

REPORT OVERVIEW

Educate Maine is a business-led education advocacy organization championing college and career readiness, and increased education attainment. Our annual Education Indicators report is a trusted nonpartisan resource developed to better understand Maine's entire education system - early childhood through postsecondary. This Executive Summary highlights key findings and trends found in the report.

KEY FINDINGS AND TRENDS

- ✓ 45% of 3- and 4-year-olds attend a private or public preschool in Maine. Only 36% of children from families with income below 200% of the poverty level are enrolled in preschool, compared with 48% of those with higher family income.
- ✓ 72% of school districts offer public Pre-K and 36% of 4-year-olds attend one of those public programs, up from 18% in 2008. Maine law requires that 100% of school districts offer programs by 2017/2018.
- ✓ 92% of Maine school districts offer full-day kindergarten. This is a significant increase from 51% of districts in 2002.
- ✓ 36% and 41% of students in the 4th grade are proficient in reading and math. This represents a decline in both measures.
- ✓ 35% of students in the 8th grade are proficient in reading and math. This represents a decline in both measures.
- ✓ There is an achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students in reading and math. This gap has widened in recent years.
- ✓ 88% of Maine students graduate from high school in four years, making Maine a standout in the nation. Only half of high school students are proficient in reading and math in 11th grade.
- ✓ The achievement gap seen in earlier grades carries forward into high school negatively affecting graduation rates and proficiency scores of economically disadvantaged students.
- ✓ For every 100 students entering high school, 88 will graduate, 55 go to college, 46 return for a second year, and 31 will graduate with a 2- or 4-year degree.
- ✓ 42% of Maine adults hold a certificate, industry credential, or college degree. This has increased over the past few years and continues to move us toward our goal of 44% by 2019.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- ✓ **ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION**—High quality preschool lays the foundation for success. Maine needs more of its children participating in these programs and must ensure that quality affordable options are available statewide for all families.
- ✓ **PROFICIENCY AND GRADUATION**—The time spent in elementary, middle, and high school should help students gain and hone the skills and experiences needed to be successful in life. This is a time for gaining proficiency in critical content areas as well as in critical life skills that will prepare them for all experiences as adults.
- ✓ **ASPIRATIONS AND COMPLETION**—Individual and economic growth depends on people pursuing and completing some postsecondary learning. This includes traditional 2- and 4-year college as well as certificates and industry credentials. This happens when those opportunities are affordable, when students are supported to succeed and complete, and when postsecondary plans result in a job.

TEN INDICATORS

INDICATOR

WHERE WE STAND

2019 GOALS

PRESCHOOL PARTICIPATION

45% of 3- & 4-year-olds are enrolled in public or private preschool

50% of 3- & 4-year-olds will be enrolled in a public or private preschool

36% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in public Pre-K

64% of 4-year-olds will be enrolled in public Pre-K

PRESCHOOL ACCESS

72% of Maine school districts offer public Pre-K

Maine will offer consistent and quality public Pre-K programming to 100% of Maine 4-year-olds

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

92% of Maine school districts offer full-day kindergarten

100% of Maine school districts will offer full-day kindergarten

4TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

36% and 41% of 4th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math, respectively

Maine students will increase their proficiency in reading to 44% and in math to 54%

8TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

35% of 8th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math

Maine students will increase their proficiency in reading to 45% and in math to 47%

HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

48% and 49% of 11th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math, respectively

70% of Maine students in grade eleven will be proficient in reading and math

88% of Maine students graduated from high school

90% of Maine students will graduate from high school

COLLEGE-GOING & PERSISTENCE

62% of Maine students enrolled in college within one year of graduating from high school

66% of Maine students will enroll in college within one year of graduating from high school

83% of Maine first-year students returned for a second year at a college institution

88% of Maine first-year students will return for a second year of college

COLLEGE COMPLETION

47% of Maine students graduate college on-time, compared to 57% across New England. 10 point gap

Close the college completion gap with New England

COLLEGE COST & STUDENT DEBT

The average net cost of college for Maine students is higher as a percent of per capita income than New England: 39% vs 37%.

Maine students will pay annually the same per capita income for college as the New England average

Maine students have a higher annual debt burden as a percent of per capita income than New England: 17% vs 13%

Maine annual student debt burden will be the same as the New England average

MAINERS WITH COLLEGE DEGREES & CREDENTIALS

42% of Maine students have a college degree or credential

44% of Mainers will hold a college degree, certificate, or industry credential

EDUCATION INDICATORS IS AVAILABLE AT INDICATORS.EDUCATEMAINE.ORG

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