world in Maine. Secondly, it is time to act to be sure the folks who were involved from the early days of this amazing chapter in Maine's history can all be heard from.

Your stories are valuable, and we are ready to listen. Through support from ACTEM, we are able to meet for a conversation in person or virtually. Stories will be shared through The Maine Historical Society's "My Maine Stories."

Please Contact: Jim Moulton at jim@jimmoulton.org or (207.449.2177)

Stories about Classroom Change

Stories about Professional Growth

Stories about Community Impact

✳ SHARE YOUR STORY
Please share your memories of how the MLTI changed learning and teaching for you.

✳ "YOU OUGHT TO…"
Do you know someone whose story should be heard? Let us know and we'll connect.

✳ GOT ARTIFACTS?
Please share training materials, images, or other artifacts from the early days of the MLTI.

The "*MLTI -Stories of Impact*" Project

by Jim Moulton

Now that the Maine Learning Technology Initiative is being replaced by "MLTI v2.0," a couple of things are clear.

- First, the arrival of the original MLTI was unique, forever changing the education world in Maine (and around the world!). It was an education innovation of the first degree.
- Secondly, as folks move into retirement, and sadly some pass away, it is time to act. We have to be sure that the folks who were involved in the early days of this amazing chapter in Maine's history all have a chance to be heard from. With support from ACTEM and the Maine Historical Society (MHS), we are ready to get started; we want to collect video conversations to be shared through a dedicated section within MHS' MaineMemory site - "My Maine Stories". https://www.mainememory.net/mymainestories

In addition we will also be seeking to collect artifacts from those earliest days. Do you have handouts, CDs or DVDs, photographs, flyers, or any other content that played a role in the early days of MLTI? Please consider contributing them to the collection.

Through the original MLTI, Maine led the world in beginning to define the role of 1:1 access to individual devices. We were actively making history. Please join in, and be part of the effort to document that history. In doing so, we will all be helping to prepare Maine for innovations yet to come.

To participate or to ask questions, please contact: Jim Moulton at jim@jimmoulton.org or (207.449.2177)

https://www.mainememory.net/mymainestories

IMAGE BY FREESTOCKS-PHOTOS FROM PIXABAY

Maine Virtual Career Fair

The Maine Community Coordinators Collaborative (Maine C3) in partnership with ACTEM and Educate Maine offered a statewide virtual career fair from May 17-21, 2021 for all Maine students in grades 9-12. During the ME Virtual Career Fair, numerous thirty-minute sessions were offered on the secure, online conference platform Hopin. Each session was moderated by a school-based education professional and feature a live speaker followed by a question and answer period. Students attended online but not on video during the sessions and were able to ask questions via a monitored live chat. Sessions were run during the school day and into the evening. The Maine Virtual Career Fair offered over 180 sessions and had an attendance of 960 people over the three day event.

IMS Global Learning Consortium Announces Partnership with CatchOn to Bring Breakthrough App Data Privacy Vetting to School Districts

TRUSTED APPS PROGRAM HELPS DISTRICT LEADERS AND EDUCATORS MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ON DIGITAL LEARNING PRODUCTS

LAKE MARY, Florida, 25 May 2021 – IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS Global/IMS), the world-leading non-profit collaborative advancing edtech and learning impact, announced today that IMS Contributing Member CatchOn is the first preferred partner providing live TrustEd Apps data to school districts through the CatchOn platform.

The IMS TrustEd Apps program for student data privacy is a collaboratively developed process to proactively guide and support institutions and edtech suppliers in secure data use, collection, and sharing.

Through TrustEd Apps, IMS independently vets the policies of hundreds of edtech companies annually to determine their level of support for student data privacy. The rigorous app vetting process uses an easy-to-understand rubric designed and approved by IMS member organizations as an open standard. IMS provides support and training to help suppliers improve their data privacy policies and practices. Suppliers providing evidence that they meet the requirements earn IMS Global's Data Privacy certification. IMS also provides support and training to member school districts to become certified in the TrustEd Apps process.

Data Privacy certifications and vetting results appear in the IMS Product Directory at imscert.org.

