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Resource Name Core Curriculum

School Name Noble HS [\[View profile and related tools\]](#)
District Name SAD60
State Name ME

Description This tool explains the rationale behind the development of a common core curriculum for all students. It also illustrates the key elements of the core curriculum at one school.

Instructions & Considerations This tool may help you to:

- Seed conversation about establishing a rigorous and relevant core curriculum for all. In addition to a strong core program and a range of elective courses, this school has many support systems in place to help all students be successful in their heterogeneously grouped classes: a Learning Center, a Computer Center, EXCEL and the Guidance Department. The four-year-long core program begins with freshmen establishing strong foundations; and evolves with sophomores building on these foundations; and juniors and seniors having expanding choices and opportunities for making more of their own course decisions.

When applying this information to your setting you may want to consider the following:

- Establishing a core curriculum for all can be a daunting task. For a number of years this school and its community have engaged in dialog to shift from an expanding, increasingly differentiated curriculum with various ability-based tracks to a single core curriculum for all students that are heterogeneously grouped for instruction.
- A variety of instructional practices are used to best meet the needs of all learners. Schools that are contemplating a “less is more” approach to curriculum design should be mindful that the struggle for focus and greater coherence in curriculum is usually problematic, as partisans for “more is better” and their favorite courses often vigorously defend the status quo.

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