

# Professional Learning Meeting #1/27 – August 31<sup>st</sup>

- Mission and Vision.
- Panorama Spring 2026 Survey Action Plan.
- New Customized Performance Measure, based on the Student Panorama Survey results.
- Vector Training Update - Stephanie Emery.
- Data Share, Panorama - Dr. Christina O'Grady.
- Special Education Update - Lila Theriault.
- Regular Education Update - Don Fournier.
- Other and next PL Meeting on September 14th.

# 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

# SY-2026/2027 Panorama Survey Action Plan

- Target Rigorous Expectations (Students): *Overall, how high are teachers' expectations of you?*
  - Action (Students): Reinforce the 'rigorous expectations' messaging to students.
- Target Teacher-Student Relationships (Students): *How strong the social connection is between teachers and students within and beyond the school.*
  - Action (Students): Promote grade-level advisory groups as venues to meet your teachers and peers.
- Target School Fit (Family): *How well do the activities offered at your child's school match his/her interests?*
  - Action (Family): Link Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) to school activities and projects.
- Target Leadership (Teachers): *When the school makes important decisions, how much input do teachers have?*
  - Action (Teachers): Send surveys to teachers in advance of making important decisions, to gather feedback, as appropriate. Discuss outcomes at Professional Learning (PL) meetings.

# New Customized Performance Measure

Proposed new customized performance measures for Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA): Effective for SY-2026/2027 and beyond, two new goals, which would (if approved) replace all prior goals.

To promote an engaging virtual school experience, MEVA will annually, incrementally, improve:

1. School Rigorous Expectations.
2. School Teacher-Student Relationships.

As measured by the 'percent favorable' on the Panorama Student Survey, administered each spring. (The previous spring results serve as baselines.)

Exceeding – *Increase* of greater than 5%.

Meeting – *Increase* of 1% to 5%.

Approaching – *Decrease* of 0% to 5%.

Not Meeting – *Decrease* of more than 5%.

# Vector Trainings

- 100% completions = 11 Congrats and THANK YOU!!!
- 95% = 23
- 85% = 4
- 75% = 8
- 65% = 2
- 50% = 4
- Lower than 25% = 5

***Please complete your compliance trainings by Friday.***

***MEVA's giveaways this year include Travel Mugs! To be included, you must complete your trainings on time.***



STUDENT SURVEY ANALYSIS

# Priority Growth Areas

Rigorous Expectations & Teacher-Student Relationships

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370 respondents • Grades 7–12 • Non-Urban / Medium FRPL comparison group

# Two Areas Need the Most Attention

Of all survey areas measured, these two posted the lowest favorable scores.

## Teacher-Student Relationships

66%

FAVORABLE

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70th percentile benchmark

## Rigorous Expectations

68%

FAVORABLE

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50th percentile benchmark

# The Three Lowest-Scoring Questions

One clear outlier, and two items tied for second-lowest.

