

Pilot Name: Oceanside High's Outdoor Education Initiative

School/District Name: Oceanside High School/RSU 13

Contact: Jessica Falconer

Overview:

This initiative begins with one or more cohorts of eight to ten high school students, from general education, special education, and alternative education, with specific focus on students who are at risk of dropping out. With direct involvement from multiple educators and other staff, this cohort will meet weekly, working on both social emotional learning and supplementing their academic requirements and standards with hands-on outdoor training and projects, including monthly or twice monthly field trips. These will include: trail work for the local watershed program, wilderness first aid training and Junior Maine Guide training, and hiking mountains and other wilderness excursions in all kinds of weather.

The cohort model additionally has the goal of rebuilding trust between educators and students, which is why the project aims to involve multiple teachers and administrators from all departments. And we will spread the program in a mentorship capacity to our other schools and age groups as we watch it succeed and expand at OHS during this school year. Each year's cohort(s) conclude with a one-week summer intensive, that will be the ultimate leadership accomplishment; our first year's summer intensive will conclude at the top of Mt. Katahdin.

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