

Professional Learning Meeting Agenda – 11/24

- MEVA Mission and Vision Review.
- Myth-busting messages for Charter Public Schools in Maine.
- Win over the student initiative.
- Book Study – Dr. Christina O’Grady.
- Other and next Professional Learning (PL) Meeting on Monday, December 1st, 3:00 pm.

MEVA Mission and Vision

School Mission:

Maine Virtual Academy's (MEVA) mission is to develop **each** student's full potential with learner-centered instruction, research-based curriculum and educational tools and resources to provide a **high-quality** learning experience for grade 7-12 students who are in need of **alternative educational options**. MEVA will develop an **Individualized Learning Plan (ILP)** with specific learning goals to meet each student's needs. MEVA's **rigorous** curriculum is **aligned** to the eight Maine content areas, the **Maine Learning Results, the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards**.

School Vision:

MEVA will be a leading 21st century public charter school in Maine and will improve student learning outcomes through **individualized instruction**, as evidenced by **student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and the demonstration of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and self-direction**. MEVA will empower students to acquire the academic and life skills needed to succeed in **post-secondary education and career opportunities**. Our graduates will be **prepared** for college or other postsecondary career training opportunities.

From Maine Charter School Commission Professional Development (*direct quote*)

- Helping faculty *better understand what working in a charter public school means*
- *Using the terms 'charter public schools' and 'district public schools'*
- *Three key (myth-busting) messages that particularly resonate:*
 - *Charter public schools are tuition-free, public, and open to all. They receive public school funding and are held to the highest standards and oversight of any public school in the state.*
 - *Parents have a right to decide which type of public school will best serve their child's unique needs, whether that is a district public school, a charter public school, or a career and technical public school.*
 - *Charter public schools positively contribute to the strong public education system in Maine helping to ensure all students can attend a public school that is right for them.*

Win Over the Student!

Thoughtful and consistent communication is the foundation on building successful rapport with our families and students.

Immediate intervention has been recognized as the most effective method in student retention. Every role within the school plays an important part in this effort.

Without our Students there would be no MEVA!

Win Over & Rapport

- **Win Over**: is a proactive approach/mindset. Win “back” is more reactive and is also needed in some cases, like in progress withdrawals as an example.
- **Rapport Definition**:
 - The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines Rapport as; *a friendly, harmonious relationship especially: a relationship characterized by agreement, mutual understanding, or empathy that makes communication possible or easy.*
- **Google Dictionary - Examples of Further Meaning**;
 - 1. Rapport is a good sense of understanding and trust.
 - 2. A close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well. Example, *"she was able to establish a good rapport with the children"*

Communication

- In ALL Cases;
 - Communication should always exhibit compassion, empathy and kindness.
 - Be an effective communicator, timely and responsive.
 - Exhibit a willingness to help and serve our families well.
 - Never forget to share the vast opportunities we have at MEVA to support our students!

Withdrawal Mitigation Process

- **Ask why?** - Use phrases like, “*Before* you withdraw, tell me about your reason. There may be something we can do for you.”
- **Listen for keywords;** lack of support, socialization, motivation challenges, tech or navigation challenges and so forth.
- **As you listen, empathize** - Understand their position and their feelings. Many times, families or students have been thinking about withdrawal for a while.
- **Advocate for MEVA’s programs** - Share information on our clubs, self-paced options, and student support opportunities. See if they are willing to have a team meeting to talk over work credit options, early college opportunities, and so much more. Some students may qualify for early graduation.
- **Document, document, document** - your mitigation efforts in contact logs within Infinite Campus, then *submit a “Rapid Response” form below*. Familiarize yourself with the form selections to be aware of the kinds of barriers that lead to withdrawals.
- **Link to the form:** [24-25 Rapid Response \(Intervention\) Form](#)

Preview of Upcoming Professional Learning

11/24: Reflect as small groups - what's next, how will you implement the Belonging study?

12/1: How to incorporate Wabanaki Studies into the curriculum.

12/8: Restorative justice practices.

12/15: Providing choice in assessments.

1/5: Leveled learning targets.

