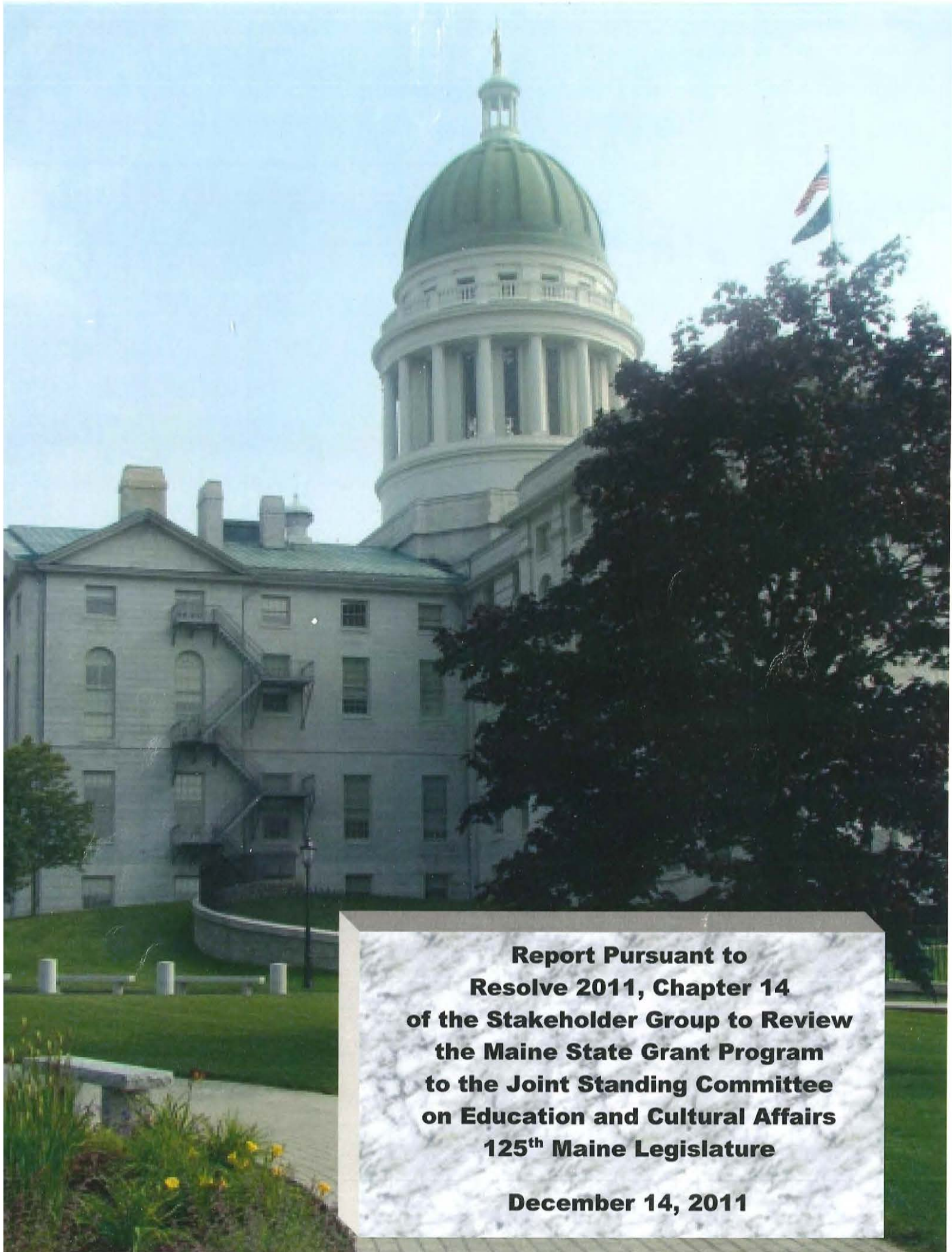


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Report Pursuant to  
Resolve 2011, Chapter 14  
of the Stakeholder Group to Review  
the Maine State Grant Program  
to the Joint Standing Committee  
on Education and Cultural Affairs  
125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature**

**December 14, 2011**

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### ***Executive Summary:***

FAME has administered the Maine State Grant Program on behalf of Maine students since 1990. The Maine State Grant Program (the Program) is Maine's only widely available, need-based grant (the Grant) for undergraduate students funded with state appropriations. Over the past five years, FAME has awarded \$52,080,931 in grants to 58,271 Maine students through this Program.

