

Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education 2007 PRIORITIES

The Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education is well into its second decade. Over the years, the organization has established credibility as an effective **business – education coalition** by having a strong focus, the ability to get Maine businesses involved, being an independent and diverse group, and having the good fortune to capture the committed talent of the broad range of Board members.

In keeping with the original mission of the 1992 landmark report, *Success Begins With Education*, as well as considering the current key issues and initiatives, MCEE remains committed to the **implementation and achievement of Maine's Learning Results** – because *Maine students can't wait*.

To ensure that each Maine student has the opportunity to achieve the Learning Results, the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education board of directors will focus their work in the following areas:

- **Implementation of Maine's Learning Results**

It has been nearly a decade since Learning Results became law. The standards are now going through a **major revision** and will be presented to the Legislature in the upcoming session. Achievement of these standards ensures that Maine students are ready for **college, work and citizenship** in a changing world. Research shows that Maine's long term economic competitiveness is directly linked to **skill** and **educational attainment**. Much work has been done to improve our schools and we cannot waver in our commitment to a **standards based education**. The pressure comes from having **firm deadlines, consistent understanding** and **common expectations** for high school diploma requirements.

- **Assure adequate funding to ensure results**

Demographics indicate that there is truly a "perfect storm" brewing and that it will come in the form of limited funds to support education. We need to communicate the value and importance of education as the underpinning if Maine is to meet its **economic and demographic challenges** now and future. The conversation must focus on a more effective and productive **utilization** of the existing **resources**. The principal objective of any **regional consolidation** plan must be to serve our students more effectively and ultimately **improve student performance**.

- **Education Policy Development**

Establishing sound education policy focused on **what is best for students** is the moral imperative. We have to set a clear path forward with our education agenda and have the **political will to stay the course**. Anything else causes confusion and diminishes the sense of urgency.

- **Building Stakeholder Engagement**

To ensure the **economic prosperity of Maine** and the quality of a future workforce that has the knowledge and skills necessary for the 21st century, parents, Maine's business and community leaders need to know how they can contribute to the success in achieving the vision of high academic performance for all Maine students.

We are committed to providing each Maine child with rich and varied educational opportunities. We ask all Maine citizens to join us in supporting changes at the local, state, and federal level to remove impediments, encourage innovation, and create flexibility in our schools to enable our children to lead fulfilling lives in their homes, workplace, and communities.

SUCCESS BEGINS WITH EDUCATION