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Maine Department of Education's In-tensive HIV Education Evaluation Project

Maine Department of Education

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S

IN-TENSIVE HIV EDUCATION EVALUATION PROJECT

Over the past decade, the Maine Department of Education has provided school units with resources and curriculum implementation training in HIV prevention education. The goal of the program in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health and the Maine HIV Advisory Committee has been to prevent Maine youth from becoming HIV infected. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has awarded the Department funds and technical assistance this year to conduct an intensive evaluation project that will assess the effectiveness of the Department's HIV education curricula dissemination model and its impact statewide.

The Academy of Educational Development, CERES Associates and Information Transferr System are partners with the Department in this project. They will be involved in the evaluation's instrument development and administration. The Department will coordinate the evaluation activities. The evaluation results will be used to plan the Department's future efforts to support local HIV prevention education efforts. The results and recommendations of the evaluation project will also be used to inform other states of methods to improve HIV education programs.

The evaluation plan has the following components that will be conducted in all Maine public schools that have grades 9-12 and private schools that serve 60% or more of publicly funded students:

Key Informant Interviews will be conducted by telephone with representatives from participating school units. The 5-10 minute interviews will explore policy and curriculum adoption topics.

Lead Health/HIV Educator Interviews will be conducted by telephone at each participating school. The 15-20 minute interviews will focus on external and internal supports for HIV education implementation. The scope of present HIV curriculum will also be assessed.

Students Surveys will be administered in one health class at each participating school. The survey will cover curriculum effectiveness and student outcomes.

Student Focus Groups will be conducted at seven schools. Two groups, male and female, will be held by trained facilitators. The focus groups will look at students' perceptions of HIV education and recommendations for improvement.

The evaluation plan is to have all of the schools that have 9-12th grades involved in the project. If you have any questions or comments please contact Joni Foster at 287-5930 or joni.foster@state.me.us