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Report on Remedial Education Needs of Recent Maine High School Graduates Enrolled in Maine Community Colleges, 2014

Maine Community College System

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December 18, 2014

**Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
127th Maine Legislature
Cross Office Building 202
Augusta, Maine 04333**

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

In accordance with Public Law Chapter 615 (125th Maine Legislature), enclosed you will find the Maine Community College System's third 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 2014 disaggregated by college and subject area: English language arts and mathematics (Table 1). The total number of students who graduated in June from a Maine high school, GED, or adult education program, or were homeschooled and enrolled in a Maine community college was 1,976. Of that number, 910 (46.1%) enrolled in one or more remedial courses. The percentages vary by college and can change from year to year and may be attributed to different and evolving approaches to remediation.

Also included is a listing of Maine high schools from which students graduated in June and subsequently enrolled in a community college in fall 2014 (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.

This year's report also includes the current retention and graduation rates for the 2013 and 2012 remedial cohorts (Tables 3 and 4). Graduation rates for first-time, full-time students are typically measured at 150% of time to completion—three years for an associate degree. Neither cohort has reached this threshold. It is also important to note that both cohorts include significant numbers of part-time students (approximately 60% of MCCS students attend part time). The report also includes data on transfer to another institution of higher education, since a pathway to a baccalaureate degree is an integral part of our mission and therefore also a measure of success.

Results for the earlier cohorts are as follows:

The fall 2013 cohort has 1,086 students who entered a Maine community college directly from a Maine high school and enrolled in one or more remedial courses.

- **575 (52.9%) were still enrolled in fall 2014,**
- **24 graduated, and**
- **34 transferred to another institution of higher education.**

The total of students retained, graduated, or transferred is 633 (58.3%).

The fall 2012 cohort has 1,071 students who entered a Maine community college directly from a Maine high school and enrolled in one or more remedial courses.

- **359 (33.5%) were still enrolled in fall 2014,**
- **40 graduated, and**
- **71 transferred to another institution of higher education.**

The total of students retained, graduated, or transferred is 470 (43.9%).

Lastly, the law asks that we provide recommendations for strategies that may result in fewer students enrolling in remedial courses and for improving retention and graduation rates. The Maine Community College System continues to be engaged in a number of efforts to better understand and reduce barriers to improving student preparedness and performance.

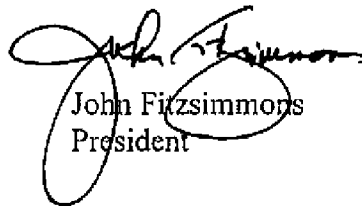
- **The MCCS has worked with leadership from the University of Maine System, Maine Maritime Academy, and the Maine Department of Education on the development of a five-year strategic plan to address issues of common concern. This plan includes objectives and measures designed to improve college readiness, reduce the need for remediation for recent high school graduates, and improve persistence and graduation rates.**
- **Beginning in the summer of 2014, colleges in the MCCS piloted student success initiatives targeting incoming students who needed remediation, such as the Summer Success Academy at Eastern Maine Community College and the MySuccess program at Southern Maine Community College. Both initiatives were designed to improve college readiness for incoming first-year students planning to attend in the fall of 2014. Participants were offered the opportunity to improve mathematics and writing skills sufficiently to bypass remedial courses and earn college credit for a first-year experience course. The colleges are in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of these initiatives for the academic success of participants. Lessons learned will inform future efforts in this area.**
- **The MCCS will be implementing a new strategic plan with student success as the focal point. Numerous student success initiatives, in addition to the pilot programs mentioned above, are already underway at our colleges, from redesigning remedial courses—to include supplemental instruction; online modules; and short- and long-term refresher instruction tailored to the academic needs of individual students—to strengthening connections between students and advisors.**

Through these efforts we hope to significantly increase the number of students who achieve their academic and career goals.

- The MCCS continues to work with individual high schools to improve college readiness and persistence. 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.

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,



John Fitzsimmons
President

cc: Commissioner of Education

Maine Community College System

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

Fall 2014 Cohort

	CMCC	EMCC	KVCC	NMCC	SMCC	WCCC	YCCC	Total
Total Matriculated Direct from High School	388	307	162	114	753	57	195	1,976
Total Unduplicated Enrolled in Remedial Courses	140	159	31	21	452	31	76	910
% of Total	36.1%	51.8%	19.1%	18.4%	60.0%	54.4%	39.0%	46.1%
Breakdown of Enrollment by Subject								
	CMCC	EMCC	KVCC	NMCC	SMCC	WCCC	YCCC	Total
Total in Remedial Math	99	134	27	9	416	25	67	778
Total in Remedial English (Includes ESOL)	92	73	6	12	167	18	26	394
Students taking both Remedial Math and Remedial English (Numbers included in above totals)	51	48	2	0	131	13	17	262

