

Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education 2008 Where We Stand – Our Purpose and Priorities

The Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education has been a leading advocate for student achievement since 1990. Over the years, the organization has established credibility as an effective **business – education partnership** by being an independent and diverse group that has a strong focus, an involved business community, and the good fortune to capture the committed talent of a broad range of Board members.

Since the release in 1992 of our original landmark report, *Success Begins With Education*, this organization has remained steadfast in its commitment to the implementation and achievement of Maine's Learning Results as a means to ensuring **equity** and **access** to a **quality education** so that **all** Maine students will complete high school with the knowledge and skills necessary for college, work and citizenship.

Success begins with education. The realities of a **global economy** and the demands of the 21st century make this premise more relevant than ever. While much has changed since we started down this path, we know that the long term **economic competitiveness** and prosperity of Maine is directly linked to educational attainment and skills of our citizens. Maine has established a strong foundation with a good system of **learning standards**. We believe by working collectively, standing strong and removing barriers, Maine can become more prosperous and national leader in education performance. The realization of our goals is vital for the future of Maine's workforce. There are two disturbing trends currently at work. The number of students entering the workforce is expected to decline. The number of retirees is expected to increase. If **all** Maine students are not ready to fill the jobs vacated there will be a serious shortage of workers.

In 2008, we will continue to support, catalyze and raise awareness of efforts that ensure Maine students **graduate ready** for college, work and citizenship. **We will do so by focusing our priorities on.....**

1. Learning Results implementation and achievement

- * Assure that students leave high school with the knowledge and skills to go to college or work without need for remediation
- * Guarantee that each student has access to and engages in a rigorous and relevant course of study
- * Support the transformation of instructional practices to ensure the achievement of Maine Learning Results
- * Support the organizations whose missions are to assure underperforming students meet the expectations of Maine's Learning Results.

2. Educator recruitment and retention

- * Support flexibility in certifying teachers
- * Promote the profession in order to recruit the top students
- * Honor and recognize the good work of Maine's educators with the Celebration of Leadership event, Unum's Hall of Fame and Bank of America's School Matters grant program
- * Identify and share best practices for professional development
- * Improve teacher compensation and develop a culture of measurement, recognition and shared accountability for student achievement

3. Advocate for sound education policy focused on what is best for students

- * Advocate for extended time and effective use of resources needed to improve Maine's stagnant student performance
- * Support the intended benefits of district reorganization – **improved educational opportunities for students**
- * Focus on early childhood services and education to ensure success
- * Ensure quality K-12 programming serves as foundation for post-secondary success
- * Secure data on the key indicators of student success: student education cost, MEA/SAT results, high school graduation rates, cost, retention, matriculation and college graduation rates
- * Using the results, create a white paper for policy discussion and implementation

SUCCESS BEGINS WITH EDUCATION

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