During the interim between the First and Second Sessions of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature, a stakeholder group engaged in a comprehensive review of the Program to ensure that the Grant keeps pace with evolving student needs. (*See Appendix A for a list of Stakeholder Group participants*) The group met for three half-day sessions at FAME's Augusta office. Additionally, the group worked between meetings conducting research, gathering statistical data and information, sharing comments, and editing the draft report and recommendations. The group benefitted from active and thoughtful participation by a broad cross-section of Maine's higher education community. Each member brought a unique perspective to the undertaking, yet the group agreed by consensus on the importance of the Maine State Grant and on a set of overall recommendations to improve the Grant.

Following discussion and data review, the Stakeholder Group concluded that any recommended changes to the Program would best be described as "tweaks" to the system, rather than an overhaul. The recommended changes proposed to the Education Committee are as follows:

- Remove the statutory cap of five percent on grant awards to part-time students to recognize the changing demographics and needs of students;
- Eliminate reciprocity of the Grant with the remaining states that engage in the practice (Connecticut Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, D.C.) in order to reprioritize financial resources;
- Remove grant award differentials between public and private institutions so as to keep the Grant student-centered and not institution-centered;
- Limit grant eligibility to ten full-time semesters to conserve resources and encourage earlier degree completion. Less than full-time students (half-time or three-quarters time) would receive grants at a pro-rated level for an equivalent amount of time;
- Grant FAME discretion to establish tiered award amounts to encourage and reward persistence. An example of this would be: \$1,000 for Year 1; \$1,100 for Year 2; \$1,200 for Year 3; and \$1,300 for Year 4; and
- Clarify Program definitions to appropriately allow Maine students to pursue online courses through Title IV-eligible institutions as certified by the U.S. Department of Education.

## REPORT

### ***Introduction:***

It has been over twenty years since FAME and its higher education partners in Maine engaged in a meaningful review of the Maine State Grant Program. During the First Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature, FAME sought and obtained legislative approval to engage in a comprehensive stakeholder review of the Program in the interim between the First and Second Sessions. (See Appendix B for a copy of the enabling legislation) The needs of Maine students and the state have changed, and it is important that the Program keep pace with evolving needs. The Education Committee may report out legislation during the Second Session based on the group's recommendations.

FAME has administered student financial assistance programs, including the Maine State Grant Program (formerly known as the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program), on behalf of Maine students since 1990. The Maine State Grant is Maine's only widely available need-based grant for undergraduate students funded with state appropriation. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate program at an eligible institution. Award amounts vary, depending on the type of institution one attends and the student enrollment status.

The Grant has experienced declining appropriations in recent years and has failed to keep pace with rising educational costs and inflation rates. This has come at a time of increased numbers of students filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the timely filing of which is a requirement to receive the Grant. As a result, award amounts have not been able to be increased and fewer students are being awarded a grant.

The Stakeholder Group's duties included:

- (1) Reviewing the history and efficacy of the Program;
- (2) Developing ideas to enhance the Program in light of current and future higher education trends and needs;
- (3) Identifying options to increase funding for the Program in the face of increased higher education costs and declining state funding; and
- (4) Quantifying current and future grant and loan needs of Maine students and families.

