



# EDUCATE MAINE



**Educate Maine serves as the nexus between Maine's business community and its education system, strengthening both and fostering long-term, meaningful partnerships. We believe that when educators, employers, and policy leaders work in tandem, Maine people are better positioned to reach their full educational and economic potential—and to power a vibrant, globally competitive Maine economy.**

## Our Work

In recent years, our work has expanded into a full cradle-to-career education continuum. Our goal is that every student—regardless of zip code—starts school ready to learn, develops a clear post-secondary plan, completes that plan, and enters the workforce prepared for a meaningful career.

Educate Maine advances this vision every day by: championing investments in an equitable, high-quality education pipeline; strengthening alignment between educators and employers to grow Maine's career-ready workforce; and developing and supporting exceptional educators while elevating the teaching profession.



### Policy & Advocacy

Championing investments in Maine's education pipeline to ensure equitable, high-quality outcomes for all learners. Building on research and data, we advocate for strong early learning programs and leverage leaders from **Maine Fight Crime: Invest In Kids**, **Maine ReadyNation**, and **Maine Mission: Readiness** to show how smart investments in children's first five years strengthen schools, communities, and the workforce.



### Educator Engagement

Developing teachers across the state through **The Teach Maine Center**, building on programs like the **Maine Teacher of the Year** and **Education Leaders Experience**. By focusing on recruitment, retention, diversity, professional growth, and elevating the profession, the Center ensures every Maine student has access to high-quality educators, including through new apprenticeship pathways into teaching.



### Workforce Development

Strengthening Maine's workforce pipeline by helping students explore careers, build skills, and connect with employers. Through **Maine Career Catalyst** and our role as a registered apprenticeship intermediary, we expand access to professional development, **internships**, and **apprenticeships**—especially for youth and rural communities—creating clearer pathways from school to meaningful Maine careers.



### STEM Pathways

Expanding access to high-quality STEM learning across the state by bringing hands-on bioscience, engineering, and computer science directly to students and educators. Through initiatives like the **Mobile BIOLAB** and **Project>Login**—offered at no cost to schools—we help ensure Maine learners gain the skills and experiences needed to thrive in an innovation-driven economy.



## Policy & Advocacy

Educate Maine advances education policies and practices that prepare Maine students to be the next generation of productive, engaged citizens. We engage in outreach and advocacy to advance education policies and practices that prepare Maine students for postsecondary learning and the workforce. We report and analyze data, the foundation of sound policies to support our work.

Of all 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. Our annual Education Indicators report is a trusted, nonpartisan resource developed to better understand Maine's entire education system—from early childhood through postsecondary. Educate Maine has also published a variety of other reports about the education system including a landscape study of Maine's educator workforce and an analysis of Maine's childcare crisis.

Championing investments in Maine's education pipeline ensures equitable, high-quality outcomes for all learners. Building on research and data, we advocate for strong early learning programs and leverage leaders from Maine Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, Maine ReadyNation, and Maine Mission: Readiness to show how smart investments in children's first five years strengthen schools, communities, and the workforce. Educate Maine advocates for appropriate resources for our PK-12 schools, expanded support for Maine's teacher workforce, investment in CTE, adult education, and higher education, and expanded STEM education for students.

## Educator Engagement

We believe that great teachers are the backbone of a strong education system—and supporting them is essential to student success. That belief underpins our partnership with the Maine Department of Education to administer the Maine Teacher of the Year program, which honors outstanding educators and elevates their voices as ambassadors for the profession.

Our commitment to educator leadership and development also includes the long-running Education Leaders Experience (ELE) program—developed and funded by Unum and administered in partnership with the Maine Principals' Association and University of New England Online—which immerses educators in Maine's economic and workforce landscape while connecting them with business, community, and policy leaders.

Building on the success and impact of these programs, we launched the Teach Maine Center in 2023 to advance a vibrant and well-supported educator workforce statewide. The Center focuses on four interconnected priorities: strengthening recruitment and retention, expanding and diversifying the workforce, supporting educator growth and leadership, and elevating the teaching profession. In 2025, this work expanded again when Educate Maine was selected by the Maine Department of Labor to grow apprenticeship pathways into teaching—reinforcing our belief that every Maine child deserves access to world-class educators.



## Workforce Development

Creating multiple pathways for high school students as they transition successfully into both post-secondary and Maine's workforce is also a major focus of Educate Maine's work. Our Maine Career Catalyst programming provides experiential professional development, social opportunities and networking for summer interns working in Maine. Our programs not only focuses on building an affinity for Maine, but it also support students in their exploration of career paths to find and navigate the many career opportunities available across our state. We host numerous events to facilitate connections between students and business leaders, which builds deeper understanding of opportunities to launch a Maine careers. During 2025 Educate Maine hosted more than 20 events with over 500 student interns working at more than 75 businesses.

In 2022 we increased the scope of this programming to include the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeships. Educate Maine became an Intermediary Sponsor of apprenticeships through the Maine Department of Labor. In this role, we lessen the paperwork and regulatory burdens on small businesses so they too can participate in successfully hosting apprentices or pre-apprentices. Through this work, we are working to grow the participation of in-school and out-of-school youth (ages 16-24) in apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, with an emphasis on creating more opportunities in rural Maine communities.

## STEM Pathways

We all know that to be competitive in 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, Maine students need strong literacy and math skills, and also exposure, experience and knowledge in many additional skills they will need to be successful. Chief among these are skills related to STEM pathways and innovation, including computer science and the life sciences. To support students' learning in this critical area, Educate Maine conducts a variety of programs targeted to all-levels of students and teachers to improve STEM education and competencies.

Educate Maine's new Mobile BIOLAB is, literally, a science lab on wheels that travels to schools across rural Maine introducing bioscience to middle school students in schools that otherwise would not have such opportunities. Onboard the Maine Mobile BIOLAB we see 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders solving engineering design challenges and working cooperatively to design products and/or processes using model cross-curricular STEM activities. Developed by Educate Maine in partnership with the Bioscience Association of Maine, the Roux Institute, Learning Undefeated, and many Maine's educators, the BIOLAB lessons integrate content knowledge aligned to the Maine Learning Results. Thanks to federal, state, corporate, higher education and philanthropic support, we are able to offer this program at no cost to schools.

At the same time, our Project>Login programming is designed specifically to empower elementary, middle and high school students, and the educators who teach them, to prepare for the expanding career opportunities related to computer science and information technology. Project>Login offers numerous instructional classes, and summer camp experiences as Maine's approved Community Partner with Girls Who Code. This partnership focuses specifically on closing the gender gap in technology by providing accessible, hands-on coding education for K-12 students across our state.