

## **Maine School Administrative District #75**

### **Abante**

**Introduction.** Abante Progression software training has been implemented in all elementary schools in the District. All teachers have the capabilities to access Progression via the Internet from any platform. The purpose of access is to input standard-based education data into the module, Report Card Assistant.

Report Card Assistant allows all elementary teachers to view the standard benchmark statements that align to the Maine Learning Results and connect mastery levels per student. The reporting system is set for three trimesters. To this date, teachers have reported on ELA and Math standard benchmarks. Encore specialist, such as PE, Art, Music, and Instrumental Music have also reported home. Science, Social Studies, Health, Working Habits and Social Skills are started reporting in Sept. 03. Title One Tutors have also been trained to input assessment data, so that we might generate reports using another module, Administrator Assistant. This module will help the district to look at the data in any way, either by district standard, school, teacher or student.

Throughout the district, teachers have worked diligently to accomplish the task of aligning benchmark statements to the MLR's and common assessments in order to drive instruction. The overriding task is to ensure that all students have met standards and that we have a way to report that information to the state.

At least three times a school year, an Abante Progression representative or another consultant visits the district to address issues. We have optimized on the visits by making sure that we tend to problems with quick solutions, training for teachers and site base coordinators and myself, the database curriculum manager.

Each elementary school has a site base coordinator that helps to trouble shoot issues with the software when they come up. They are responsible for adding and dropping students from the class list. Also, they are capable of training teachers who need refreshers in the software, as well as assistance with printing, viewing and entering data. Next year, the list of duties will include tagging students at their own schools and possibly generating new class reports from the Module of Administrator Assistant. This module allows us to call up specified data and create a report.

A designated Data Curriculum Manager oversees the Abante database. There are many facets to this from promoting a new year, recreating class list, entering benchmark statements, making connections from teachers to statements, tagging for reports, and creating user accounts and passwords.

The largest part of the position is the ongoing professional development. Standard base education has incorporated many new questions about how we teach and assess, and mostly about the learners we are teaching. This paradigm shift is occurring nationally and we are at the tip of the iceberg!

While, the software is the vehicle, professional development in this arena will easily fuel us to move forward with high standards for our students. As professional development ups the ante for teaching and learning, so goes the database. It too will constantly need updating.

The database is growing immensely parallel to the growth and understanding that teachers will have about Standard based education.

Another critical factor inherent to Abante is technology. End users in the elementary schools must have computers that are up to date, functional and have some speed. This is probably one of the largest glitches that holds up the process, computers that don't perform well. Since moving to this system, we expect all teachers to complete the task of inputting student data. However, some of the computers in the schools are highly capable of this function but others just aren't. This creates frustration on the part of the teacher. (See [Appendix "Computer Equity Plan"](#))

**Progress to date.** There are six elementary schools in the District. All schools have fully implemented the Report Card Assistance module of Abante. The report cards have ELA benchmark statements, Math benchmark statements, Science, Social Studies and Health. The district report card committee is working on the area of social skills and work habits for each elementary school, with a start date of fall of 04.

Each elementary school has a data base manager who over sees the database for their school. They maintain the Develop District module. They trouble shoot problem areas as well as train on the software. All elementary Administrators are in process of training for the Administrator Assistant module of the Abante. Data on common assessments are being entered into Abante. This allows for data driven decisions to be made in the area of staff development as well as instruction.

In the fall of 03, pilot teachers at MAMS began training and piloting the module Standard Tracker. This module allows us to track the assessments that align with the standards we have to report on to the State of Maine. Three teachers piloted it in the 03-04 school year, in hopes that the following year MAMS will have full implementation of Standard Tracker. This implementation requires MAMS to have their own Data Curriculum manager, as well as site base coordinators. They too will have to create benchmark statements that align with assessments. The Mt. Ararat Middle School is in the beginning stages of the pilot on Standard Tracker. They are in the beginning stages of understanding Standard-based education and making the paradigm shifts necessary to align with the elementary schools as well as the high school. The middle school has a full force starting date of fall 04.

There is a district support website available. At this site, teachers can click on a link and get the necessary information needed. Server information, current research, and directions for specific tasks are also available. (See [Abante Internal Support Site at http://helpdesk.link75.org/abante.html](http://helpdesk.link75.org/abante.html))

There are continuous conversations going on thru staff development, grade level meetings, and content area meetings. An inordinate amount of time has been spent on clarifying certain vocabulary associated with standard based education, the Maine Learning Results, common assessments and Abante.

**Resources Required.** Resources that are specifically needed are network laser printers, high-speed computers with Acrobat Reader installed and white paper for printing the report cards on.