Additional areas of discussion and review included:

- Differences in grant amounts for Maine students enrolled in public and private institutions of higher education;
- The negative impact of the May 1 annual filing deadline on non-traditional students with need for financial assistance;

- The statutory limit requiring that only five percent of grants be used for part-time students;
- Reciprocity: whether to continue allowing Maine students to use the Grant at schools located in states other than Maine (five states and the District of Columbia allow their residents to bring their need-based grants awarded for use at Maine-eligible institutions);
- Eligible programs of study, including degree programs and coursework delivered online;
- The number of semesters funded by the Grant;
- How to support students in Maine’s current higher education environment generally; and
- Current and future workforce development needs of the Maine economy.

***Methodology:***

The Stakeholder Group met at FAME’s Augusta office on July 29, September 8, and November 4, 2011. The group communicated electronically in the interim, especially in sharing draft reports and recommendations. FAME staff assisted the group by compiling information requested and participating in meetings. (See Appendices C-G for FAME information and charts presented to the group) The group focused on its charge as set forth in the Resolve, narrowing it to a set of guiding principles. The group engaged in lengthy and thoughtful discussion on the Program, emerging student needs and other issues. It reached consensus on a number of no-cost recommendations that may be incorporated into a bill reported out by the Education Committee if the Committee is so inclined. (See Appendix H for draft legislation incorporating Stakeholder Group recommendations).

***Background:***

The predecessor to the Maine State Grant was the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program, which began in Fiscal Year (FY) 1972-73. Federal funds subsequently became available in FY 1974-75, and those funds were used to provide additional grants to Maine students. The Program was administered by the Maine Department of Education until April 1990, when it was transferred by the Legislature to FAME in order to “provide and administer a comprehensive, consolidated system of student financial assistance programs.” FAME was tasked with developing rules and procedures to carry out the Program, including the adoption of reciprocal agreements with other states.

In 1991, the Legislature amended the Program to include portability of the Grant, i.e., to allow for use of funding provided to a student by the state at an institution regardless of its geographic location. Also that year, the Legislature required FAME to allocate no more than five percent of grants to part-time students. Another change required that a student be eligible

for a Pell Grant in order to be considered for a Student Incentive Scholarship. In 2001, the law was amended to prohibit the reduction of institutional or other grant aid in the event of a Maine State Grant award.

The Maine State Grant Program provides grants to Maine resident undergraduate students attending eligible institutions in Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont or Washington, D.C. Over 14,000 Maine students receive, on average, a \$1,000 grant to help meet their education costs. Award amounts vary depending upon the type of institution attended and enrollment status. The minimum annual amounts set in statute range from \$500 to \$1,250 and are disbursed to students as follows:

School type	Enrolled Full-time	Enrolled Part-time
Maine Public Institution	\$1,000	\$500
Maine Private Institution	\$1,250	\$625
Out-of-state Public Institution	\$500	\$250
Out-of-state Private Institution	\$1,000	\$500

Some important elements of the current Program are as follows:

- Only those students pursuing a certificate program of at least one year’s duration, an associate degree or other two-year degree program, or a bachelor’s degree program, are eligible to receive funds;
- An individual who has already attained a bachelor’s degree is not eligible for grant funds;
- Students must file the FAFSA on or before May 1 to be eligible;
- Each year FAME determines a maximum Expected Family Contribution (EFC) level for the award based on available funds and historic use of grant funds. The EFC amount is a federal calculation that is a measure of a family’s financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by the U.S. Department of Education. A family’s taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits (such as unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in the formula. Also considered are family size and the number of family members who will attend college or a career school during the year.

The increase in FAFSA filings and the decrease in available funds have resulted in a decrease of the maximum grant award from a high of \$1,450 in 2009 to the current maximum grant amount set at the statutory minimum of \$1,250. It also has limited FAME’s ability to fund

students with a higher EFC. In FY 10-11, for example, the Program EFC was set at 4,000; in FY 11-12, it was set at 3,000. Over the past five years (FY 2005-06 – FY 2009-10), FAME has awarded \$52,080,931 in grants to 58,271 Maine students through the Program.