1

*“How high are your teachers’ expectations of you?”*

Rigorous Expectations

41%

2

*“How often do your teachers ask you to explain your answers?”*

Rigorous Expectations

51%

2

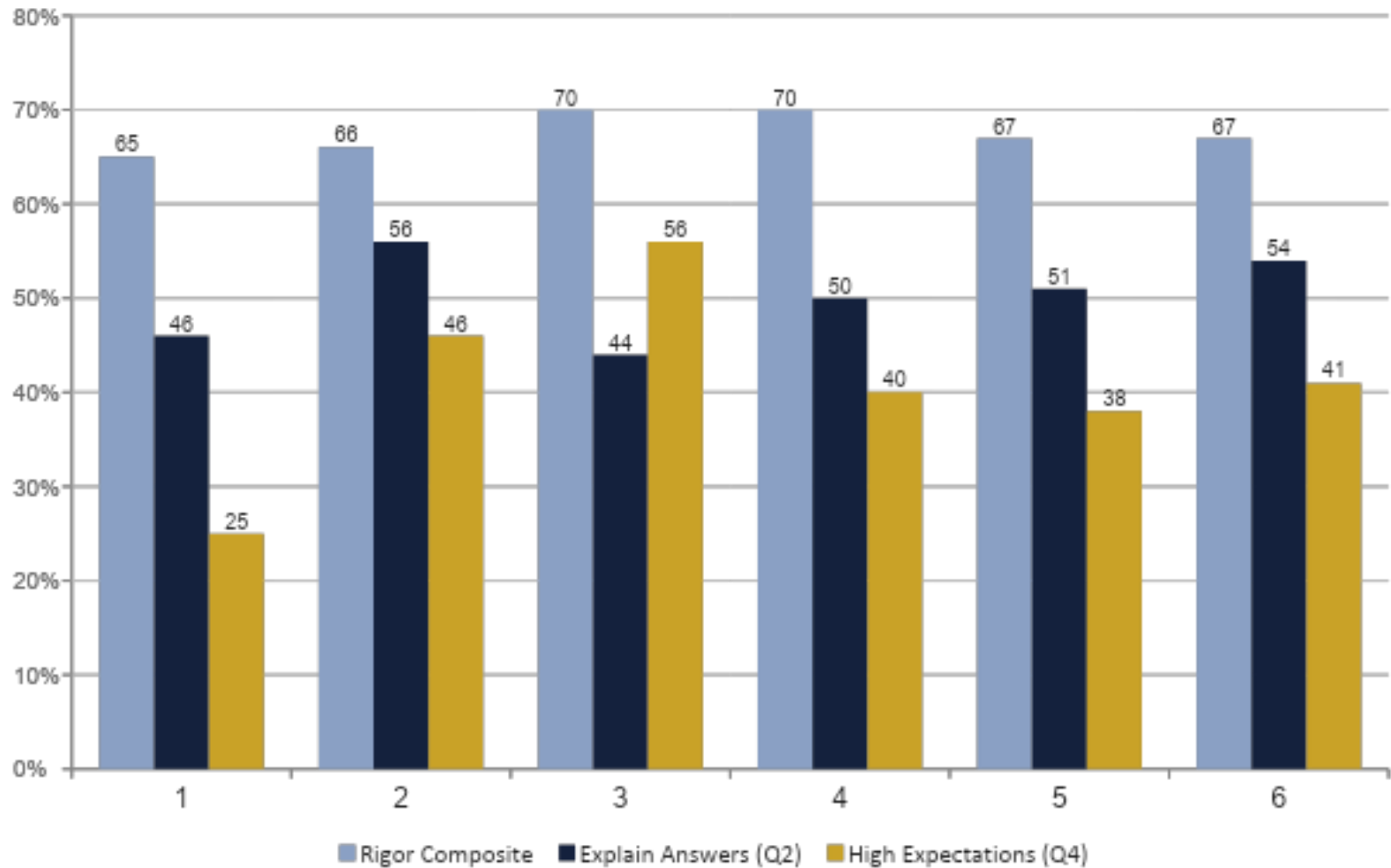
*“If you were upset when you came into class, how concerned would your teachers be?”*

Teacher-Student  
Relationships

51%

# Rigorous Expectations by Grade

7th grade drives the area's weakest item by a wide margin.



