

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 19 FY 11/12  
DATE July 26, 2011

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON  
EXPANDING EARLY POST-SECONDARY ACCESS FOR HIGH  
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MAINE**

**WHEREAS**, the jobs of Maine's future will require a highly educated workforce;

**WHEREAS**, Maine trails the national average with regard to the percent of its working-age population who possess post-secondary degrees or credentials;

**WHEREAS**, research suggests that students taking an early post-secondary course in high school are more likely to enroll in post-secondary education and complete a degree or credential; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine's students should have the widest possible access to early post-secondary opportunities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. The Governor's Task Force on Expanding Early Post-Secondary Access for High School Students in Maine ("task force") is hereby established.
2. The membership of the task force shall consist of nineteen (19) persons as follows:
  - a. Fifteen (15) members, appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure:
    - i. Commissioner of Education, *ex officio*, or designee, as Chair;
    - ii. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System, *ex officio*, or designee;
    - iii. The President of the Maine Community College System, *ex officio*, or designee;
    - iv. Two (2) representatives of private colleges or universities in Maine;
    - v. Two (2) representatives of private non-profit organizations that work on improving educational opportunities for Maine students;
    - vi. Eight (8) members, one (1) each from the following organizations:
      1. Maine Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators;
      2. Maine College Admissions Association;
      3. Maine School Boards Association;
      4. Maine School Superintendents Association;
      5. Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education;

6. Maine Adult Education Association;
  7. Maine Principals Association; and
  8. Maine Education Association;
- b. Two (2) Senators, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve at his pleasure; and
  - c. Two (2) Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve at his pleasure.

The task force shall meet at the call of the Chair. All members shall serve without compensation. The Department of Education shall provide appropriate staff to assist the task force.

3. The purpose of the task force is to develop recommendations for short-term and long-term solutions to expand access to early post-secondary opportunities for Maine's high school students. The task force must identify existing barriers to access and provide recommendations for removing those barriers and for expanding access to early post-secondary opportunities, including necessary implementing legislation. The duties of the task force include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Undertaking a survey of Maine's high schools and colleges to determine the existing availability of early post-secondary opportunities in Maine's high schools;
  - b. Reviewing the various approaches by which early post-secondary opportunities are made available to students;
  - c. Reviewing the research related to early post-secondary opportunities for high school students in other states and internationally, to include how such opportunities are funded; and
  - d. Developing short-term and long-term solutions to expand access to early post-secondary opportunities for Maine's high school students, to include recommendations for how such opportunities may be funded within existing resources.
4. The Task Force shall submit a written report with recommendations to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committees on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 1, 2011, after which the Task Force shall dissolve.

The effective date of this Executive Order is July 26, 2011.

  
Paul R. LePage, Governor