

MAINE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION



Maine School Management Association October 25, 2024

Presented by: The Maine DOE's Commissioner's Office and
the Office of Special Services & Inclusive Education



Why?

Transition of child find and FAPE responsibilities to SAUs –

Why? Why now?

Structure of existing system has been problematic:

- CDS responsible, but doesn't operate or oversee preschool programming
- Requires significantly more admin and overhead costs, which drive up cost of serving the children
- Separate early childhood programs for children with disabilities, which contributes to high numbers of placements in special purpose private preschools and more restrictive placements

Why? OSEP Monitoring Visit

Maine just completed OSEP Differentiated Monitoring & Support (DMS) 2.0

- OSEP reviewed Maine DOE's responsibility to ensure that the state and its contractors meet the requirements of IDEA.
- OSEP reviewed Maine DOE's programs that support improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities, and early intervention results and functional outcomes for all infants and toddlers with disabilities.
- OSEP reviewed Maine DOE's ability to meet the program requirements under Parts B and C of IDEA, with a particular emphasis on those requirements that are most closely related to improving early intervention results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and early childhood special education.
- In addition to the core general supervision monitoring components, OSEP focused on select topics or additional areas, based on the results of OSEP's review of publicly available and state provided information, protocol analysis and local and stakeholder interviews.



**EARLY
INTERVENTION
FOR ME**
A Brighter Start, Birth to Three

Legislation

LD 345: *An Act to Transition the Responsibility for Child Find Activities and for Ensuring a Free, Appropriate Public Education for Eligible Children from the Child Development Services to School Administrative Units*

LD 2214: *An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025*

LD 2214 became Public Law 2023, Chapter 643, Part W





Elements of the law:

Transition of child find and FAPE responsibilities to SAUs

- Responsibility for child find and free, appropriate public education (FAPE) for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old pre-K students with IEPs will transition to school administrative units (SAU) by July 1, 2028.
- SAUs may provide services directly or may contract with public or private providers to support services; the SAUs may also access their CDS Regional Site or other regional supports to provide services.
- Maine DOE will review each SAU's readiness plan before the Commissioner of Education approves the SAU to assume the child find and FAPE responsibilities.



Elements of the law

Funding

- "The funding may not be appropriated or allocated through general purpose aid for local schools and must be provided at 100% state share."
- The Maine DOE will implement a funding formula to fully fund SAUs for the assumption of responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring FAPE for eligible children.
- Funding also includes high-cost in- and out-of-district costs, similar to what is in place for K-12 students.
- Additional grant funding is available to SAUs assuming these responsibilities fall, 2024 (ESSER ARP funding)
- \$4 million – Revolving Renovation Fund
- Continuing Pathways certification initiative (282B)

Elements of the law:

CDS

- Over the next 4 years, transition of CDS regional sites to regional support and service hubs aligned with the superintendent regions.
- The CDS System will have minimum service offerings and guiding principles for the regional support and service hubs
- Each CDS regional hub may appoint a parental advisory committee to seek input and feedback on the implementation of child find activities and provision of FAPE.
- The CDS System is responsible for due process and for paying 100% of the costs for compensatory services for children who have been underserved through the Child Development Services System.





