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Report on Remedial Education Needs of Recent Maine High School Graduates Enrolled in Maine Community Colleges, 2015

Maine Community College System

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Maine Community College System

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December 15, 2015

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
 127th Maine Legislature
 100 State House Station
 Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

In accordance with Public Law 2011, Chapter 615 (125th Maine Legislature), enclosed you will find the Maine Community College System’s annual report on the number of Maine high school graduates who enrolled in one of our community colleges directly after high school and enrolled in remedial courses. The law requires that we provide data on these students by January 1st of each year.

As required, the report includes a summary of the number of students enrolled in remedial courses in fall 2015 disaggregated by college and subject area: English language arts and mathematics (Table 1). The total number of students who graduated in 2015 from a Maine high school, GED, or adult education program, or were homeschooled and enrolled in a Maine community college was 2,061. Of that number, 898 (43.6%) enrolled in one or more remedial courses.

Although the number of Maine high school graduates needing remediation at our institutions remains of significant concern, it is important to note that the number of recent Maine high school graduates enrolled in remedial courses in their first semester in college has declined over the past few years, from a high of 1,086 students in the fall of 2012 (52.2%) to 898 this fall (43.6%). It is too early to attribute this decline to specific actions taken by our institutions or by Maine’s high schools, but we are pleased to see a trend line that suggests that focused attention on student success—in our high schools and at our colleges—is beginning to make a difference.

	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015
Number of students entering a Maine community college directly from a Maine high school, GED, homeschool, or adult education program	2,114	2,079	1,976	2,061
% entering a Maine community college directly from high school and enrolled in one or more remedial courses	50.7%	52.2%	46.1%	43.6%

The Maine Community College System is engaged in a number of focused, strategic efforts to reduce barriers to student preparedness and persistence. These strategies are designed to result in fewer students enrolling in remedial courses and higher retention and graduation rates. They include the following:

- The Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System has adopted a new five-year strategic plan (2015-2020) with student success at its center. The Plan builds on a number of successful pilot initiatives that have been tested across the system and calls for their expansion. These strategies include efforts to increase the number of student navigators at each of our colleges to provide at-risk students with the academic and personal supports they need to be successful.
- In aligning their efforts with the new Strategic Plan, the colleges are working to address academic preparation and long-term student success by introducing intensive college readiness experiences at no cost to students and before they matriculate in a degree program. Other promising strategies include mandatory orientation, college-readiness courses, and accelerated learning programs that mainstream remedial students using a model of instruction that combines academic support and college-level coursework.
- MCCS continues to work with individual high schools to improve college readiness. MCCS programs such as Early College for ME and On Course for College help ease the transition from high school to college by allowing high school students to experience college, explore careers, and earn college credit while still in high school. In all, over 2,800 Maine high school students earned college credits in 2014-15 through the various dual enrollment options offered by MCCS.
- MCCS is also working to strengthen its ability to gather and analyze student data in order to better understand barriers to completion and predictors of success and to build Early Warning Systems that identify students in need of support before interventions prove too little, too late.
- Finally, MCCS continues to work with leadership from the University of Maine System, Maine Maritime Academy, and the Maine Department of Education on a five-year, state-wide strategic plan focused on the education needs of the State's workforce. The plan includes objectives aimed at improving college-readiness, reducing remediation, and increasing participation of under-represented groups in education programs and services.

As the law requires, this report also includes:

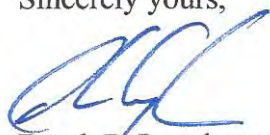
- A listing of Maine high schools from which students graduated in 2015 and subsequently enrolled in a community college in fall 2015 (Table 2). This table provides the total number of students from each sending high school, the number enrolled in at least one remedial course, the number enrolled in remedial math, the number enrolled in remedial English, and the number enrolled in both remedial math and remedial English. To ensure that personally identifiable information is not disclosed, the law requires that no values be reported when 5 or fewer students from the same secondary school are enrolled in remedial courses.
- The current graduation, transfer, and still-enrolled rates for the 2014, 2013, and 2012 remedial cohorts (Tables 3, 4, and 5). Graduation rates for first-time, full-time students are typically measured at 150% of time to completion—three years for an associate degree. Only the 2012 cohort has reached this threshold. It is important to note that all cohorts include significant numbers of part-time students (approximately 60% of MCCS students attend part time).

