

Professional Development Series for Maine Middle Level Leadership Teams

MAMLE is pleased to offer a series of daylong workshops designed specifically to meet the needs of your school's leadership team. We will coach and support your team in its efforts to build its capacity for collaborative planning and decision-making so that your Leadership Team may work even more effectively with your entire staff to address your school's mission and vision.

We suggest your team have at least four members in attendance to ensure an effective working group. There should be representation from administration and teacher-leaders at each workshop. Although preferable, it is not necessary that all members of your leadership team attend each workshop in the series. We realize resources are limited in all schools. MAMLE facilitators will be pleased to discuss possible configurations with you.

MAMLE board members and consultants Jill Spencer and Chris Toy will facilitate this series of four workshop sessions. Jill and Chris bring over 60 years of combined middle level teaching, leading, and consulting in Maine and beyond. Their workshops are interactive and relevant to the needs and interests of middle level teams and characterized by extensive modeling of effective practices that work with both adults and young adolescents. Chris and Jill will encourage you to be active, open, and reflective, and they will provide time for your team to plan and problem solve in a supportive setting.

Based on input from participating teams, topics may include: involving the entire staff in school improvement issues; developing and maintaining effective teams; integrating literacy skills across the curriculum; improving the school culture for teachers, parents and students; increasing student learning and achievement; and transition to and from middle grades.

Jill and Chris are also certified to provide access to NMSA's *School Improvement Toolkit* and NASSP's *Breaking Ranks In The Middle* programming.

The series of four workshops are scheduled with one series in the north at United Technologies in Bangor and another in the south at the Region 10 Technical School in Brunswick beginning in January. Each workshop session in the series has three components: Improving How Leadership Teams Can Work Together, Implementing Effective Middle Level Practices, and Planning Time For Leadership Teams.

The first session in January will set the stage for the Leadership Team Series and will focus on Middle Level Leadership, Vision, and Goal Setting as a way to identify high priority topics for participants. Schools interested in attending the Leadership Series must send representatives to the first session to join the cohort for the series. Please see the enclosed insert or check mamalonline.org for more information.

5 Great Reasons to Attend This Series as a Leadership Team

- Leave each session with strategies to energize professional development in your school and instructional practices in the classrooms.
- Build a rapport within the Leadership Team that enables you to work in a dynamic and powerful way.
- Refine the ability of the Leadership Team to discuss and problem solve thorny issues that keep your school from moving forward as quickly as you desire.
- Improve each member of the group's facilitation skills so that leading school improvement efforts is a shared responsibility.
- Develop a viable plan of action that will be implemented in an effective manner as the Leadership Team helps the entire school achieve its goals.