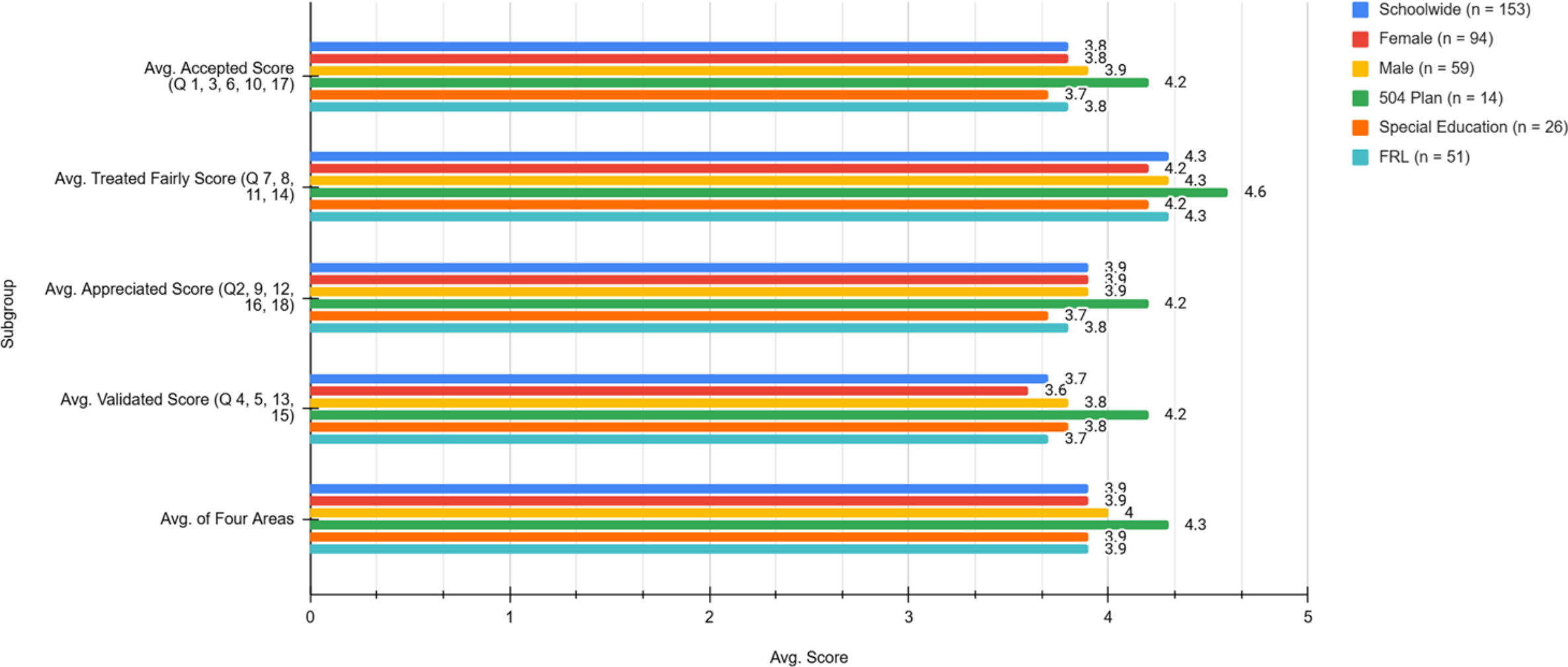
Dignity & Belonging

Small Group Work

Subgroup Data Analysis

Belonging Survey Data

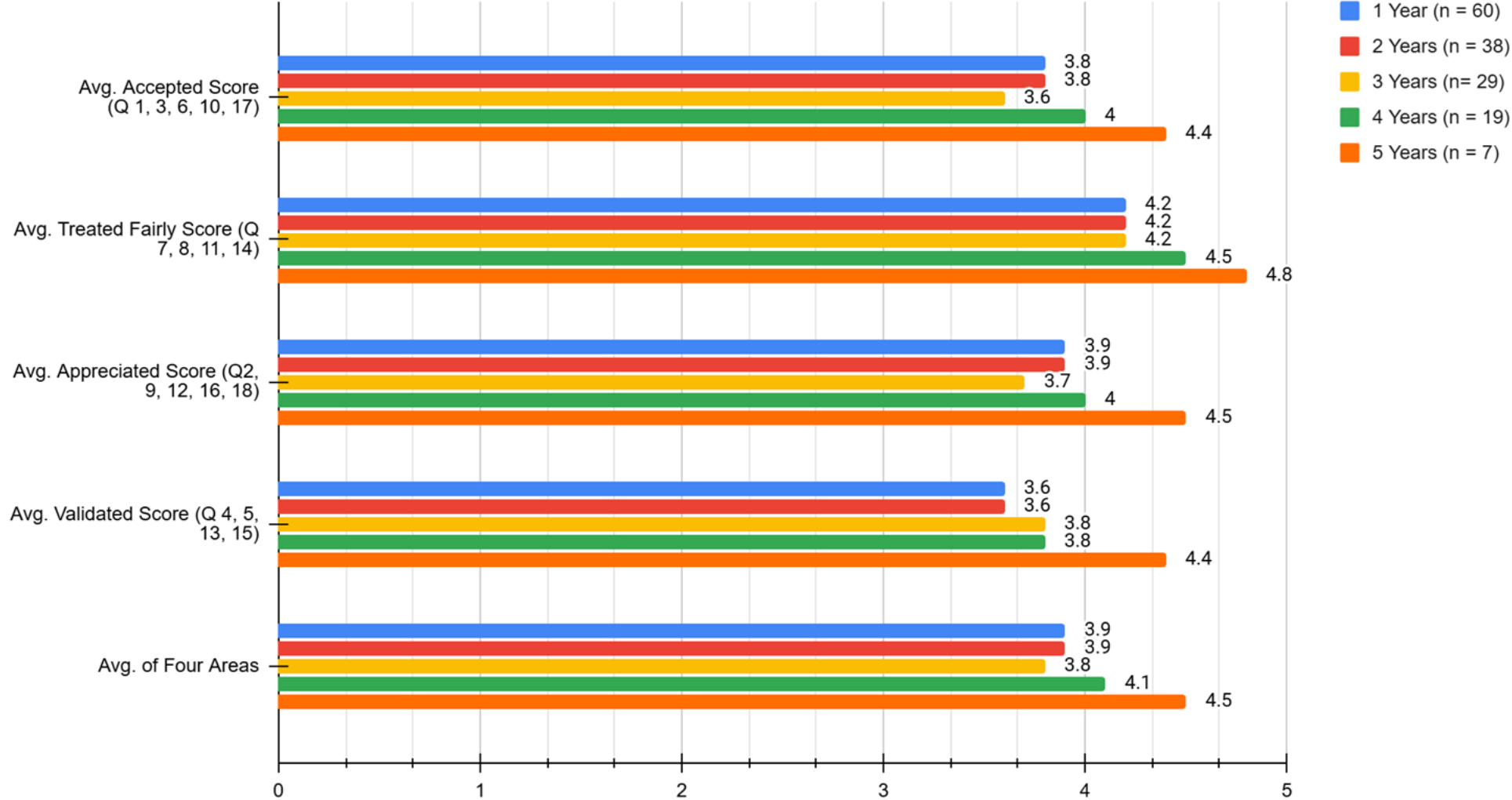
By Subgroup



By Years at MEVA Data Analysis

Belonging Survey Data

By Years at MEVA



Norms for Collaborative Discussions

These norms ensure that every colleague's perspective is valued and heard, creating the collaborative and equitable environment necessary for meaningful professional learning.

- **Everyone participates:** Use structured turn-taking so all voices are heard before anyone speaks twice
- **Listen fully:** No interruptions; build on ideas rather than dismiss them
- **Assume positive intent:** Approach disagreement with curiosity and respect
- **Think before sharing:** Use reflection time to honor differing processing styles
- **Make space:** Step up if you're quiet; step back if you often speak first
- **Create safety:** Honor different perspectives and welcome thinking-in-progress

Next Steps

Now that we have completed our book study on Dignity & Belonging, what are your next steps? Each choice represents a breakout room. You can move yourself to that room, have an open conversation with colleagues, and come back and report out what you came up with as a group.

Choose one option below:

1. How will you ensure inclusive environments for ALL learners? (Focus on Access)
2. What can we do in our digital environment to encourage engagement? What does engagement mean to you? (Focus on Engagement)
3. How are you mitigating or recognizing dignity distortions? (Focus on Dignity Distortions)
