

Educate Maine

Presentation to IDEA Committee
January 21, 2021

Educate Maine Overview

- Educate Maine is a business-led, education advocacy organization.
- **Our mission:** Champion career readiness by increasing the educational attainment of Maine people, enabling all students to succeed in postsecondary education and the workplace.
- **Our vision:** All Maine people will reach their greatest educational and economic potential to power a vibrant, globally competitive Maine economy.



Of all of our economic development strategies, education is the one with the greatest return on investment. Investment in the education of Maine people creates lifelong learners, opens pathways to promising careers, and produces civically engaged citizens.

**PROJECT
LOGIN**

Engage. Educate. Employ.

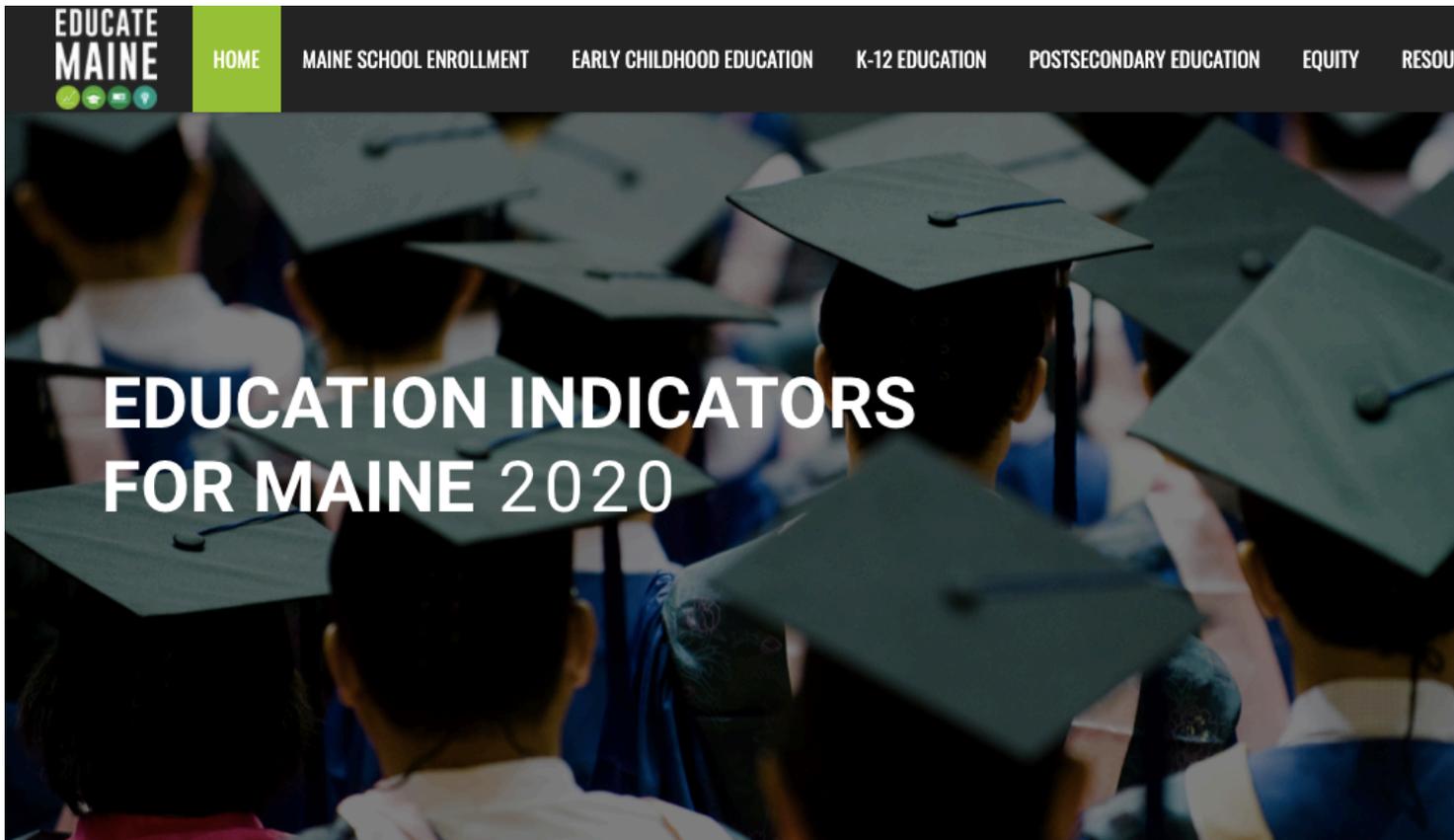
**FOCUS
MAINE**
Intern Experience

**MAINE
TEACHER
OF THE YEAR** 

**EDUCATION
LEADERS
EXPERIENCE™**
Connecting Education + Business

Educate Maine Programs

RESOURCE: Education Indicators



- 10 indicators on access, participation, and attainment throughout the educational pipeline in Maine, from pre-K through adulthood
- Disaggregated data by economic status, gender, and race wherever available
- Additional resources and information about Maine schools and students