***Stakeholder Group activity:***

The Stakeholder Group met three times and reviewed the history and efficacy of the Program, discussed current and future grant needs of Maine students, considered ways to increase funding for the Program, and recommended a number of changes to enhance the Program in light of current and future higher education trends. At the outset, the group reached consensus on some basic principles to guide its work going forward:

- The review should result in a major “tweak” of the Maine State Grant Program and not a major overhaul. The Grant needs updating but is not broken;
- The goal of the Maine State Grant Program is to increase access to higher education; and
- The values underlying the Program should:
  - be student-focused (as opposed to institution-focused);
  - reflect current and future student needs;
  - favor equity over efficacy, i.e. access to higher education must remain top priority in this need-based program over academic performance or persistence; ensure sustainability of the Program, both administratively and financially (make best use of technology, keep program simple and scalable); and
  - remain focused on credential-bound, Maine resident students attending Title IV-eligible institutions of higher education.

Active and thoughtful discussions ensued on such topics as: the existing statutory cap on grant amounts for part-time students; award amounts for students attending public as compared to private institutions; duration of eligibility for the Grant; eligible programs of study; state reciprocity; the growth of online education; and current and future workforce development needs of the Maine economy. The group agreed that its goal should be to bring the Maine State Grant into the twenty-first century in light of the changing educational and work environments.

Members requested and obtained additional data from FAME, including: calculation of Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for recipients; grant amounts unexpended or overextended due to eventual take-rates; awards “imported” vs. “exported” through reciprocity for an equity test; other New England state sources of higher education funding (not including institutional aid); a history of the differentials (including rationale for) between public and private institutions; the percentage of dollars appropriated to student financial assistance that actually goes to the Maine State Grant Program; projections regarding the sustainability of current grant funding considering unemployment rates, decreasing high school graduation rates, and the



growth of the Maine Community College System; and a review of the original implementing legislation.

The group engaged in meaningful discussion regarding possible program changes to recommend to the Legislature, including: eliminating the current statutory cap of five percent on use of grant monies for part-time students; eliminating reciprocity of the Grant to out-of-state students; eliminating the difference in grant amounts for public and private institutions; limiting grant eligibility to ten full-time semesters; and changing award levels to a tiered system to increase over time.

The group considered the value of the Grant and the need for it to keep pace with Maine students' needs, as well as the implications of possible changes to the Program moving forward. Stakeholders discussed the effect of the May 1 deadline for filing the FAFSA on non-traditional students who represent a growing segment of the student population. Many non-traditional students are full-time and have financial need, and the current deadline for filing the FAFSA and, hence, applying for the Maine State Grant, means that many of them miss the opportunity for grant funds in their first year of school. Although sympathetic to this situation, after consideration of the administrative and financial challenges to extending this deadline, the group declined to make changes. The May 1 deadline allows FAME to assess the needs for the next academic year and allows financial aid administrators to prepare financial aid packages for students and allows students to select schools with that knowledge. FAME projects that the current appropriation would not allow it to provide grants to all eligible students with Zero EFC if there was no deadline. The group considered the increased presence of online education in the state and whether and how such students might benefit from the Grant. The group reiterated its support for the Grant to help Maine-based students with financial need to complete their education, with some additional parameters.

***Recommendations:***

The group discussed several ideas that might enhance the Program and make it helpful to Maine students in an age of limited resources. Areas of agreement included: policymakers should maintain a reasonable award amount that will enable student success in an environment of increased higher education costs; the Grant is a need-based grant with the goal of access (public money targeted to the neediest students); support for eliminating differentials in awards made to students attending public as compared to private institutions; desirability of having tiered award amounts to provide an incentive for students to remain in school; support for limiting the award to ten full-time semesters or the equivalent per student to encourage completion; the possibility of setting aside a pool of future funding (if and when it becomes available) for adult or non-traditional students.

