

*STATE BOARD  
EXAMINATION  
CONSORTIUM*

MAINE MEETING

January 2010

# Board Exam Systems

A sound core program  
of courses defining  
what it means to be  
an educated person

Thoughtfully  
constructed course  
designs captured  
in a syllabus

High quality exams  
derived from the  
curriculum using  
multiple assessment  
methods

Quality teacher  
training  
matched to  
the course syllabi

# Why Board Exams?

- Best global research shows that board exam systems key to success of world's best performing systems for ALL students
- Why? Because they provide the support students must have to succeed
- Crucially important for low-performing schools and students

# Standards+Test Systems vs Curriculum-Driven Systems

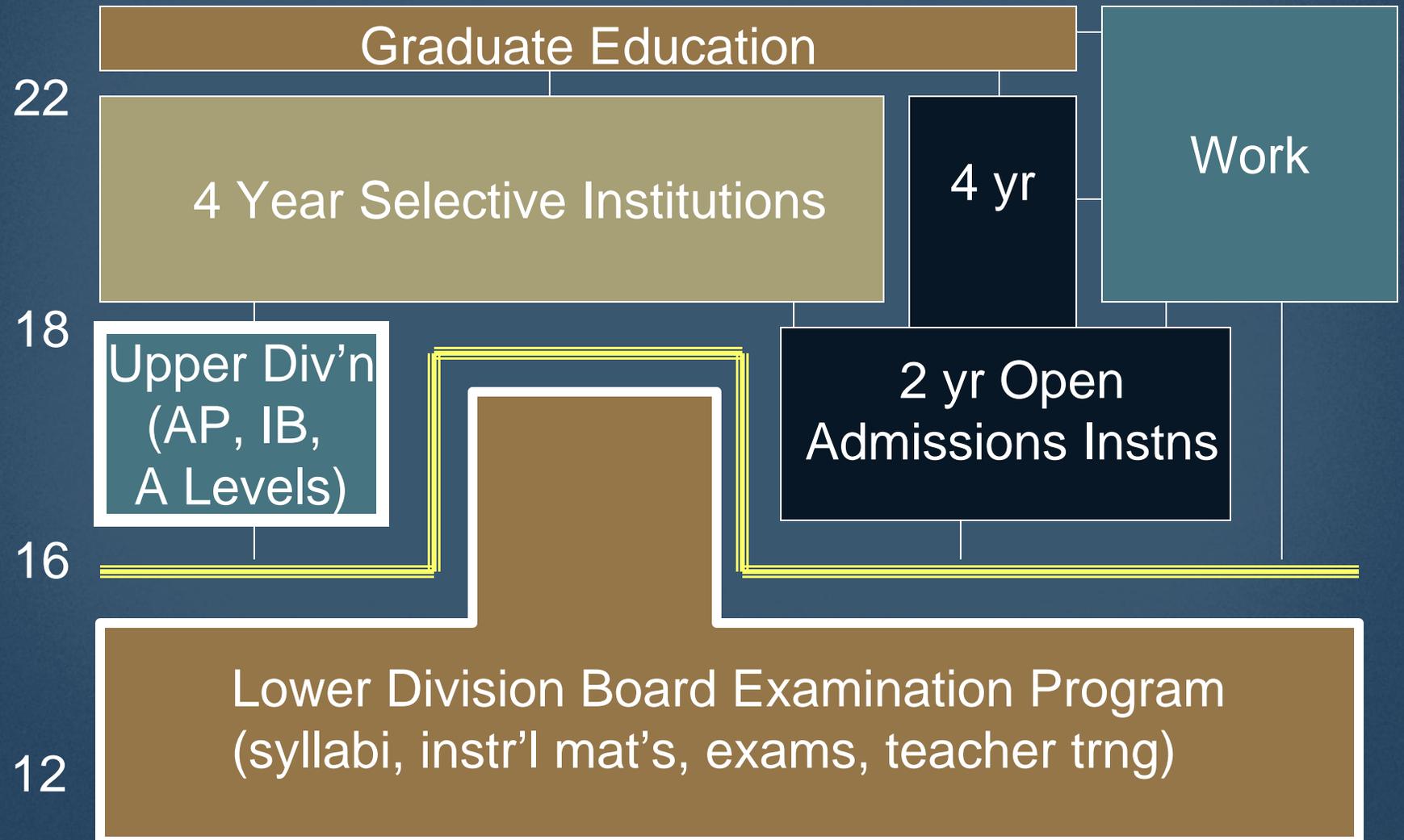
## S+T Systems

- Assumes standards and tests alone will drive performance up
- No direct link to classroom practice
- Leaves the disadvantaged behind, with weak curriculum, weak teaching

## CD Systems

- Assumes that aligned, powerful instructional system is needed to drive high student performance
- Direct link to classroom practice
- Closes the gap between the advantaged and the disadvantaged

# The System: A Closeup



# Board Exams: The Best

ACT QualityCore

Cambridge International Exams

College Board APs

Edexcel

International  
Baccalaureate

# Lower Division Ready Now

- ACT QualityCore
- Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Exams
- Edexcel IGCSE Exams

# Lower Division: A Closer Look

- Not elite programs
- But designed to prepare students for elite programs
- Can get students college-ready by 16
- Many bright students are dropping out because they are bored
- But give less-prepared students until 18
- Help targeted to students weak points in grades 11 and 12 can make all the difference

# Upper Division Ready Now

- ACT QualityCore
- Cambridge AICE Exams
- College Board Advanced Placement
- Edexcel A-level version
- International Baccalaureate

# Board Exams: Next generation

- Additional vendors of lower division systems:
  - IB
  - College Board
- Cross-cutting skills
- “Majors”
- Career-oriented programs
- Distinct instructional style options
- Cutting edge assessment techniques
- Digital delivery systems

# Getting Started

- Identify 10 to 20 demonstration high schools
  - Reasonably representative of state student population
- Consider regional board exam high schools for rural areas
- Consider partnerships among secondary school feeder systems, open admissions colleges
- State needs to:
  - Collaborate on data for standard setting
  - Get higher ed involved
  - Grant high school diploma to those who meet the lower division board exam standards
  - Develop a plan for scaling up

# Costs

- Exams: \$50/student/5 courses
- Teacher Training: \$850/teacher
- Materials: \$35/student/5 courses

# Number of Students Participating

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr4
Gr 9	39	46	52	59
Gr 10	-0-	39	46	52
Gr 11	40	46	50	56
Gr 12	-0-	40	46	47

# Total Cost Per School

Year 1                      \$42,033

Year 2                      \$89,654

Year 3                      \$99,829

Year 4                      \$99,807

30% of students year 1; 5% growth each year after

# On the Other Side of the Ledger

- Race to the Top Assessment Program
- i3 Competition
- Move-on-when-ready savings (state policy)