RESOURCE: Education Indicators

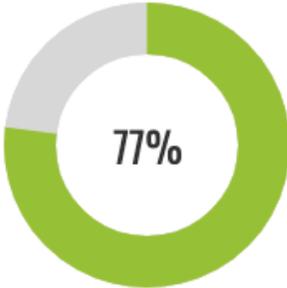
– PRE-K ACCESS

Maine has made large strides in making public pre-K available to 4-year-olds over the past several years. Policymakers at the state and local levels can further expand access for Maine children by addressing high financial costs for opening or expanding existing programs, securing adequate facilities, and supporting schools in recruiting and retaining pre-K teachers and staff.

Percent of Maine school districts offering public pre-K, 2013 & 2019



WHERE WE STARTED (2013)



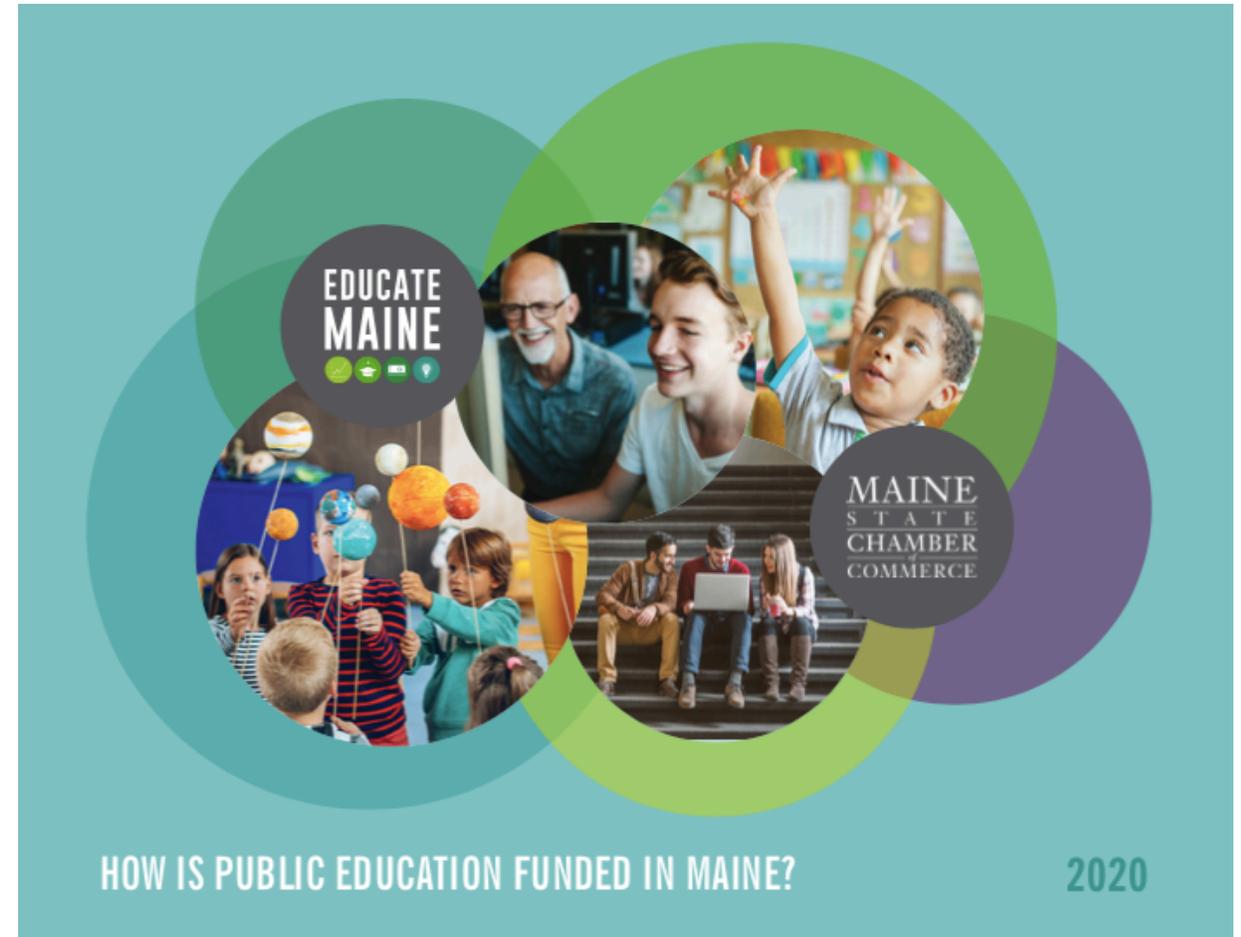
WHERE WE STAND (2019)



