

To: The Credentialing Group for King Middle School

I am happy to add my enthusiastic support for the Expeditionary Learning Program which has for many years been successful in helping a very diverse community of students become successful learners. I have visited the school several times and have been amazed at the quality of the work products that have been produced by the students. The research they do with the guidance and encouragement of their teachers is impressive. I say that with the experience of a Trustee of Bates College where the students annually have a display of their research projects. Adjusting for the age difference the quality of their displays would be the equivalent of what the Bates students do.

As a ten year member of the Maine State Board of Education (1995 - 2015) I have been aware of the Expeditionary Learning Program at King Middle School and have wished that we could replicate their results in other school districts in Maine. They clearly serve the learning needs of many students. As a member of the Board of Directors of the John T. Gorman Foundation I have been happy to encourage its financial support of the King Middle School and what it accomplishes.

I am also impressed that educators from all over the United States come to the annual symposium sponsored by the King Middle School Leadership to learn how the school helps students learn using the expeditionary model.

The program should be a strong candidate for meeting any credentialing standards.

Enthusiastically,
Weston L. Bonney

I am a retired bank CEO, having served as such for several banks in Maine and Massachusetts and have spent much of my time since retirement, 1991, working to improve education for all Maine students. In addition to my ten years on the Maine State Board of Education, I was also a founding member of the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education, a member of the Maine Learning Results Task Force and served on a number of state task forces studying various education issues. I became a Trustee of Bates College in 1971 and was appointed a Trustee Emeritus in 1996. I also served on the Board of Visitors of the Muskie School of Public Service from 1996 until 2010.