

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

- 43% of 3- and 4-year-olds attend a private or public preschool in Maine. Only 35% of children from families with income below 200% of the poverty level are enrolled in preschool, compared with 49% of those with higher family income.
- 78% of school districts offer public preschool and 46% of 4-year-olds attend one of those public programs, up from 19% in 2000.
- 98% of Maine school districts offer full-day kindergarten. This is a significant increase from 51% of districts in 2002.
- 36% and 42% of 4th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math, respectively.
- 36% and 34% of 8th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math, respectively.
- There is an achievement gap for low-income students in reading and math. Maine has made only slight progress in closing this gap.
- 87% of Maine students graduate from high school in four years, making Maine a standout in the nation.
- Only a third of high school students are proficient in math and over half are proficient in reading 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, 53 go to college, 44 return for a second year, and 33 will graduate with a 2- or 4-year degree on time.
- 45% of Maine adults hold a certificate, industry credential, or college degree. This has increased over the past few years. It reaches our goal of 44% by 2019 ahead of schedule and gets us closer to our goal of 60% by 2025.

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 post-secondary 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	43% of 3- & 4-year-olds are enrolled in public or private preschool 46% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in public Pre-K	50% of 3- & 4-year-olds will be enrolled in a public or private preschool 64% of 4-year-olds will be enrolled in public Pre-K
PRESCHOOL ACCESS	78% 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	98% of Maine school districts offer full-day kindergarten	100% of Maine school districts will offer full-day kindergarten
4TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT	36% and 42% 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	36% and 34% of 8th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math, respectively	Maine students will increase their proficiency in reading to 45% and in math to 47%
HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT	57% and 35% of 11th grade students are at or above proficiency in reading and math, respectively 87% of Maine students will graduate high school in 4 years	Maine students will increase their proficiency in reading to 70% and in math to 55% 90% of Maine students will graduate high school in 4 years
COLLEGE-GOING & PERSISTENCE	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 a 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	62% of Maine and 65% of New England students graduate college within 150% of normal program time	Close the college completion gap with New England
COLLEGE COST & DEBT	The average net cost of college for Maine students is higher as a percent of per capita income than New England: 38% Maine vs 34% New England Maine students have a higher annual debt burden as a percent of per capita income than New England: 16% vs 12%	Close the cost and debt gap with New England
MAINERS WITH POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS OF VALUE	45% of Maine adults have a postsecondary credential of value	44% of Maine adults have a postsecondary credential of value