

Pilot Name: Kennebunk High School Alternative Education

School/District Name: Kennebunk High School, RSU 21

Contact: Edward Sharood & Jacqui Holmes- Alternative Education Teachers Molly Dilworth- Assistant Principal

Overview:

Currently, the Alternative Education Program at Kennebunk High School aims to provide an experiential, community-based learning environment for students who are not finding success in the mainstream environment. The Alt. Ed. environment supports students as they grapple with and discover the importance of active, engaged citizenship through a curriculum rooted in real world application and aligned to the Kennebunk High School academic standards. Qualitative and quantitative data show that this model of education- one that connects students to their communities, to the outdoors, and to the idea of becoming an active participant in their own educational journey- works.

Our proposed innovation will scale up the current Alternative Education program to:

1. Meet the needs of more students.
2. Systemically change the way teaching and learning is happening in our district.
3. Serve as a model for schools and districts state and nation-wide.

With the initial support of RREV funding and the eventual support of our district and community, students in this program will have the opportunity to engage in large scale community service projects, a targeted wellness curriculum, one on one social work support, project- based humanities and STEM classes, and individualized career planning workshops, internships, and job shadows. The innovation will use space off campus to support these opportunities and will provide flexible transportation so that students who attend vocational programs, have required service time with case managers, or who elect to take a mainstream class will have the opportunity to do so in addition to being part of the Alternative Education program.

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The Maine Department of Education's Rethinking Remote Education Ventures (RREV) project is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Education Stabilization Fund awarded through the Rethink K-12 Education Models (REM) grant. Maine was awarded \$ 16,958,613.

The contents of this letter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.