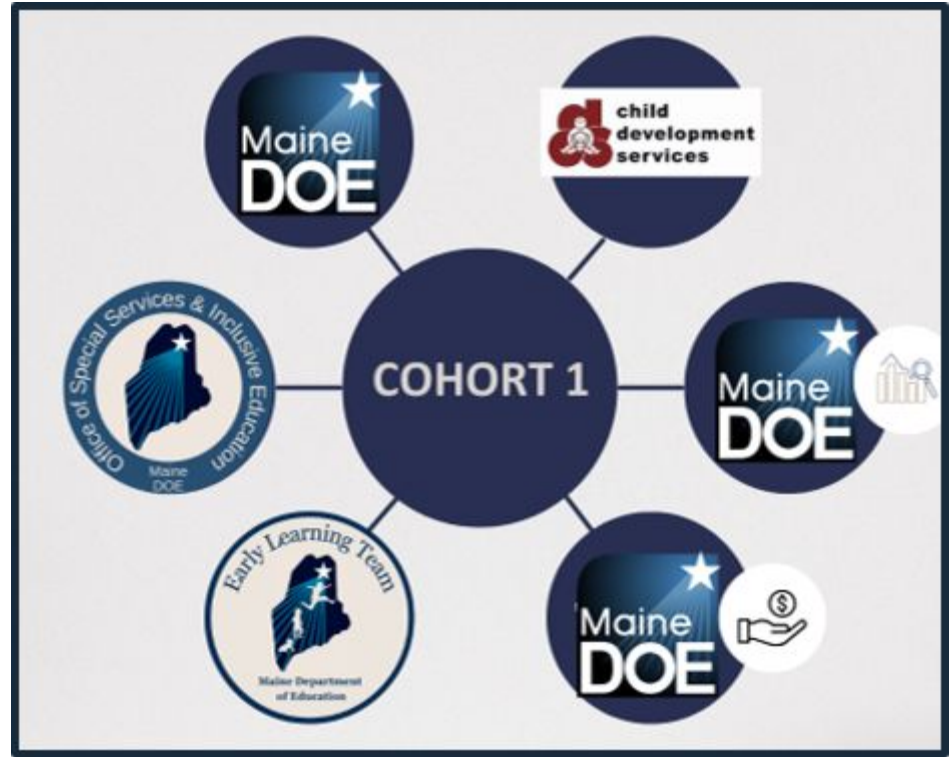
Elements of the law:

Other Provisions

- The Maine DOE will establish the early childhood special education pathway pilot project to support 282B certification of educators and CDS staff.
- The Maine DOE will develop and disseminate information on Public Employees Retirement System.
- Revolving Renovation Fund (Part CCCC)
- Maine DOE will establish a centralized MaineCare billing system for Part B

