



Educate Maine

Presentation to the Joint Standing Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs
February 5, 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.

**PROJECT
LOGIN**

Engage. Educate. Employ.

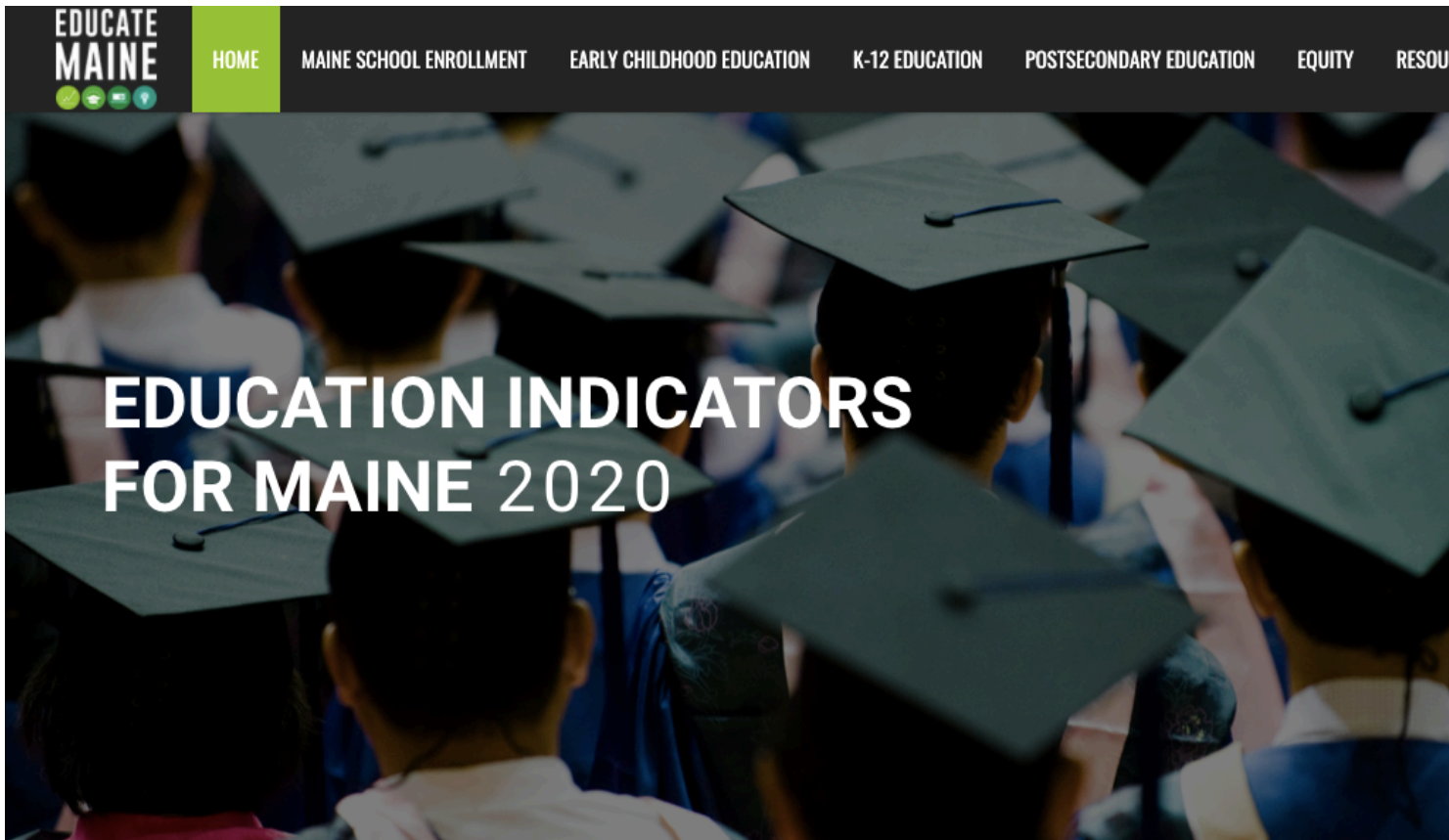
**FOCUS
MAINE**
Intern Experience

**MAINE
TEACHER
OF THE YEAR** 

