



Outer Islands Teaching & Learning Collaborative

MISSION

The Outer Islands Teaching and Learning Collaborative (TLC) creates a lifeline of support for students and teachers in order to sustain Maine's one and two room island schools.

VISION

Isolated schools are vital, innovative, collaborative centers of teaching and learning that prepare students to thrive in the 21st century.

WHY THE TLC?

- Island Institute understands the vital role island schools play in sustaining viable and vibrant year-round island communities and has supported the TLC since its inception in 2009.
- Very small schools with multiple grade levels present unique teaching and learning challenges, and the isolation of being on a remote island adds complexity. The TLC helps teachers, students and families come together to provide high quality education for all students through in person and virtual collaboration across geography, content areas and grade-spans (PK-8).

WHAT IS THE TLC?

- The TLC is a teacher created, teacher driven network of support focused on enhancing learning and reducing isolation for students and teachers in Maine's smallest island schools.
- For Students:
 - Peers to connect with!
 - Weekly Zoom-based book groups and other academic collaborations
 - Holiday celebrations and parties throughout the school year
 - Two multi-day in-person field trips on the mainland each year
 - Annual Inter-Island Event on a TLC island each fall
- For Teachers:
 - Colleagues to connect with!
 - Weekly Zoom calls and in-depth support of each other as needed
 - Annual TLC Teacher retreat each summer, focused on the unique needs of TLC teachers
 - Clearly articulated group social norms developed by the group
 - Flexible structure and creative, collaborative approach to meeting student needs

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Islanders face adversity head-on—every day. The TLC helps island schools do this by working together to cultivate a shared set of skills that help prepare islanders for the challenges of tomorrow—teachers, students and families, generation to generation. This would not be possible without the generous support of countless community members. Thank you!

BY THE NUMBERS

8 TLC ISLAND COMMUNITIES:

Cliff, Chebeague, Cranberries, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Monhegan, and Matinicus in Maine and Cuttyhunk Island, MA

1-15 STUDENTS

enrolled at each school

5 STUDENTS:

Average school enrollment

200 STUDENTS

served since 2009

35 CLASS-ROOM TEACHERS

served since 2009

(Administrators, ed techs, school boards and parents are also served by the TLC)

2023/2024

6 TLC SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS:

Cliff, Chebeague, Cranberries, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Monhegan

45 TLC STUDENTS

8 TLC TEACHERS

"I was one of the first students to spend all 10 years of my island education as part of the Outer Islands TLC. There were no other kids my age on Monhegan, so the sense of community provided by that organization was invaluable to me. Growing up on an island and transitioning to the mainland is a very unique experience, and the people who understand that best are other island kids."

— Margaret, Monhegan Island