7th GRADE

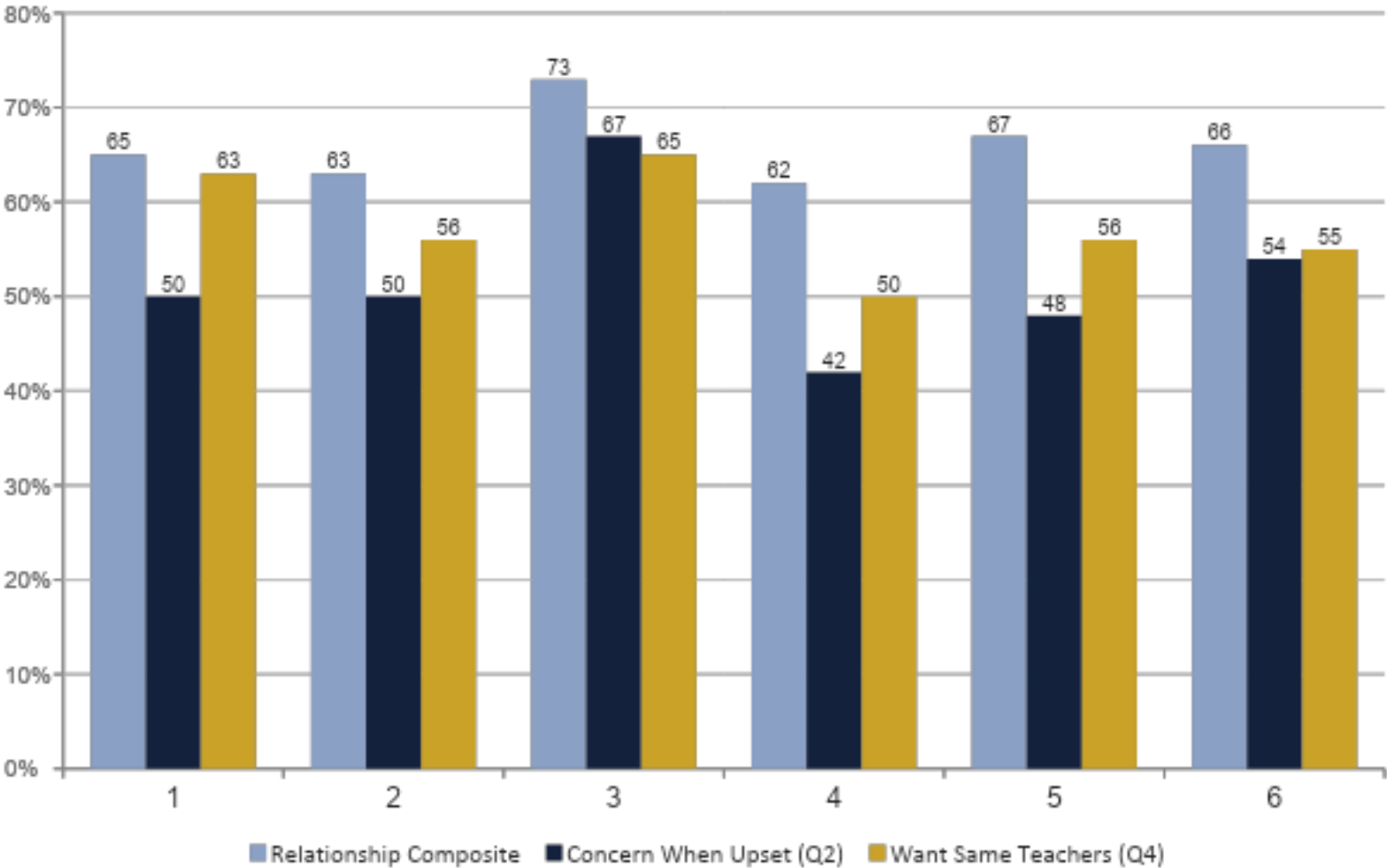
25%

feel their teachers hold high expectations for them — lowest of any grade.

75% of 7th graders chose “Somewhat High” rather than a lower option — a ceiling problem, not a floor problem.

# Teacher-Student Relationships by Grade

10th grade is the low point across both relationship items.



10th GRADE

42%

believe a teacher would be concerned if they came to class upset.

Down sharply from 67% for the same question one grade earlier, in 9th — the strongest year in the data.

# Key Takeaways



## 7th grade needs a rigor push

Students already feel accountable but not stretched — this is a ceiling problem.



## 10th grade shows the sharpest drop

The largest one-year decline in relational trust of any grade transition in the data.



## 9th grade: validate, don't replicate yet

Strongest relationship scores of any grade, but a lower response rate means it needs to hold up next cycle first.



## “Explain your answers” is the fastest lever

Low-cost, controllable by any teacher, in any grade, starting immediately.