GOAL (2019)

RESOURCE: Education Funding in Maine

- Current policy brief about how public education is funded in Maine
- Identifies state, federal, and local funding
- Includes sections on early childhood, K-12, higher education, and adult education
- Reviews Essential Programs and Services funding model



mainespark

CONNECT TO YOUR FUTURE



Shortage of Skilled
Workers



Lack of Alignment across
Education and Workforce
Development



Needed Increase in High
Wage Opportunities



Projection of Additional
158,000 Workers Needed
by 2025

WHAT IS AND HOW IS IT TACKLING THE NEED FOR A MORE HIGHLY CREDENTIALLED WORKFORCE?

- MaineSpark is a 10-year commitment from Maine's most influential education and business leaders to work together to ensure that Maine's workforce is productive and competitive.
- Organizations in the MaineSpark coalition connect people with the education, training, jobs, programs and resources needed to thrive in Maine's robust and changing economy.
- MaineSpark's member organizations share a common goal:
by 2025, 60% of Mainers will hold education and workforce credentials that position Maine and its families for success.

60%
by 2025

What are Credentials of Value

Four-year degree

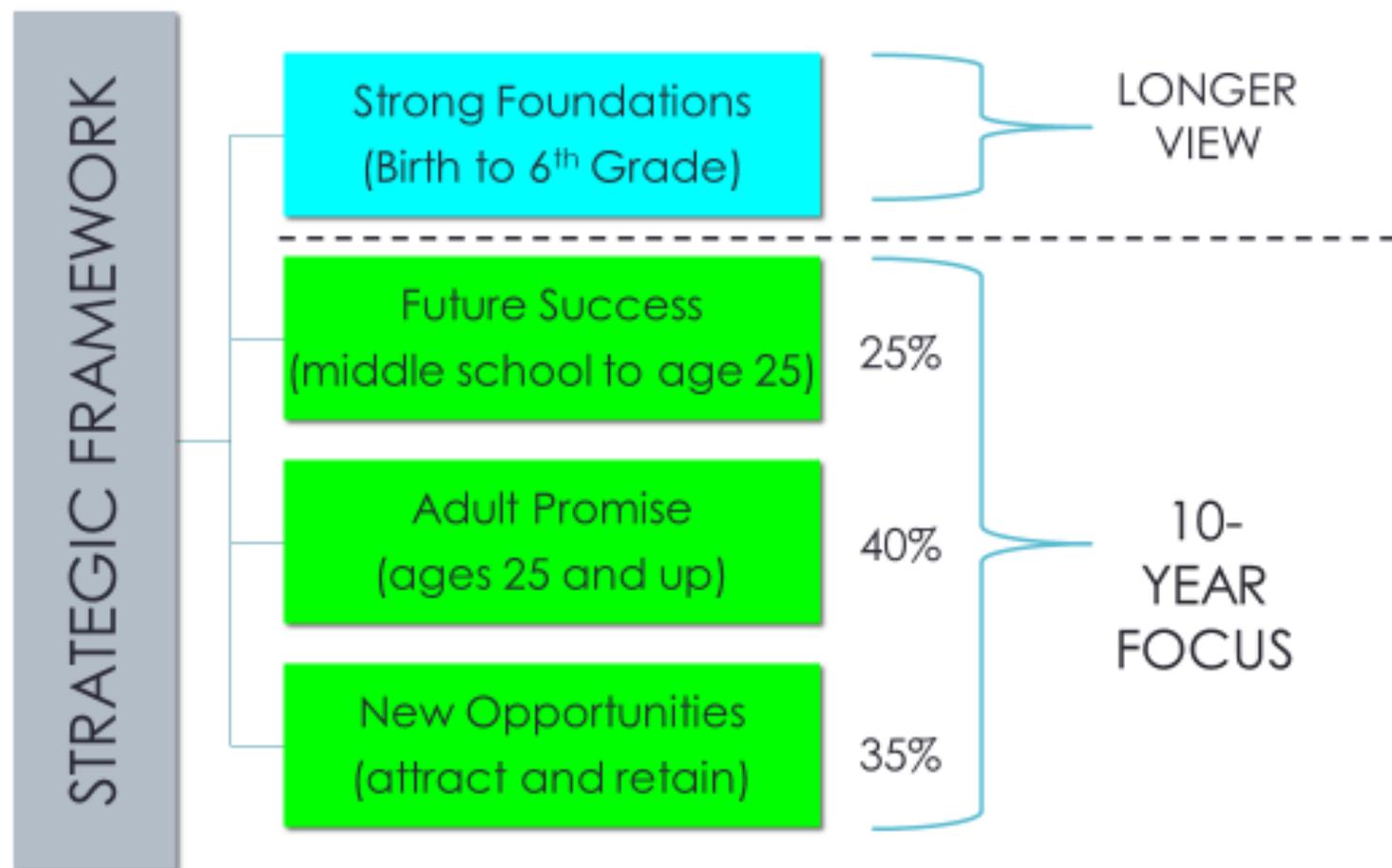
Two-year degree

Certificate

Certification

Industry-led short-term training

A Strategic Framework to Achieve the Goal



2017 - LD 1638
“An Act to Promote Workforce Education
Attainment”