A summary of these tables shows:

	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015
% of students who were enrolled in one or more remedial courses and were still enrolled in fall 2015, had graduated, or transferred	42.6%	43.9%	56.5%	*

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information. I would be glad to meet with you at any time to address any questions or concerns the Committee may have.

Sincerely yours,



Derek P. Langhauser
Interim President

c: Commissioner of Education

Maine Community College System

TABLE 1: Summary of Traditional (*Direct from High School*) Students from Maine Enrolled in Remedial Courses¹

Fall 2015

	CMCC	EMCC	KVCC	NMCC	SMCC	WCCC	YCCC	Total
Total Matriculated Direct from High School	404	322	204	105	779	89	158	2,061
Total Unduplicated Enrolled in Remedial Courses	129	188	37	17	412	44	71	898
% of Total	31.9%	58.4%	18.1%	16.2%	52.9%	49.4%	44.9%	43.6%

Breakdown of Enrollment by Subject

	CMCC	EMCC	KVCC	NMCC	SMCC	WCCC	YCCC	Total
Total in Remedial Math	86	154	33	7	374	31	67	752
Total in Remedial English (<i>Includes ESOL</i>)	89	89	4	12	144	30	20	388
Students taking both Remedial Math and Remedial English (<i>Numbers included in above totals</i>)	46	55	0	2	106	17	16	242

¹ Remedial courses are those within English language arts (including ESOL) and mathematics that are not college-level courses. They are disaggregated by subject area but not by the individual course. Students may be enrolled in more than one English language arts or mathematics course in a semester.

Maine Community College System

TABLE 2: Summary of Traditional (Direct from High School) Students from Maine by High School²

Fall 2015					
Maine Community College System					
	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & Remedial English
Adult Ed/GED	35	17	16	*	*
Ashland District School	*	*		*	
Bangor Christian Schools	*	*	*	*	*
Bangor High School	24	13	8	8	*
Belfast Area High School	20	10	7	*	*
Berwick Academy	*				
Biddeford High School	29	18	16	6	*
Bonny Eagle High School	44	24	22	10	8
Boothbay Region High School	8	7	7	*	*
Brewer High School	22	13	12	6	*
Brunswick High School	23	12	12	*	*
Buckfield Junior Senior High School	11	*	*	*	
Bucksport High School	12	9	9	*	*
Calais High School	19	7	*	*	*
Camden Hills Regional High School	12	9	9	*	*
Cape Elizabeth High School	*				
Caribou High School	24	6	*	*	
Carrabec High School	9	*	*		
Casco Bay High School	8	*	*	*	*
Central Aroostook High School	*				
Central High School	15	8	8	*	*
Cheverus High School	*				
Coastal Christian School	*				
Community High School	9	*	*	*	
Cony High School	17	*	*		
Corbin Academy	*	*	*		
Deck House School	*	*	*		
Deer Isle Stonington High School	10	*	*	*	*
Deering High School	42	28	22	17	11

² To ensure that personally identifiable information is not disclosed, the law requires that no values be reported when 5 or fewer students from the same secondary school are enrolled in remedial courses. An asterisk (*) is used when the value is 5 or less.