The Stakeholder Group recognized that, with limited funding, there is an inherent trade-off between the amount of awards made and the numbers of students served. Members expressed a desire to increase flexibility of the award, particularly where non-traditional and part-time students are concerned, but in a way that does not negatively affect the availability of these critical resources to traditionally-aged college students. To that end, and recognizing the

need to boost educational attainment of the incumbent workforce, the group respectfully suggests consideration of an additional \$2 million appropriation over the next biennium. Increased grant funding could be specifically targeted to non-traditional and part-time students. This suggestion recognizes that, particularly in the current economy and state budget, resources are limited. Resources are, of course, also limited for students and families, as well as the institutions that serve them. Nevertheless, the group believes that this kind of investment would pay clear dividends not just for individuals but for employers and for the state.

The group reached consensus on a number of recommendations for the Education Committee to consider. The suggested “no-cost” changes to the Program are designed to update it and increase Maine students’ access to higher education. The suggestions embrace the core values adopted by the Stakeholder Group at its initial meeting, meaning they keep the Grant student-focused (as opposed to institution-focused); reflect current and emerging student needs; place emphasis on access to higher education rather than academic performance or persistence; seek to make the Program sustainable, both financially and administratively in an era of budget belt-tightening; and maintain the Program’s emphasis on degree-bound, Maine resident students matriculated in a program that offers a credential (certificate, associate’s degree, or bachelor’s degree) at a Maine postsecondary institution eligible for federal Title IV aid. The recommendations are as follows:

- Remove the statutory cap of five percent on grant awards to part-time students. This change would allow the Program to fund the increasing number of students who are attending institutions on a part-time basis. It also would recognize the changing needs and enrollment patterns of students, especially non-traditional students;
- Eliminate reciprocity of the Grant with the few remaining states that engage in the practice (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, D.C.) in order to broaden the uses of limited financial resources. Maine now exports approximately \$1.5 million per year out-of-state under the current arrangement. Redirecting that money would fund 200 additional Maine students per year attending Maine institutions. The group expressed support for providing exceptions in those unique and rare cases when Maine students wish to pursue programs available only at out-of-state institutions, particularly those identified by the New England Board of Higher Education;
- Eliminate the grant award differentials between public and private institutions. Historically, the differing amounts recognized the different costs of attending such institutions, but this has changed over time. The group believes it is important to treat every student the same, regardless of their choices of institution. The Grant should remain student-centered and not be institution-centered;
- Limit grant eligibility to ten full-time semesters to conserve resources and encourage earlier degree completion. Less than full-time students (half-time or three-quarters time) would receive grants at a pro-rated level for an equivalent amount of time;

- Permit FAME to establish via rulemaking a new set of tiered, minimum award amounts to encourage persistence. For example: \$1,000 for Year 1; \$1,100 for Year 2; \$1,200 for Year 3; and \$1,300 for Year 4; and
- Clarify Program definitions to appropriately allow Maine students to pursue online courses through Title IV-eligible institutions as certified by the U.S. Department of Education.

Additionally, the group decided to recommend no changes to the current grant requirements of Maine residency; using Expected Family Contribution calculations to determine need; and requiring that students be matriculated at least half-time in order to be eligible for an award.

The recommended changes to the Program are based on the changing needs and enrollment patterns of Maine's higher education students. Increased numbers of Maine students are non-traditional and attend community colleges, many of them on a part-time basis. This is especially true in a challenging economy. The five percent cap on grant awards to part-time students is outdated. With respect to reciprocity (the practice of providing the Grant to Maine students who attend eligible out-of-state postsecondary institutions whose home states allow its students to use its state grant at an eligible Maine institution of higher education), the group feels that, with forty-five other states currently not engaged in this arrangement, it makes less sense to continue the practice with limited resources. There also is recognition that the out-of-state dollars we do import benefit Maine institutions and not Maine students. Moreover, since several of those states (Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have portability policies rather than reciprocity policies, Maine institutions will continue to receive those funds. Eliminating the practice of reciprocity will free-up money so that more students attending Maine schools can benefit from the Grant. In FY 10-11, Maine sent \$1.5 million out of state via the practice. Redirecting that money to Maine students attending Maine institutions would allow FAME to address other critical needs of the program.