As a TrustEd Apps Preferred Partner, CatchOn brings the IMS data privacy rubric results and regulatory compliance information directly to teachers and administrators through its platform.

Leveraging CatchOn's data analytics, school districts can see the apps and online tools their students and teachers use on their school devices, both inside and outside the school building. To help districts simplify their privacy vetting process and further safeguard student data, CatchOn's new privacy badging identification feature enables users to quickly see if an application currently holds the IMS TrustEd Apps Seal, including FERPA, COPPA, and GDPR compliance. This new privacy feature will also allow IMS member districts to access its IMS data privacy rubric results and regulatory compliance information.

"IMS developed TrustEd Apps to improve data privacy practices and transparency in educational technology," said Dr. Rob Abel, chief executive officer, IMS Global Learning Consortium. "CatchOn's TrustEd Apps preferred partnership means that school districts can better serve their teachers, parents, and students through easier access to student data privacy information backed by the ongoing collaboration among hundreds of school districts and suppliers in IMS."

"CatchOn is honored to be IMS Global Learning Consortium's first preferred partner providing TrustEd Apps data to school districts through our data analytics platform," said Monica Cougan, CatchOn's Manager of Strategic Relationships and Initiatives. "With the exponential growth in the number of devices and digital tools being used to facilitate and support learning, ensuring students' and staff members' data is protected is critical. Through this partnership, CatchOn and IMS Global are providing districts an additional layer of security to their current compliance practices while simultaneously streamlining their data privacy management efforts."

TCEA Online Self-paced Courses Available starting at $29

ACTEM has a new partnership with the Texas association (TCEA) to offer online self-paced courses to our members. This partnership provides over 30 course offerings to ACTEM members at very reasonable pricing. TCEA's streamlined, self-paced courses are grounded in years of expertise and educator input. With thoughtful, thorough, and proven ways to integrate useful tech in teaching, TCEA's online courses and certifications – and bundles – are a great value starting at $29, and also an investment in lasting professional learning.

Boost your skills with remote learning, technology tools, apps, and devices. Courses include topics like Google Tools, iPads, Chromebooks, Screencasting, Seesaw, Social-Emotional Learning and much more.

TCEA's micro-credentialing online courses and certifications are self-paced, engaging, and developed by experts to give you the most relevant skills that use ed tech to create effective learning.

When you register for a course, make sure to select ACTEM from the Referring Organization drop down menu. A portion of your registration fee will be shared with ACTEM to support our mission. The catalog of TCEA's course offerings is at https://tcea.org/learn/courses

Certificates with contact hours are available at the completion of any course. For more information visit http://www.actem.org/page-1752542.

PROJECT > LOGIN
Engage. Educate. Employ.

Computer Science Summer of Fun Professional Development

Project>Login will be offering a CS Summer of Fun Professional Development the week of August 9-13. Workshops will include topics including Microsoft TEALS, LoisLabs, CS Robotics for PK-6, Getting Started with CS First, and much more! Sign up below to be notified when registration goes live.

Sign up at the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCnLL_MUMqNZzi2RmB3knmoQh2RNxuUoAKtnD_jGOwlPEnyA/viewform

ABOUT IMS GLOBAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM

IMS Global Learning Consortium is a non-profit organization that advances technology to scale and improve educational participation and attainment affordably. IMS members are leading suppliers, higher education institutions, K-12 districts and schools, and government organizations that enable better teaching and learning by collaborating on interoperability and adoption initiatives. IMS sponsors the annual Learning Impact program to recognize the impact of innovative technology on educational access, affordability, and quality while developing the leadership and ideas to help shape the future of educational technology.
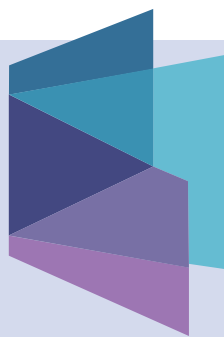
BIG DEAL MEDIA

Trusted Resources for

Educators

Big Deal Media saves educators hours of research and thousands of dollars while identifying top-quality resources and OERs for schools and classrooms. It is a content-rich collection of trusted print and electronic publications that offer the information and tools K-12 educators need-all vetted through the prism of the curriculum. It consistently delivers wish lists of resources and funding opportunities, and has done so since 1995.