Fall 2015					
Maine Community College System					
	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & Remedial English
Dexter Regional High School	12	*	*	*	*
Dirigo High School	10	*	*	*	*
East Grand High School	*	*	*	*	
Easton Junior/Senior High School	*	*	*	*	*
Edward Little High School	59	28	18	19	9
Ellsworth High School	16	9	8	*	*
Erskine Academy	20	6	*	*	*
Falmouth High School	*	*	*		
Forest Hills Consolidated School	*				
Fort Fairfield Middle High School	7	*	*		
Foxcroft Academy	11	*	*	*	*
Freeport High School	13	6	*	*	*
Fryeburg Academy	8	*	*	*	*
Gardiner Area High School	11	6	*	*	*
George Stevens Academy	8	*	*	*	*
Gorham High School	13	9	7	6	*
Gray New Gloucester High School	19	11	9	7	*
Greater Portland Christian School	*				
Greely High School	10	*	*		
Greenville High School	6	*	*	*	*
Hall-Dale High School	*	*	*	*	*
Hampden Academy	17	12	7	8	*
Hermon High School	18	10	7	*	*
Hodgdon High School	*	*	*	*	*
Home Schooled	33	10	9	*	*
Houlton High School	10	6	*	*	*
Islesboro Central School	*	*	*	*	*
Jay High School	9	*	*	*	*
John Bapst Memorial High School	*	*	*	*	*
Jonesport-Beals High School	*	*	*		
Katahdin High School	*	*	*	*	*
Kennebunk High School	22	8	6	*	*
Lake Region High School	27	12	11	*	*
Lawrence High School	23	*	*	*	*
Leavitt Area High School	31	10	7	7	*
Lee Academy	*	*	*	*	*

Fall 2015					
Maine Community College System					
	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & Remedial English
Lewiston High School	62	23	19	14	10
Limestone Community School	*	*		*	
Lincoln Academy	6	*		*	
Lisbon Falls Christian Academy	*				
Lisbon High School	22	9	*	6	*
Machias Memorial High School	*	*	*	*	*
Madawaska Middle High School	*	*		*	
Madison Area Memorial High School	12	*	*		
Maine Academy Of Natural Sciences	*	*	*		
Maine Central Institute	15	7	7	*	*
Maranacook Community School	9	6	*	*	*
Marshwood High School	33	8	8	*	*
Massabesic High School	38	22	22	*	*
Mattanawcook Academy	11	*	*	*	*
Medomak Valley High School	11	*	*	*	*
Messalonskee High School	26	8	*	*	
Midcoast Christian Academy	*				
Monmouth Academy	11	*	*	*	*
Morse High School	22	11	11		
Mount Abram Regional High School	7	*	*		
Mount Ararat School	42	12	12	*	*
Mount Blue High School	21	7	6	*	*
Mount Desert Island High School	8	*	*	*	*
Mount View High School	20	7	6	*	*
Mountain Valley High School	7	*	*	*	*
Narraguagus High School	7	*	*		
Noble High School	30	11	9	*	*
Nokomis Regional High	18	9	8	*	*
North Atlantic Regional High School	*	*	*		
North Haven Community School-MSAD #7	*				
North Yarmouth Academy	*				
Oak Hill High School	16	*	*	*	*
Oceanside High School	*	*	*		
Old Orchard Beach High School	10	*	*	*	*

Fall 2015		Maine Community College System				
	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & Remedial English	
Old Town High School	19	12	7	8	*	
Orono High School	18	14	13	6	*	
Oxford Hills Christian Academy	*					
Oxford Hills High School	40	8	6	*	*	
Penobscot Valley High School	*	*	*	*	*	
Penquis Valley High School	7	*	*	*	*	
Pine Tree Academy	*	*	*			
Piscataquis Community High School	6	*	*	*	*	
Poland Regional High School	24	8	6	*	*	
Portland High School	45	29	19	19	9	
Presque Isle High School	26	6	*	*	*	
Rangeley Lakes Regional School	*	*		*		
Richmond High School	*	*		*		
Robert W Traip Academy	8	*	*	*	*	
Royal Academy	*	*	*			
Sacopee Valley Junior-Senior High School	10	6	6	*	*	
Saint Dominic Academy	*	*	*			
Sanford High School	46	21	21	*	*	
Sanford Regional Vocational Technical Center	*					
Scarborough High School	23	9	9	*	*	
Schenck High School	8	6	6	*	*	
Seacoast Christian School	*					
Searsport District High School	*					
Shead High School	8	*	*	*	*	
Skowhegan Area High School	32	*	*			
South Portland High School	35	18	17	8	7	
Southern Aroostook Community High School	*	*	*	*	*	
Spruce Mountain High School	23	8	*	*		
Standish Baptist Academy	*	*		*		
Stearns High School	9	7	*	*	*	
Sumner Memorial High School	*	*	*	*		
Telstar Regional High School	15	*	*	*	*	
Temple Academy	6	*	*	*		
The New School	*	*	*	*	*	