The group's recommendation to eliminate different grant award amounts for students attending public as compared to private institutions also was based on its desire to increase access and recognize that it is an outdated practice whose time has passed. As noted above, the practice was put in place to recognize the historic difference in cost of attendance at private and public institutions of higher education. Much has changed in the years since, with some private institutions in Maine now charging tuition rates consistent with public institutions. The group feels it is important to treat every student the same with award amounts, regardless of individual choice as to attendance. The Grant should remain student-centered and should not be institution-centered. This change also will provide for some extra monies to benefit more students, regardless of where they choose to attend college. The group also recommends limiting grant eligibility to ten full-time semesters rather than the current practice of twelve full-time semesters. This will encourage student persistence and completion of their degrees, and also will provide more money to fund more students. Part-time students would be allowed twenty semesters or the equivalent thereof in which to complete their degree. The group strongly supports awarding of grants on "tiered" levels over four years so as to encourage persistence and completion. Rather than awarding the same amount for all years in school, the group proposes to allow FAME to tier

via rulemaking award amounts, for example: \$1,000 for Year 1 and increasing over time to \$1,300 in Year 4. Part-time students could benefit from a \$500 award in Years 1 and 2 and a \$750 award in Years 3 and 4. Finally, the group recommends that the Program rule be amended to clarify the definition of “educational institution” to appropriately allow Maine students to pursue online courses through Title IV-eligible institutions as certified by the United States Department of Education. This is further recognition of the changing preferences of students and the growing presence of online course offerings in the state.

### ***Conclusion:***

The Maine State Grant Program is an essential part of financial aid for Maine undergraduates. Its importance is critical but its “buying power” has waned over time. The group strongly supports by consensus the above-recommended changes as no-cost means to improving the state’s only widely available, need-based grant. With respect to a deeper financial commitment on the part of the state, the group recognizes the challenging budget environment in which we live, but feels strongly that additional funding over the next biennium, particularly if it is geared toward non-traditional and part-time students, could have a major, salutary effect on Maine students and the economy. It also would help move the Grant toward keeping pace with increased education costs and inflation. For example, in terms of “buying power,” it would take approximately \$1 million more to increase grant awards by \$100 for 10,000 students. With \$2 million more, we could fund approximately 2,000 additional students with average awards of \$1,000. If additional funding were to be appropriated, however, the group’s consensus is that it should be directed toward Maine’s adult and part-time student populations. This is an investment that makes sense if Maine is to compete in the global economy.

### ***Acknowledgements:***

FAME would like to thank each of the dedicated members of the Stakeholder Group who volunteered their time and expertise to the mission of improving the Maine State Grant for the benefit of Maine’s higher education students:

- ❖ Elizabeth Bordowitz, Chief Executive Officer, Finance Authority of Maine
- ❖ Henry Bourgeois, Executive Director of the Maine Compact on Higher Education and President of the Alford Scholarship Foundation
- ❖ Kim Ehrlich, Director of Human Resources, Maine Community College System
- ❖ Jonathan Harvell, Director of Information Technology, Finance Authority of Maine
- ❖ Martha Johnston, Director of Education Products and Relationships, Finance Authority of Maine
- ❖ Kenneth Lemanski, Interim President, St. Joseph’s College of Maine
- ❖ William Norbert, Governmental Affairs and Communications Manager, Finance Authority of Maine
- ❖ Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, Maine Department of Education
- ❖ Richard Pattenaude, Chancellor, University of Maine System

- ❖ Christopher Quinn, President, Kaplan University Maine
- ❖ Colleen Quint, Executive Director of the Sen. George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute
- ❖ Claude Roy, Education Services Officer, Finance Authority of Maine
- ❖ Sean Sibley, student, University of Maine
- ❖ Nicole Vachon, President, Maine Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and Director of Financial Aid, New England School of Communications

The group also wishes to thank Phil McCarthy, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, Maine Legislature, who observed two of the meetings and provided members with his unique perspective of the legislative process and postsecondary education finance in Maine.

We also wish to extend our appreciation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature for its support of our efforts and its steadfast support of the Maine State Grant Program and Maine students generally.

