

**2009 Where We Stand
Our Purpose and Priorities**

The Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education has been a leading advocate for school reform and improving 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 of 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. We believe that all children **can and must** learn at higher levels to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

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**. Now, we need to regain our focus, develop a plan and stick to it. We believe by working collectively to build a high performing education system, Maine can become more prosperous and a national leader in education performance and attainment.

SUCCESS BEGINS WITH EDUCATION

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In 2009, we will continue to support, catalyze and raise awareness of efforts that ensure Maine students **graduate ready** for college, work and citizenship. **Specifically, we will focus our work on:**

1. Developing longer range goals and an agenda that builds the case for and supports fundamental structural changes in the way “school” is perceived and delivered in the state of Maine
2. Identifying and sharing best practices that are successful in improving student academic performance
3. Developing a ‘**call to action campaign**’ that will engage the broader community in committing to an education system that has the components to pave the way for all students to be successful and prepared for the 21st century:
 - ✓ High academic standards; rigorous assessments; accountability
 - ✓ Readiness to learn; professional development; technology
 - ✓ Parent and community involvement; school autonomy

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