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

Educate Maine Programs

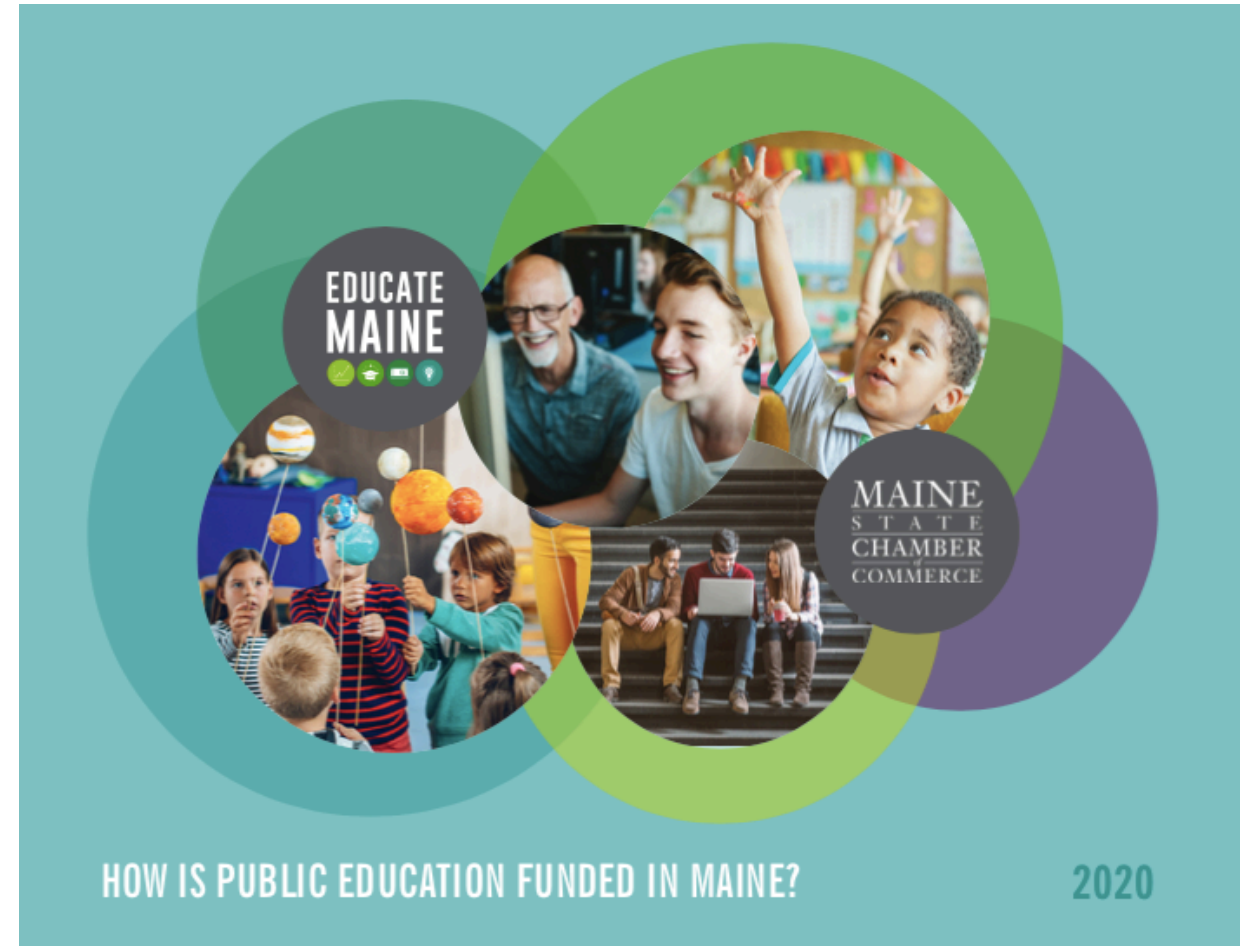
RESOURCE: Education Indicators



- 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 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



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.