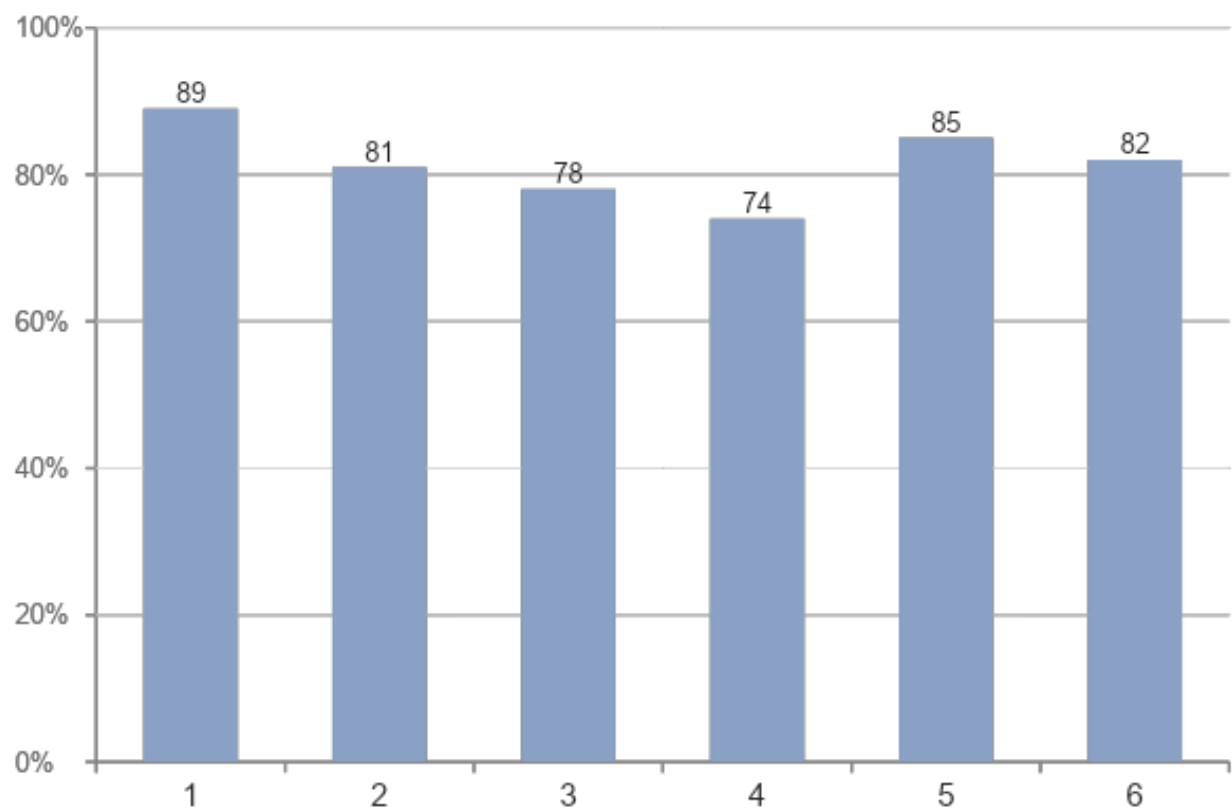


## SE-Y students need more scaffolding

Notably lower favorability (43% vs. 53%) on the “explain your answers” item.

# A Note on the Data

Response rates varied by grade — and that changes how much weight two findings deserve.



Lowest two response rates: 10th (74%) and 9th (78%) — the two grades flagged at right.

**7th (89%, n=24)**

Smallest cohort in the survey. The 25% expectations score represents ~6 students — real, but numerically fragile.

**10th (74%, lowest)**

If non-respondents skew disengaged, the reported 42% may understate how negative the true picture is.

**9th (78%, 2nd-lowest)**

Same mechanism could run the other way — the 73% relationship score may be inflated versus the full grade. Validate before replicating.

Nonresponse bias could run either direction, or not apply at all — these are flags to watch, not certainties.

# Recommendations

What teachers can do this year — part 1 of 2

1

## Make the high bar visible

Post or restate success criteria and rubrics explicitly. Use language that names the stretch (“I’m asking you to redo this because I know you can hit a higher standard”), not just corrections.

2

## Rebuild relational check-ins in 10th grade

Try low-cost, high-frequency routines: 2x10 check-ins, protected advisory time free of academic content, or a simple “how are you, really” opener.

3

## Increase “explain your reasoning” prompts

Cold-call with a required follow-up “why,” require written justification before verbal sharing, or use structured discussion protocols.

# Recommendations

What teachers can do this year — part 2 of 2

4

## **Treat 9th grade as a hypothesis, not a proven model**

Recheck the result next survey cycle before investing in a school-wide replication effort.

5

## **Scaffold rigor expectations for SE-Y students**

Model “explain your answer” routines with sentence starters or graphic organizers rather than assuming the expectation is self-evident.

# Updates

- Special Education.
- General Education.

# Other

- **Labor Day is Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please cancel all your live sessions.
- Other and our next Professional Learning (PL) Meeting is on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 3:00 pm.
- MEVA virtual high school graduation on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. MEVA virtual eighth grade recognition ceremony on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.
- Looking ahead, the Last Day of School is June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.