



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON

COMMISSIONER

Dear Middle Grades Educators:

I am pleased to announce the completion of Maine's middle level education report *Bright Futures*. The charge of Maine's Commission on Middle Level Education was to report on the current state of middle level education and to make recommendations to the Maine Department of Education about needed improvements in educating Maine's 10- to 15-year-olds. The Commission discussed with experts and policy makers, critical issues facing young adolescents, and they studied the research and best practices regarding high achieving middle schools.

Bright Futures is a result of the Commission's work and makes recommendations that middle grades schools should consider as they strive to deliver highly effective programming for their 10- to 15-year olds. The report supports high expectations for each student using Maine's *Learning Results* as a basis for curriculum, instruction and assessment. The report is organized around twelve core practices reflecting 21st century literacies, skills and knowledge insuring Maine students are prepared to be contributing members of society in the 21st century.

I trust you will use the report to guide your work at the classroom, team, school and district level. The report is available online at <http://www.maine.gov/education/ml/>. It is posted in its entirety as well as in sections to make information more readily available. You will also find web links to pages containing resources, professional development opportunities and a growing number of materials to assist you.

Also available are additional copies of the accompanying 18" x 24" poster that you can obtain at no cost by contacting Argy Nestor, argy.nestor@maine.gov. Argy serves as the Department's point of contact for middle level education.

Thank you for the work that you do to insure a quality education for Maine's young adolescents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan A. Gendron".

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education
Maine Department of Education