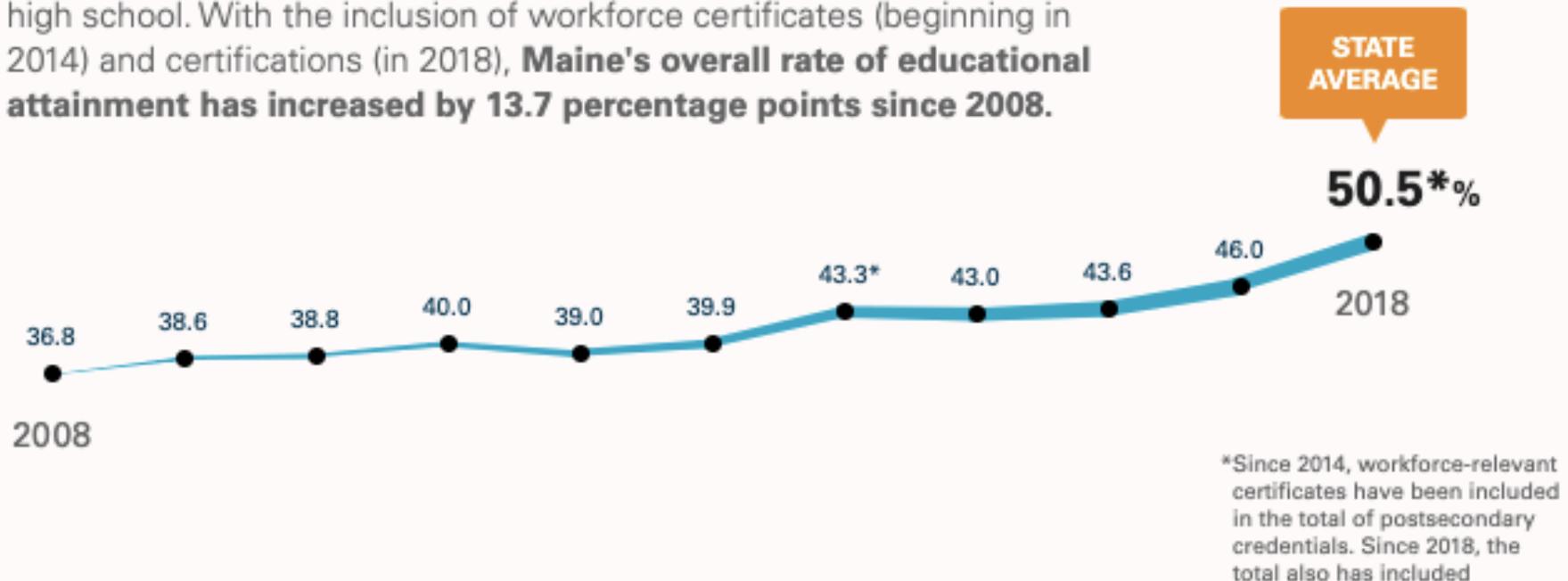
- State adoption of 60% by 2025 goal
- Annual reporting to both the IDEA Committee and Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
- Coordination with State Workforce Board and MaineSpark

A few of the MaineSpark Successes

- Established a high-functioning management framework that is rooted in a collective impact approach to build on existing efforts, provide mutual support among stakeholders, and align organizations on a shared goal
- Attracted national and state funders to support education and workforce development
- UMS led the way to launch the “All Learning Counts” project focused on credential pathways bringing \$350,000 grant funds to Maine
- Increased supports for adult learners through additional scholarships and a network of navigators to support adults interested in postsecondary education
- Expanded tracking of credentials in career and technical education centers and regions
- Maine’s efforts were constantly highlighted nationally

Maine's Progress

To reach state goals, the state will not only have to maintain current rates of attainment but also significantly increase the number of people who enroll in programs and earn all types of credentials beyond high school. With the inclusion of workforce certificates (beginning in 2014) and certifications (in 2018), **Maine's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 13.7 percentage points since 2008.**



Source: "A Stronger Nation" from the Lumina Foundation (2020)

Policy Areas

Broadband

Early
Childhood
Expansion

Financial Aid

Support for
Pre-K-12

Support for
Higher
Education

Credentialing

Maine as
Career
Destination

Essential Activities

- Supported the development of the 10-year economic strategy
- Participated in the Economic Recovery Committee process
- Supporting the implementation of 10-year economic strategy
- Hosting virtual events to help high school students learn about particular industries (construction, automotive, criminal justice, etc.)
- Collaborating with high schools, colleges, FAME, and the MELMAC Education Foundation to address declines in postsecondary applications and financial aid applications
- Supporting the Adult Promise Navigator Network

Educate Maine Resources



- Staff:

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Katherine Johnston, Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives,
Katherine@educatemaine.org

- Research and Reports

- Education Indicators Website: educationindicators.me
- Policy Brief Series: <https://www.educatemaine.org/research-reports>