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## School of Learning and Teaching\_Special Educators of Maine Email

Paige Fournier

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Wednesday, March 25, 2020

I hope this email finds you as well as can be in these strange and challenging times.

At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, I began thinking about a more formal way that special educators across the state of Maine could connect and collaborate. Now more than ever, I realize how vital a need this is.

I am writing to you today to invite you to be part of the Special Educators of Maine group. While the job of a special educator is one that can be challenging and isolating, it is particularly overwhelming during the coronavirus school shutdowns.

Through the creation of a formal special education organization, the goal is to have a way for special educators to connect and be empowered to become teacher leaders through shared knowledge. The state of Maine currently has an organization for administrators servicing children with disabilities but does not have a similar organization for educators. A few important points:

1. This organization is free and is meant to be a collection of resources, collaborative forums, etc. not an added burden at this already trying time
2. I hope to have fellow special educators help me in developing a website, newsletter, and other digital ways of connecting
3. This organization is way to focus on what is most important in this field- OUR STUDENTS, but it also could include parental resources, etc. - the sky is the limit

I have attached a google form to this email and would love input from all of you fabulous and hardworking educators. Now more than ever, we need to lean on each other.

Thank you,  
Paige Fournier  
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