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New Education Data Reports Published

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Selected News Releases

New Education Data Reports Published

ORONO, Maine - The Maine Education Policy Research Institute has published the fifth editions of two documents that profile and detail the various school and community indicators essential to examining and measuring the needs and effectiveness of a school system.

The 2001 Legislative Report gives provides a data snapshot of every Maine community and school system. Organized by Senate district, the detailed report includes community financial, demographic and student achievement data, ranging from tax assessment and distribution for education to enrollment patterns, dropout rates, number of students pursuing higher education and teachers with graduate degrees.

The companion document, The Condition of K-12 Public Education in Maine 2000, covers 53 areas of the education system, grouped in three categories of indicators.

These indicators, which can influence or measure student learning and educational impact, include: Context - characteristics such as community wealth, poverty level and tax burden; Resource - such as staff, facilities and student services; and Results - tools such as student achievement and graduation rates to assess educational productivity.

According to the 2000 overview of K-12 education, Maine's 1.2 million population includes approximately 214,985 students enrolled in the state's 722 public schools across 286 school administrative units, supported by total education expenditures of \$1.3 billion.

The Policy Institute was established by the Legislature in partnership with the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine to generate an unbiased source of research and assessment, projections and trends to determine, evaluate and track educational needs, services and impact. Institute co-directors are Walter Harris, director of the Center for Research and Evaluation at UMaine, and David Silvernail, director of the Center for Educational Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation at USM.

The goal of the Maine Educational Policy Research Institute is to provide legislators with a comprehensive foundation of reliable data about schools and communities, Harris pointed out. "As our legislators are faced with many issues related to education, the District Report and K-12 Conditions documents will be valuable informational resources for shaping policy," he said.

More information about the Legislative Report is available from Harris at UMaine's College of Education and Human Development, (207) 581-2467; e-mail, wharris@maine.edu. Information about the K-12 Conditions document is available from the educational policy center at USM, (207) 780-5044, and is available on the web at www.cepare.usm.maine.edu.

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