

**Bright Futures “Meeting Plan” # 5**  
<http://www.maine.gov/education/ml/>

*Bright Futures: A Framework of Twelve Core Practices for Maine Middle Grades Schools Developing Full Academic, Personal and Social Potential for Maine Young Adolescents*, the Report of the Commission on Middle Level Education, has recently been published by the Maine Department of Education. In 2010 there will be a series of free webcasts focusing on this document. Information about the webcasts can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/education/ml/>. Each webcast will explore several of the 12 Core Practices and have an accompanying “meeting plan” that school leaders can use or adapt to facilitate faculty meetings, conversations, or study groups looking at the Core Practices.

**Meeting Plan # 5: Core Practice 7**

**7. Faculty, administration, and students collaboratively build a safe and caring climate that nurtures the individual while creating a sense of community where everyone is valued.**

**Time needed:** approximately one hour

**Materials & Room Set-up**

- Chart paper for seven groups, markers and stickies
- A copy of the seven Essential Elements for each participant
- The seven Essential Elements cut into strips so that each group receives one element. (optional— Essential Element assignments can just be made from the handout.)
- A T-Chart model on chart paper
- A piece of colored (light) paper for everyone
- The room should be set up so that there are seven groupings.

1. Divide the group into seven groups (one for each of the Essential Elements of Core Practice 7).
2. Each group creates a T-Chart for one of the Elements. On the LEFT side of the chart will be the heading, *Evidence that this element reflects our school’s culture*. On the RIGHT side of the chart will be, *Evidence that this element is missing from our school’s culture*.
3. After 10 minutes the charts should be posted. Groups then participate in a carousel activity while adding to and annotating each of the T-Charts. A carousel activity is when small groups rotate through the different charts, reading them and adding comments. Use the stickies for the comments. The facilitator manages the time and the rotation of the groups.
4. When everyone is done, each group returns to their own chart. Each group takes 5 minutes to review other people’s comments and revise their chart in preparation for sharing with the whole group.
5. Share charts
6. Summarization activity – Everyone writes down two stars (things you’re proud of

relative to the Essential Elements) and one wish (one thing that you wish could change or happen relative to the Essential Elements). Have each person write his/her 2 stars and a wish on a piece of colored paper. These comments can then be posted in the teachers' room so that everyone can see the results. It would also make sense to compile these results so it is easy to see what the staff thinks.

7. The Leadership team now has useful information for planning next steps!

8. This entire activity would be interesting to do with students also and then look for similarities and differences between staff and students. Might be interesting to do with parent too.

### **Essential Elements of Core Practice # 7**

1. Each member of the school community is valued and treated with respect, and positive relationships are recognized as a key factor in student learning.
2. All students and families are welcomed into the school community in an equitable fashion and given full access to school offerings and resources.
3. Middle level educators engage the community and students to establish agreed upon values that will serve as the foundation for the school.
4. Each middle level student has at least one adult who knows him/her well and advocates for him/her.
5. Students are directly involved in developing policies regarding discipline and standards of behavior in each school.
6. Curriculum and programs address the myriad of physical and emotional wellness issues facing the young adolescent.
7. Multi-faceted transition plans (elementary to middle level and middle level to high school) are collaboratively planned and implemented.

### **T-Chart**

*Evidence that this element reflects our school's culture*

*Evidence that this element is missing from our school's culture*

<i>Evidence that this element reflects our school's culture</i>	<i>Evidence that this element is missing from our school's culture</i>