4. How do we foster a sense of belonging in an online environment?

Other

- Other topics and/or questions?
- Next Professional Learning (PL) Meeting on **Monday, December 1st, 3:00 pm.**
- **Thanksgiving Break is November 26th, 27th, and 28th.** Please cancel your live sessions.
- MEVA virtual high school graduation on **Friday, June 5th at 2:00 pm.** MEVA virtual eighth grade recognition ceremony on **Friday, June 12th at 11:00 am.**
- Looking ahead, the Last Day of School is **June 12th.**
- PL Meeting Materials are posted at:
<https://www.mainevirtualacademy.org/essaesserlau-elresources/meva-professional-learning-pl-meeting-materials>
- Thank you for all that you do to support your colleagues, your students, and their families.

SY2025/2026 Updated Assessment Calendar

Assessment Type	Fall Dates	Winter Dates	Spring Dates
NWEA	September 16, 17, 18, 2025 (Makeup Day - September 19, 2025)	January 13, 14, 15, 2026 (Makeup Day - January 16, 2026)	May 5, 6, 7, 2026 (Makeup Day - May 8, 2026)
MEA (ELA & Math)	October 6-17, 2025	NA	April 6-17, 2026
MEA (Science)	NA	NA	April 6-17, 2026 (HS) May 11-22, 2026 (8 th Grade)
ACCUPLACER	September 16, 17, 18, 2025, with makeup days scheduled throughout the year	Ongoing	Ongoing
i-Ready Diagnostic	ALL 7th - 11th-grade students will complete math & Reading. August 25 - September 9, 2025, during Math & English classes, with makeups held during FOX Time and HelpDesk	January 13-15, 2026 (For mid-year enrollees only)	May 26-29, 2026, during Math & English classes, with makeups held during FOX Time and HelpDesk