

June 13, 2005

MLTI/eMINTS – Enhanced Model for Integrating Technology in Education
Trainer/Mentor Positions Open in Four Regions

The Maine Department of Education is awarding eight regional training grants to support the integration of technology in education to improve student learning. The grants are funded by the *No Child Left behind Act Title IID* Enhancing Education Through Technology initiative. Maine receives \$3.3 million under this title, \$1.5 million of which supports this initiative. The grants will support the hiring of regional trainer/mentors who will work directly with individual teacher-leaders in thirty-eight school districts.

Maine is incorporating a proven training model, known as eMINTS, to support the expansion of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) from middle schools into elementary and high schools. eMINTS is an acronym that stands for enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies, the state where the program was originally developed. The eMINTS instructional model is a research-based teaching strategy grounded in constructivist theory. The program has been adopted by education departments in Utah and Minnesota as well.

The MLTI/eMINTS training model supports educators in integrating technology and best teaching practices. Teachers and students create a learning community where they explore and create knowledge together using a variety of resources. Teachers facilitate student learning through the use of essential questions that stimulate thinking; build curiosity, create connections, and generate long lasting knowledge through issues that matter to students.

The MLTI/eMINTS professional development programs provide support for educators who are committed to using technology to optimize their local curriculum through inquiry-based teaching practices powered by technology. Training is provided by regional trainer/mentors in the teacher's classroom focused on student work aligned with state standards. MLTI/eMINTS professional development programs also assist other educators in understanding and implementing the MLTI/eMINTS instructional model in their grade level and subject-specific settings. Trainer/mentor positions remain open in the following regions: Aroostook (1), Downeast (3) Penobscot (4) and Kennebec (8). A job description accompanies this note. Contact the superintendent in the region for additional job information.

In a school that is fully implementing the MLTI/eMINTS instructional model, observers will see students working collaboratively to solve real-world problems through teamwork and hands-on activities. Teachers guide and coach students in the creation of unique products that show deep student understanding of complex concepts. The model requires conscious alignment of curriculum, professional development initiatives, technology acquisitions, and school vision. Collaborative leadership practices and school structures that support the school's professional learning community in the implementation of the MLTI/eMINTS instructional model are required for success.

Critical elements of the MLTI/eMINTS instructional model include:

- A carefully selected suite of hardware and software
- Constructivist, inquiry-based teaching practices
- Sustained, intensive professional development and classroom visits
- Implementation by school-based teams
- Rigorous external formative and summative evaluation

The following local educational agencies are hosting the trainer/mentors:

MLTI/eMINTS Regional Contacts

Region 1

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eMINTS contact Anne Ireland

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Region 2

MSAD 38

Superintendent John Backus

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Region 3

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Region 4

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