

Overview of Student Learning Objectives

What are student learning objectives (SLOs)?

- SLOs are measurable goals that teachers set for their students at the start of a course or period of study and are approved by administrators.
- SLOs target the specific learning needs of students – honing in on specific local, state, or national standards that require emphasis based on a thorough review of available data.
- Within each SLO, teachers specify a growth target, a quantifiable amount of student learning expected by the end of the course, usually measured as growth between preassessment and postassessment.
- In 2013-14, each SLO will target all students in a course.
- The creation of SLOs, in most cases, is a team effort. Each SLO is the result of collaboration and consultation among teacher colleagues and administrators.

Why are the Maine Schools for Excellence (MSFE) districts implementing SLOs?

The SLO process provides a valuable opportunity for teachers and principals to have rich professional conversations that are focused on educational expectations. Research demonstrates that educators who set rigorous objectives for their students often realize greater improvement in student performance. In addition, SLOs give educators, districts, and state leaders an additional means by which to understand, value, and recognize success in the classroom.

How do SLOs fit into an educator's evaluation?

SLOs will be used as part of each teacher's evaluation as a measure of student growth. All teachers participating in MSFE will write one SLO in 2013–14. The SLO development process will give teachers a voice in how they will be evaluated, while providing a vehicle for connecting teacher-set goals to content standards, district goals, and local initiatives.