Big Deal Media publications provide timely, relevant, and reliable resources in a rapidly changing educational environment, created with insight and attention to detail by seasoned

CHECK IT OUT
(https://www.bigdealbook.com)
and sign up for their K-12 Technology newsletter.

Three State Consortia Brings Lower Seesaw Pricing for All

ACTEM recently entered into a partnership with Vita-Learn in Vermont and NEISTE in NH to form a purchasing consortia for Seesaw licenses. This partnership allowed ACTEM schools to purchase at volume tiers based on the aggregated total purchase of all Maine, NH and VT schools! At press time the total number of licenses ordered exceeded 40,000 for the three states (over 21,000 of these license orders were from Maine schools). Because of this volume, pricing for Seesaw licensing was reduced to $4.15 per student as compared to the regular $5.50/student standard Seesaw price.

A special thank you goes to Jeff Mao, the Vita-Learns Executive Director, for instituting the 3-state consortia pricing and negotiating with Seesaw!

The Maine Summer Technology Institute

is virtual this year! Join the #edtech207 community August 3-5 for diverse workshops, hands-on activities, and so much more. Register by June 15 and save $70 on your registration. Find more information here: https://umaine.edu/edtech207/2021-summer-technology-institute

2021 Virtual Summer Technology Institute

3 graduate credits, 2.5 CEUs or 25 contact hours

actem Purchasing Consortium *for Maine Schools*

Maine Schools receive discounted educational pricing on the products and services listed here for ACTEM institutional members.
Actem Purchasing Consortium offers significant price savings on popular software titles from Adobe, Microsoft, Sophos and many other vendors.
ACTEM works to partner with vendors that can offer better pricing for Maine schools and also offer something in return to assist with our mission.

ACTEM Offerings
Contact the ACTEM office for these offerings.

Microsoft | ACTEM has agreements with Microsoft for Select Plus (perpetual) and Microsoft EES - Enrollment for Educational Solutions (subscription) licensing.
  Select Plus Districts register under ACTEM's agreement then can purchase software at educational volume license pricing.
  Enrollment for Educational Solutions (EES) is subscription licensing based on a people count (FTE's) in a school or district ACTEM offers pricing at the 3,000 FTE level for all schools.

Adobe | ACTEM offers Maine Schools & staff subscription licensing for Adobe Creative Cloud. This licensing through Adobe's Value Incentive Plan (VIP) offers either **single app, all apps and site licensing options**. All ACTEM Creative Cloud subscriptions have an annual renewal date of Aug. 9th each year. Licensing purchased partway through the renewal period will be pro-rated in cost and will be up for renewal in August at the annual pricing.

Sophos | Security software and hardware, providing endpoint, encryption, email, web, mobile and network security as well as Unified Threat Management products.

Filemaker | FileMaker Pro is an easy-to-use cross-platform relational database software application.

Deep Freeze | Software that preserves your computer configuration. Any changes – either malicious or unintentional – are reversed on reboot.

Kaspersky | Antivirus & Internet security software offers premium protection against viruses, malware, spam & other threats for your home or business.

LanSchool | Classroom management software that is used by schools to monitor students' activity in a digital classroom.

Parallels | Software for Mac that allows you to run both Windows and MacOS applications side-by-side without rebooting.

Rosetta Stone | An online subscription platform to learn a foreign language. ACTEM consolidates a group purchase to allow better pricing for all Maine schools.

Kajeet | Purchase via ACTEM and receive 5% off the Kajeet Education Broadband solution (includes hardware, wireless services, filters and management portal).

MacBook Batteries & Power Adapters | Education pricing on aftermarket batteries & power adapters for MLTI Macbooks.