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 2014

Maine Community College System Summary

High School	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & English
Acadia Christian School	*				
Adult Ed/GED	28	17	14	6	4
Ashland District School	*				
Bangor Christian Schools	*				
Bangor High School	9	*	4	4	4
Belfast Area High School	15	7	6	4	4
Biddeford High School	35	23	18	11	6
Bonny Eagle High School	35	19	19	6	6
Boothbay Region High School	9	*	4	4	4
Brewer High School	21	11	11	6	6
Brunswick High School	31	23	23	6	6
Buckfield Junior Senior High School	8	*	4	*	4
Bucksport High School	13	*	4	4	4
Calais High School	8	*	4	4	4
Calvary Christian Academy	4	4		4	
Camden Hills Regional High School	8	4	4	*	4
Cape Elizabeth High School	8	7	6	4	4
Caribou High School	26	7	4	4	
Carleton Project	4	4	4		
Carrabec High School	7	4	4		
Casco Bay High School	4	*	4		
Central Aroostook High School	*	4		4	
Central High School	14	7	4	4	
Central Maine Christian Academy	4				
Cheverus High School	*	4	4	4	
Chop Point School	*				
Coastal Christian School	*				
Community High School	*				
Community School	4	*	4	4	4
Compass Point Academy	4				
Cony High School	12	*	4	4	
Deer Isle Stonington High School	*	*	4		
Deering High School	37	28	24	19	15
Dexter Regional High School	11	7	4	4	4

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 2014

Maine Community College System Summary

High School	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & English
Dirigo High School	15	7	7	*	*
East Grand High School	*	*	*		
Easton Junior/Senior High School	*				
Edward Little High School	53	22	15	14	7
Ellsworth High School	18	11	11	*	*
Erskine Academy	24	6	6	*	*
Falmouth High School	7	6	6	*	*
Forest Hills Consolidated School	*	*		*	
Fort Fairfield Middle High School	9	*	*	*	
Foxcroft Academy	*	*	*	*	*
Freeport High School	13	*	*	*	*
Fryeburg Academy	11	8	8	*	*
Gardiner Area High School	14	*	*	*	*
George Stevens Academy	*	*	*	*	*
Gorham High School	20	9	8	*	*
Gray New Gloucester High School	16	6	*	*	
Greater Houlton Christian Academy	*	*		*	
Greater Portland Christian School	*	*	*	*	*
Greely High School	19	6	6	*	*
Greenville High School	*	*		*	
Hall-Dale High School	7	*	*	*	*
Hampden Academy	29	17	15	9	7
Hebron Academy	*				
Hermon High School	16	9	9	*	*
Hodgdon High School	6	*	*	*	*
Home Schooled	18	*	*		
Houlton High School	11	*	*		
Islesboro Central School	*				
John Bapst Memorial High School	7	*	*		
Katahdin High School	6	*	*	*	*
Kennebunk High School	29	16	15	*	*
Lake Region High School	18	8	8	*	*
Lawrence High School	29	*	*	*	*
Leavitt Area High School	43	14	12	8	6
Lee Academy	6	*	*	*	*
Lewiston High School	54	20	12	15	7
Limestone Community School	*	*	*		
Lincoln Academy	*	*	*	*	
Lisbon High School	23	11	11	*	*
Living Waters Christian School	*	*	*		
Madawaska Middle High School	6	*		*	
Madison Area Memorial High School	*	*	*		

Fall 2014

Maine Community College System Summary

High School	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & English
Maine Academy Of Natural Sciences	*	*	*		
Maine Central Institute	11	*	*		
Maranacook Community School	9	*	*	*	*
Marshwood High School	31	8	7	*	*
Massabesic High School	37	15	15	6	6
Mattanawcook Academy	14	7	*	*	
Medomak Valley High School	12	7	6	*	*
Messalonskee High School	31	7	6	*	*
Monmouth Academy	6	*	*	*	*
Morse High School	18	8	8	*	*
Mount Abram Regional High School	8	*	*	*	
Mount Ararat School	35	20	18	*	*
Mount Blue High School	9	6	*	*	*
Mount Desert Island High School	7	*	*	*	*
Mount View High School	9	*	*		
Mountain Valley High School	12	9	6	7	*
Narraguagus High School	*	*	*	*	*
Noble High School	48	20	16	7	*
Nokomis Regional High	18	*	*	*	*
North Atlantic Regional High School	*	*	*		
Oak Hill High School	23	12	12	6	6
Oceanside High School	*	*	*		
Old Orchard Beach High School	16	7	7	*	*
Old Town High School	25	14	8	10	*
Open Bible Christian Academy	*				
Orono High School	8	6	*	*	*
Oxford Hills Christian Academy	*				
Oxford Hills High School	43	16	13	9	6
Penobscot Valley High School	6	*	*		
Penquis Valley High School	6	*	*	*	*
Pine Tree Academy	*	*	*		
Piscataquis Community High School	9	7	6	*	*
Poland Regional High School	21	8	6	7	*
Portland High School	32	22	19	12	9
Presque Isle High School	21	6	*	*	*
Rangley Lakes Regional School	*				
Richmond High School	6	*	*	*	*
Robert W Traip Academy	*	*	*	*	*
Royal Academy	*	*	*		
Sacopee Valley Junior-Senior High School	17	8	7	*	
Saint Dominic Academy	*	*	*	*	*