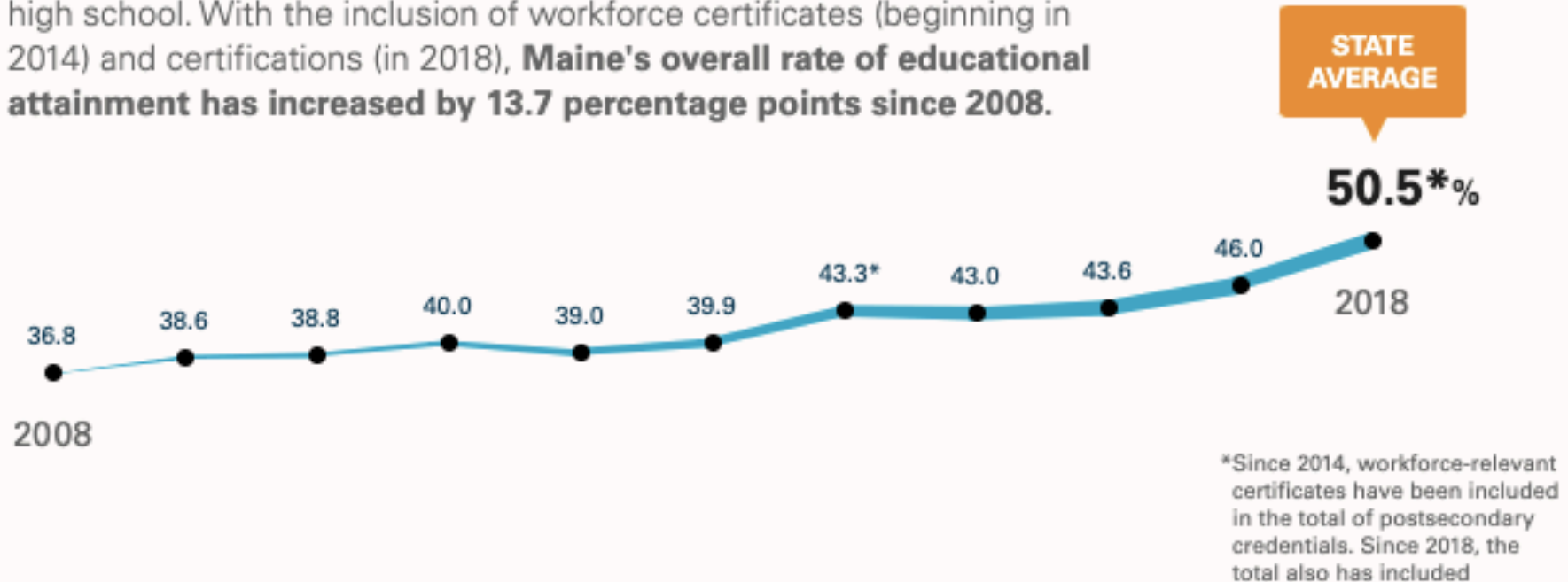
60%
by 2025

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

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)

The Challenges of the Pandemic

- The quick transition of all educational institutions in response to the pandemic
- The incredible work of Maine educators
- Disengaged learners at varying levels
- Equity
- Student aspirations
- Postsecondary planning
- Educator Workforce
- Broadband
- Childcare

The Opportunities of the Pandemic

- The momentum toward increased support for high quality and affordable childcare across Maine to encourage increased workforce participation and credential attainment among adults
- Recognition of the significant need for all Maine people to have access to high speed internet in order to learn, work, and contribute to society
- Reinforcement of the need for multiple career pathways for students and adults to thrive in education and the economy
- Recognition of the importance of educators including classroom educators, administrators, and support staff
- The growth of online learning in all levels of education and the focus on the most essential skills and knowledge students need to know

Educate Maine Resources



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- Research and Reports

- Education Indicators Website: educationindicators.me

- Policy Brief Series: <https://www.educatemaine.org/research-reports>