For more information or quotes, contact:
ACTEM, Executive Director, PO Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038
EMAIL: director@actem.org | PHONE: 207-222-4353
TOLL FREE: 866-99-ACTEM | FAX: 207-222-2057

Vendor Partner Offerings
These vendors have a partnership with ACTEM and offer their products or services at discounts for Maine Schools. Please contact vendors directly when ordering.

BrainPOP | ACTEM Member Schools & Districts can subscribe to BrainPOP and Save Up to 20%.

CDW-G | CDWG offers discount pricing & FREE shipping on orders to ACTEM Institutional members.

ClassLink | ClassLink provides single sign-on to web and Windows applications, and instant access to files at school and in the cloud. ClassLink is an ACTEM partner and offers a discount for Maine districts.

Connection | Connection is partnered with ACTEM to extend discounted pricing on technology products. Connection has a special purchasing portal for ACTEM institutional members. **Portal Link:** www.govconnection.com/actem

Edspire eHall Pass | e-hallpass is a unique digital hall pass management tool for schools, designed to enhance control, security and oversight through electronic hall passes. 10% Discount for ACTEM Members.

Edspire Flextime Manager | FlexTime Manager allows teachers to create, and students to register for, school activity periods. 10% Discount for ACTEM Members.

Eduporium | Our partnership with Eduporium offers members extra discounts on all their products. An online portal provides a link to the many educational tools, customize tech bundles and activities for students. **Portal Link:** https://www.eduporium.com/actem

Explore Learning | All Maine Schools receive a 10% discount on all Gizmos, Reflex and Science4Us orders. Contact Brandon Nash at 866-882-4141 x357 or brandon.nash@explorelearning.com

Impero | Impero is a cross-platform software solution, combining a suite of features into one tool for a school's network management, classroom management and online safety needs.

Lightspeed Technologies | Dstricts with ACTEM Institutional Membership are eligible for discounts of 22% off Lightspeed brand classroom audio technology.

Neverware | With Cloudready, you can get the speed, simplicity, and security of Chromebooks on nearly any PC or Mac, up to 13 years old. Contact Sean Terry at sterry@neverware.com or 646-880-3597 to get started.

Newsela | ACTEM Member Schools & Districts can subscribe to Newsela and Save between 5-25% on Newsela PRO, Powerwords, and Collections!

Vocabulary Spelling City | A game-based website and app that can supplement your core literacy curriculum, saves time streamlining data and improves student performance.

Wyebot | Wyebot is the leader in WiFi automation. Its vendor agnostic Wireless Intelligence Platform provides visibility and analyzes the WiFi network using the patented AI-based engine and market-leading multi-radio sensor, automatically providing problem and solution identification resulting in up to 90% reduction in mean-time to problem resolution.

Check the ACTEM website for more information:
http://www.actem.org/PURCHASING

actem
Association of Computer
Technology Educators of *Maine*
www.actem.org

UPCOMING EVENTS *Professional Development*

June 26-30, 2021-ISTELive 21 Virtual Conference

**August 9-13, 2021** Project>Login Summer of Fun

October 14-15, 2021 ACTEM 2021 Augusta Civic Center

October 16, 2021 CSTA New England Regional Conference, Virtual

November 29-December 1, 2021 Christa McAuliffe Transforming, Teaching, & Technology Conference (CMTC) Hybrid (both onsite and virtual options) at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester, NH

January, 2022 MassCue Datapalooza

May 3, 2022 ACTEM Spring Leadership Conference
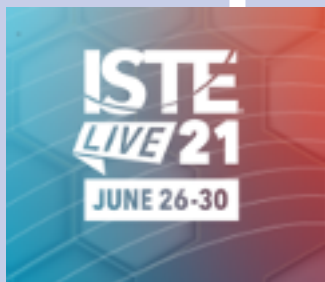
Maine

Educators
Become an Apple Teacher

Google Teacher Certifications Become a Google Certified Educator

Maine Become an Apple Teacher

Tech Sherpas
meet every Tuesday at 3:00 pm.

#EdChatME Mondays 8:30-9:30pm

MLTI Professional Development
Apple Solutions: http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml

HP Solution: http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml

ACTEM OverDrive PD Library *Free with your ACTEM membership!*

OverDrive

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