Fall 2015					
Maine Community College System					
	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & Remedial English
Thornton Academy	47	33	31	9	7
Upper Kennebec Valley Memorial Junior Senior High	*	*	*		
Van Buren District Secondary School	*	*		*	
Vinalhaven High School	*	*	*	*	*
Washburn District High School	7	*	*		
Washington Academy	*	*	*		
Waterville Senior High School	30	10	10	*	*
Wayfinder Schools	*	*	*	*	*
Wells High School	23	11	9	*	*
Westbrook High School	25	18	17	7	6
Windham High School	41	21	21	*	*
Winslow High School	19	*	*	*	*
Winthrop High School	6	*	*	*	*
Wiscasset High School	6	*	*		
Wisdom Junior-Senior High School	*				
Woodland Jr/Sr High School	10	*	*	*	*
Yarmouth High School	*	*	*	*	*
York High School	10	*	*		
Grand Total	2,061	898	752	388	242

Maine Community College System

TABLE 3: Fall 2014 Cohort³ – Retention and Graduation/Transfer Rates of Traditional (Direct from High School) Students from Maine Enrolled in Remedial Courses

College	Cohort Year	Tracking Year	Total in Cohort		Students Retained		Students Graduated or Transferred		Total Retained, Graduated, or Transferred		Not Enrolled ⁴	
	2014	2015	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CMCC			140		58	41.4%	3	2.1%	61	43.6%	79	56.4%
EMCC			159		89	56.0%	7	4.4%	96	60.4%	63	39.6%
KVCC			31		14	45.2%	2	6.5%	16	51.6%	15	48.4%
NMCC			21		8	38.1%	0	0.0%	8	38.1%	13	61.9%
SMCC			452		245	54.2%	20	4.4%	265	58.6%	187	41.4%
WCCC			31		10	32.3%	9	29.0%	19	61.3%	12	38.7%
YCCC			76		44	57.9%	5	6.6%	49	64.5%	27	35.5%
MCCS TOTALS:			910		468	51.4%	46	5.1%	514	56.5%	396	43.5%

Of the 910 students who entered a Maine community college directly from a Maine high school in fall 2014 and enrolled in one or more remedial courses, 468 (51.4%) were still enrolled in fall 2015 and 46 (5.1%) graduated or transferred. Of the 46 students who graduated or transferred, 9 completed their program of study at a Maine community college by fall 2015. All of these students were enrolled in one-year certificate programs. The remaining 37 students transferred to another institution of higher education, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse. The total retained, graduated, or transferred is 56.5%.

³ Only students who entered a Maine community college in fall 2014 directly from a Maine high school and enrolled in one or more remedial courses in fall 2014 are included in the analysis.

⁴ Students included in "not enrolled" were not found in Maine community college enrollment files or matched with files from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). The NSC allows institutions of higher education to track the subsequent enrollment and graduation of their students at more than 3,600 colleges and universities in the U.S. Students with a FERPA block (which prevents the release of student directory information) would not be included in the NSC files returned to the MCCS. Therefore, some students reported as "not enrolled" may in fact be enrolled at other institutions of higher education.