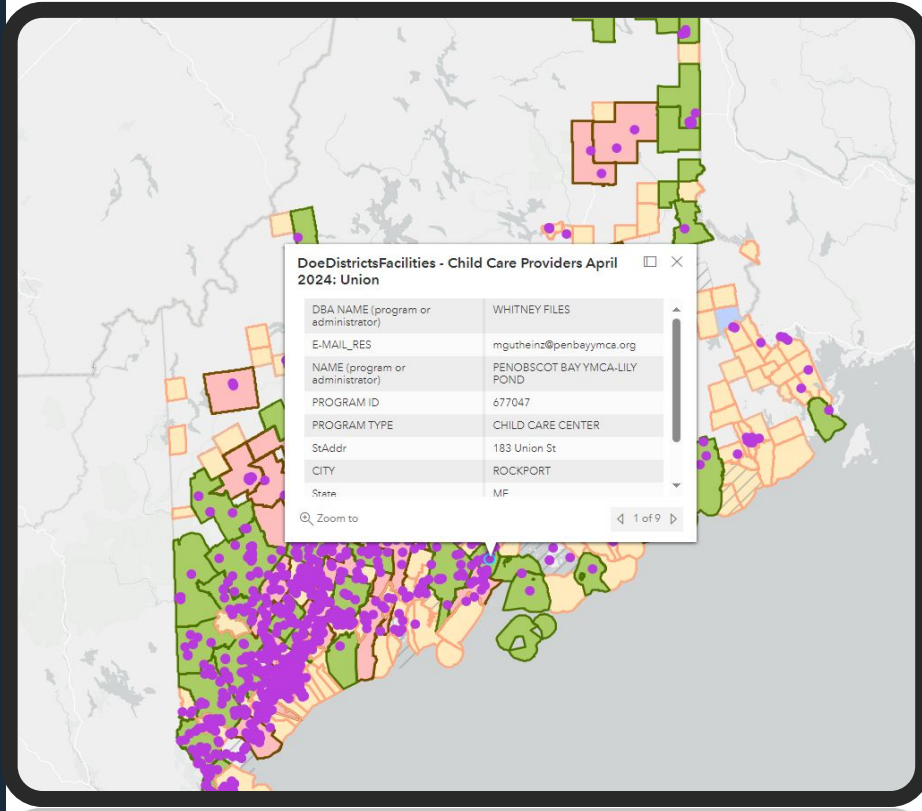
Implementation Teams

- Commissioner's Office
- Data
- Fiscal
- OSSIE
- CDS Team members
- Early Learning
- Certification (HEES)
- School Facilities



Cross-Agency & Partnership Work

- Regular meetings with members of the Preschool Development Grant
 - Identifying licensed providers
- Cross Agency Team focused on supporting the mixed delivery system
- Continued collaboration with Office of MaineCare Services (OMS)





Initial Work

- Meetings with SAU representatives
 - General information sessions
 - Meetings with individual SAUs
- Implementation teams at Maine DOE
 - SAU Maine DOE and CDS
 - Finance
 - Data
 - Early Learning
 - Preschool Development Grant
 - Cross agency and stakeholder contacts
- Working with national experts
 - Technical Assistance Centers



Initial Work

- Work with SAUs
 - Self-Assessment/ Readiness plans
 - Designated Preschool Team Lead
 - Weekly meetings and Technical Assistance
- Finance
 - Establishing mechanism for administering the funding to the participating SAUs
 - Develop mechanism to track spending
- Data
 - Review of existing data systems and their compatibility with those of SAUs

Cohort 1



Preschool Cohort I

CDS Aroostook	CDS Downeast	CDS Midcoast	CDS Opportunities	CDS Two Rivers	CDS York
RSU 29	Calais	AOS 98 Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor	Andover Schools	MSAD 4 RSU 80	Kittery School Department
	School Union #103 Jonesport, Beals	AOS 93 Great Salt Bay		RSU 68	York
		RSU 13		SAD 12	RSU 35
		St. George		Veazie School Department	
				RSU 19	





Implementation Work

- Work with SAUs
 - Weekly meetings and Technical Assistance
 - Transition resources, including communications documents
 - Monthly meetings with each SAU to review MOUs
 - National Part B 619 expert
- Finance
 - Finalize funding formula and timeline
 - Establishing mechanism for administering the funding formula.
- Data
 - Systems compatibility efforts
- CDS
 - Initiating the work to create parental advisory groups



Fiscal Information

- Per pupil allocation
 - Child Find
 - Student with an IEP
- Not a reimbursement model
- July 1st you will receive your first allocation
- Oct 1 child count
 - Funding can go up or down.
 - This is the only qtr. that funding would go down.
- Fully funded
 - Allocation can be reviewed and adjusted

CDS Service and Support Hubs

- CDS Sites continue to provide services to children in their regions.
- MOUs are developed with each Cohort 1 SAU.
 - Detail Service and Supports
 - Monthly meeting
 - Individualized for each SAU
- Service and Support Hub
 - Preschool Programming
 - Related Services
 - Itinerant 282B services
 - Case Management
 - Professional Development



Cohort 2 Resources

Funding available:

- **SRRF: Applications due Oct 31, 2024**
- **RFA for Preschool Expansion**
 - **Q & A Guide**
 - **Proposals due Oct 31, 2024**
 - [Grant Funding Opportunities | Division of Procurement Services](#)
- **Pathways to 282B certification**





Cohort 2 Information

Informational session on November 7

**Early Childhood Special Education –
Cohort 1: Early Childhood Special
Education - Cohort 1 | Department of
Education**

**Childcare Choices in ME: Child
Care Choices for Maine**



Questions?



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