

## 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

- ✓ 42% 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.
- ✓ 64% of school districts offer public preschool and 35% of 4-year-olds attend one of those public programs, up from 16% in 2007. Maine law requires that 100% of school districts offer programs by 2017/2018.
- ✓ 88% of Maine school districts offer full-day kindergarten. This is a significant increase from 51% of districts in 2002.
- ✓ 37% and 47% of students in the 4th grade are proficient in reading and math. This represents no change in reading but a substantive improvement in math since 2005.
- ✓ 38% and 40% of students in the 8th grade are proficient in reading and math. This represents no change in reading but another marked improvement in math since 2005.
- ✓ There is an achievement gap for low-income students in reading and math. This gap has widened in recent years.
- ✓ 87% of Maine students graduate from high school in four years, making Maine a standout in the nation. 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 low-income students.
- ✓ For every 100 students entering high school, 87 will graduate, 54 go to college, 45 return for a second year, and 30 will graduate with a 2- or 4-year degree.
- ✓ 39% of Maine adults hold an associate degree or higher. This has increased over the past few years and the gap with New England is slowly closing.

## 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

## GOALS FOR 2019

### PRESCHOOL PARTICIPATION

42% 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

### PRESCHOOL ACCESS

35% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in public preschool  
64% of Maine school districts offer public preschool

64% of 4-year-olds will be enrolled in public preschool  
Maine will offer consistent and quality public preschool programming to 100% of Maine 4-year-olds

### FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

88% of Maine school districts offer full-day kindergarten

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

### 4TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

Percentage of Maine students who are at or above proficiency in 4<sup>th</sup> grade: reading (37%), math (47%)

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

### 8TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

Percentage of Maine students who are at or above proficiency in 8<sup>th</sup> grade: reading (38%), math (40%)

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

### HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

87% of Maine students graduated from high school  
49% of Maine students in grade eleven are proficient in reading and math

90% of Maine students will graduate from high school  
70% of Maine students in grade eleven will be proficient in reading and math

### COLLEGE-GOING

62% of Maine students enrolled in college within one year of graduating from high school  
83% of Maine first-year students returned for a second year at their college institution

66% of Maine students will enroll in college within one year of graduating from high school  
88% of Maine first-year students will return for a second year of college

### COLLEGE COMPLETION

48% on-time graduation rate (11 percentage point gap with New England)

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: 54% vs. 48%  
Maine students have a higher annual debt burden as a percent of per capita income than New England: 17% vs. 14%

Maine students will pay annually the same per capita income for college as New England  
Maine annual student debt burden will be the same as the New England average

### MAINERS WITH COLLEGE DEGREES

39.1% of Maine students have an associate degree or higher

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