Maine Community College System

TABLE 4: Fall 2013 Cohort⁵ – Retention and Graduation/Transfer Rates of Traditional (Direct from High School) Students from Maine Enrolled in Remedial Courses

College	Cohort Year	Tracking Year	Total in Cohort	Students Retained		Students Graduated or Transferred		Total Retained, Graduated, or Transferred		Not Enrolled ⁶	
	2013	2015	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CMCC			232	83	35.8%	20	8.6%	103	44.4%	129	55.6%
EMCC			126	39	31.0%	13	10.3%	52	41.3%	74	58.7%
KVCC			37	11	29.7%	1	2.7%	12	32.4%	25	67.6%
NMCC			21	9	42.9%	2	9.5%	11	52.4%	10	47.6%
SMCC			528	172	32.6%	51	9.7%	223	42.2%	305	57.8%
WCCC			78	8	10.3%	30	38.5%	38	48.7%	40	51.3%
YCCC			64	30	46.9%	8	12.5%	38	59.4%	26	40.6%
MCCS TOTALS:			1,086	352	32.4%	125	11.5%	477	43.9%	609	56.1%

Of the 1,086 students who entered a Maine community college directly from a Maine high school in fall 2013 and enrolled in one or more remedial courses, 352 (32.4%) were still enrolled in fall 2015 and 125 (11.5%) graduated or transferred. Of the 125 students who graduated or transferred, 69 completed their program of study at a Maine community college by fall 2015. The remaining 56 students transferred to another institution of higher education, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse. The total retained, graduated, or transferred is 43.9%.

⁵ Only students who entered a Maine community college in fall 2013 directly from a Maine high school and enrolled in one or more remedial courses in fall 2013 are included in the analysis.

⁶ Students included in "not enrolled" were not found in Maine community college enrollment files or matched with files from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). The NSC allows institutions of higher education to track the subsequent enrollment and graduation of their students at more than 3,600 colleges and universities in the U.S. Students with a FERPA block (which prevents the release of student directory information) would not be included in the NSC files returned to the MCCS. Therefore, some students reported as "not enrolled" may in fact be enrolled at other institutions of higher education.

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TABLE 5: Fall 2012 Cohort⁷ – Retention and Graduation/Transfer Rates of Traditional (Direct from High School) Students from Maine Enrolled in Remedial Courses

College	Cohort Year	Tracking Year	Total in Cohort	Students Retained		Students Graduated or Transferred		Total Retained, Graduated, or Transferred		Not Enrolled ⁸	
	2012	2015	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CMCC			199	34	17.1%	43	21.6%	77	38.7%	122	61.3%
EMCC			200	24	12.0%	52	26.0%	76	38.0%	124	62.0%
KVCC			23	4	17.4%	5	21.7%	9	39.1%	14	60.9%
NMCC			30	5	16.7%	6	20.0%	11	36.7%	19	63.3%
SMCC			512	67	13.1%	164	32.0%	231	45.1%	281	54.9%
WCCC			56	14	25.0%	10	17.9%	24	42.9%	32	57.1%
YCCC			51	9	17.6%	19	37.3%	28	54.9%	23	45.1%
MCCS TOTALS:			1,071	157	14.7%	299	27.9%	456	42.6%	615	57.4%

Of the 1,071 students who entered a Maine community college directly from a Maine high school in fall 2012 and enrolled in one or more remedial courses, 157 (14.7%) were still enrolled in fall 2015 and 299 (27.9%) graduated or transferred. Of the 299 students who graduated or transferred, 204 completed their program of study at a Maine community college by fall 2015. The remaining 95 transferred to another institution of higher education, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse. The total retained, graduated, or transferred is 42.6%.

⁷ Only students who entered a Maine community college in fall 2012 directly from a Maine high school and enrolled in one or more remedial courses in fall 2012 are included in the analysis.

⁸ Students included in “not enrolled” were not found in Maine community college enrollment files or matched with files from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). The NSC allows institutions of higher education to track the subsequent enrollment and graduation of their students at more than 3,600 colleges and universities in the U.S. Students with a FERPA block (which prevents the release of student directory information) would not be included in the NSC files returned to the MCCS. Therefore, some students reported as “not enrolled” may in fact be enrolled at other institutions of higher education.