



RREV
Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures
Innovative Education 

Outdoor Learning Accelerator Program

What is it?

Rethinking, Responsive, Education, Ventures (RREV) is putting Maine educators on the forefront of cutting-edge innovation! The Maine Dept of Education has been awarded \$16.9 million to support and develop projects which will strengthen a culture of innovation in PK-12 education making Maine educators the nation's leaders when it comes to innovation in and outside of our classrooms.

Maine is considered a national leader in outdoor and environmental learning with vibrant community-based organizations working with schools across the state to support the shift to experiential place-based education that is taking place outside of the four classroom walls. RREV has identified outdoor and environmental learning as one of the key innovation focus areas.

This new Outdoor Learning Accelerator award program is an effort to mobilize funding and resources from RREV to create more opportunities for schools in Maine to innovate around outdoor and environmental learning in the 2022-23 school year and share their ideas and learning with other schools through RREV's online learning platform, EnGiNE.

We are excited to connect with you about your innovative outdoor and environmental learning projects in your schools or districts in this innovation accelerator program!

Who can apply?

- The goal of this project is to fund innovative pilot projects across the state of Maine. This effort emphasizes iteration on an existing model rather than creating something from scratch.
- Preference will be given to projects from different Superintendent Regions. Awards will be determined by the Maine Department of Education and priority will go to highest need schools and districts who apply.
- Preference will be given to projects that incorporate collaboration with a partner organization.
- Schools that have already received funding through the RREV Grant for an outdoor learning project **are not eligible** for the outdoor learning accelerator program.

Expectations & Timeline:

April 11, at 4PM:	Optional eligibility information session. Register Here
April 22:	Registration for the innovative pilot development course.
Week of April 25	Independent Pework for Accelerator Workshop.
Wednesdays in May	Outdoor Learning Accelerator Workshop, Virtual, Wednesdays from 4-6 pm. Hosted by the University of New England. (<i>Contact Hours Available</i>).
June 30th, 11:59 PM EST:	Teams Submit Proposal to the Maine DOE - Teams will be given a template.
June 30, 2022:	Selected schools work with MDOE to solidify the project budget.
July, 2022	Maine DOE Selection Process - based on a "needs continuum" within each Superintendent Region.
School Year 2022-23:	Project Implementation. <i>All awarded projects will be matched with a coach to support implementation. This includes, project wrap up/evaluation, and work with RREV's federal partners, ICF, in evaluation and assessment of pilot outcomes.</i>

- At least one classroom educator **and** an administrator must both take part in the four-week Outdoor Learning Accelerator Workshop that will support participants in developing an innovative outdoor or environmental learning project for their school or district. A community partner is also welcomed to join the school team in the workshop to support project development. Participants will be provided a template application with resources to support project design.
- This opportunity is open to educators in public and private schools.

Funding:

How much funding is available?

Each school or district can request up to \$100,000.00 to support implementation of your innovative outdoor and environmental learning project in the 2022-23 school year. We hope to fund at least 10 projects.

How can funds be spent?

- Focus must be on direct service with students
- Demonstration of growth to systemic change
- No more than 33% of funds can be used for non-direct service to students
- Examples of how money can be used include:
 - Student transportation for outdoor learning
 - Hiring a position(s), like an outdoor learning coordinator, to work with students and staff
 - Working with a community organization to provide direct programming to students
 - Purchasing gear and instructional materials

What expenses are not eligible?

More than 33% of funding cannot be spent on non-direct service to students. Planning for future projects is not eligible. Current, existing projects will not be funded. Projects must be new or innovations on existing projects.

FAQ

Q: What is the “needs continuum”?

A: Need is determined using the 2021 reported data. RREV will make every effort to communicate with course participants their eligibility as soon as possible once we begin registration for the Outdoor Learning Accelerator Workshop.

Q: When will the school-based projects occur?

A: School year 2022-23 with all projects completed by June 30th, 2023.

Q: What follow-up support will be provided?

A: RREV trained and funded coaching support for all funded projects. Each project will be paired with a coach to support the pilot team throughout the implementation process.

Q: How is the RREV Outdoor Learning Accelerator going to be different from the larger RREV opportunity?

A: The accelerator model emphasizes iteration on an existing model rather than creating something from scratch. The funding for these projects is meant to be seed capital to launch a new position or initiative. The Outdoor Learning Accelerator Workshop is a modified version of the larger RREV IMPD course.

Q: If I have already taken the IMPD do I still need to take the Outdoor Learning Accelerator Workshop?

A: Yes, Teams that have already participated in an IMPD course are required to participate in the Outdoor Learning Accelerator Workshop as well. These courses are designed to be a practical application of the step by step process of designing a pilot. Participants will complete the course with an implementable Outdoor Learning Accelerator pilot project ready to be submitted for potential funding.