Fall 2014

Maine Community College System Summary

High School	Total Students	Remedial Students	Remedial Math	Remedial English	Remedial Math & English
Sanford High School	54	23	20	10	7
Sanford Regional Vocational Technical Center	*				
Scarborough High School	35	23	20	8	*
Schenck High School	*	*	*	*	
Searsport District High School	*	*	*	*	*
Shead High School	7	7	6	*	*
Skowhegan Area High School	24	6	6		
South Portland High School	28	15	13	6	*
Southern Aroostook Community High School	*	*	*	*	*
Spruce Mountain High School	21	7	*	*	*
Stearns High School	*				
Sumner Memorial High School	10	*	*		
Telstar Regional High School	15	7	*	*	*
Temple Academy	*				
Thornton Academy	40	27	24	10	7
Upper Kennebec Valley Memorial Junior Senior High	*				
Van Buren District Secondary School	*				
Vinalhaven High School	*	*	*	*	*
Washburn District High School	10				
Washington Academy	9	*	*		
Waterville Senior High School	25	9	8	*	*
Waynflete School	*				
Wells High School	18	6	*	*	
Westbrook High School	30	25	25	11	11
Windham Christian Academy	*				
Windham High School	36	15	13	*	
Winslow High School	18	6	*	*	*
Winthrop High School	*	*	*		
Wiscasset Christian Academy	*	*	*		
Wiscasset High School	*				
Wisdom Junior-Senior High School	8	*	*	*	*
Woodland Jr/Sr High School	12	*	*		
Yarmouth High School	*	*	*		
York High School	21	8	7	*	*
Grand Total	1,976	910	778	394	262

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TABLE 3: Fall 2013 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	
	2013	2014	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CMCC			232	131	56.5%	5	2.2%	136	58.6%	96	41.4%
EMCC			126	67	53.2%	3	2.4%	70	55.6%	56	44.4%
KVCC			37	19	51.4%	0	0.0%	19	51.4%	18	48.6%
NMCC			21	15	71.4%	1	4.8%	16	76.2%	5	23.8%
SMCC			528	276	52.3%	23	4.4%	299	56.6%	229	43.4%
WCCC			78	23	29.5%	21	26.9%	44	56.4%	34	43.6%
YCCC			64	44	68.8%	5	7.8%	49	76.6%	15	23.4%
MCCS TOTALS:			1,086	575	52.9%	58	5.3%	633	58.3%	453	41.7%

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, 575 (52.9%) were still enrolled in fall 2014 and 58 (5.3%) graduated or transferred. Of the 58 students who graduated or transferred, 24 completed their program of study by fall 2014. Most of these students were enrolled in one-year certificate programs. The remaining 34 students transferred to another institution of higher education, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse. The total retained, graduated, or transferred is 58.3%.

³ 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.

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.

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**TABLE 4: Fall 2012 Cohort[§]– 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 [§]	
	2012	2014	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CMCC			199	61	30.7%	18	9.0%	79	39.7%	120	60.3%
EMCC			200	56	28.0%	19	9.5%	75	37.5%	125	62.5%
KVCC			23	9	39.1%	1	4.3%	10	43.5%	13	56.5%
NMCC			30	2	6.7%	4	13.3%	6	20.0%	24	80.0%
SMCC			512	198	38.7%	50	9.8%	248	48.4%	264	51.6%
WCCC			56	6	10.7%	14	25.0%	20	35.7%	36	64.3%
YCCC			51	27	52.9%	5	9.8%	32	62.7%	19	37.3%
MCCS TOTALS:			1,071	359	33.5%	111	10.4%	470	43.9%	601	56.1%

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, 359 (33.5%) were still enrolled in fall 2014 and 111 (10.4%) graduated or transferred. Of the 111 students who graduated or transferred, 40 completed their program of study by fall 2014. The remaining 71 transferred to another institution of higher education, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse. The total retained, graduated, or transferred is 43.9%.

[§] 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.

[§] 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.