***Appendices:***

Appendix A: Stakeholder Group Participants

Appendix B: Copy of Enabling Legislation (Resolve 2011, Ch. 14)

Appendix C: Maine State Grant Program Fact Sheet

Appendix D: Chart of Maine State Grant Program Dollars Awarded

Appendix E: Chart of Private vs. Public Maine State Grant Differentials

Appendix F: Chart of Distribution of Maine State Grant Dollars

Appendix G: Chart of Maine State Grant Award Amounts

Appendix H: Draft Legislation incorporating Stakeholder Group recommendations

## APPENDIX A

### Stakeholder Group Participants

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## APPENDIX B

RESOLVE Chapter 14, LD 209, 125th Maine State Legislature  
Resolve, To Establish a Stakeholder Group To Review the Maine State Grant Program

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

### Resolve, To Establish a Stakeholder Group To Review the Maine State Grant Program

**Sec. 1 Stakeholder group to review Maine State Grant Program. Resolved:** That the Finance Authority of Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the authority," shall establish a stakeholder group, through a partnership with other appropriate entities, to work together to review the Maine State Grant Program, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11612 and referred to in this resolve as "the program"; and be it further

**Sec. 2 Participants. Resolved:** That the authority shall invite the following to participate in the stakeholder group:

1. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
2. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;
3. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;
4. A representative of Maine's private, nonprofit higher education institutions;
5. A Maine college or university student;
6. A representative of the Maine Compact for Higher Education;
7. A representative of the Maine Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators;
8. A representative of the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute; and
9. Other interested parties at the discretion of the authority; and be it further

**Sec. 3 Duties. Resolved:** That the review must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A review of the history and efficacy of the program and any necessary changes;
2. Ideas to enhance the program in light of current and future higher education trends and needs;
3. Options to increase funding for the program in the face of increased higher education costs and declining state funding; and
4. Current and future grant and financial aid needs of Maine students and families; and be it further

**Sec. 4 Report. Resolved:** That, by December 1, 2011, the authority shall submit a written report of the findings of the review under this resolve and any recommendations resulting from the review to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee may introduce a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature to implement the recommendations on matters relating to the review.

(Handwritten mark)

MPN/SL (+) 10 yr. review of MSB 9-0  
OTP



## Maine State Grant Program Fact Sheet – 2011

**FAME administers the Maine State Grant Program, the state's only need-based grant program for eligible undergraduate students. An applicant does not need to be considered "low income" to receive need-based financial aid; rather, the family must demonstrate a need for financial aid. The program is designed to assist the neediest students first; others are assisted as funds allow.**

**FAME awarded \$52,080,931 in grants to help 58,271 Maine students between FY06 – FY10.**

Over **14,000** Maine students receive, on average, a \$1,000 grant to help meet college costs annually.

#### **For Fall 2010 Semester:**

- \$ 4,308,000 awarded to 8,414 students
- In-state institutions received 90% of funds
- Maine's public institutions received 70% of funds:
  - University of Maine System – 42%
  - Maine Community College System – 27%
  - Maine Maritime Academy – 1%

#### **Annual Awards to Full-Time Students**

- Maine Public Institution: \$1,000
- Maine Private Institution: \$1,250
- Out-of-state Public Institution: \$500
- Out-of-state Private Institution: \$1,000

*Part-time students receive an award equal to one-half of the full-time award.*

#### **Portability**

Maine undergraduate students attending eligible institutions in Maine, CT, MA, NH, PA, RI, VT or D.C. may receive the grant.

Students from these states may bring their grants to Maine higher education institutions, as well.

#### **To be considered for the Maine State Grant, students must:**

- Be a Maine resident;
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to May 1 of the current year;
- Be accepted into degree program at a participating higher education institution – pursuing a certificate program of at least one year's duration, an Associate Degree program, or a Baccalaureate Degree program; and
- Be enrolled at least half-time (funds are pro rated for those attending part-time)

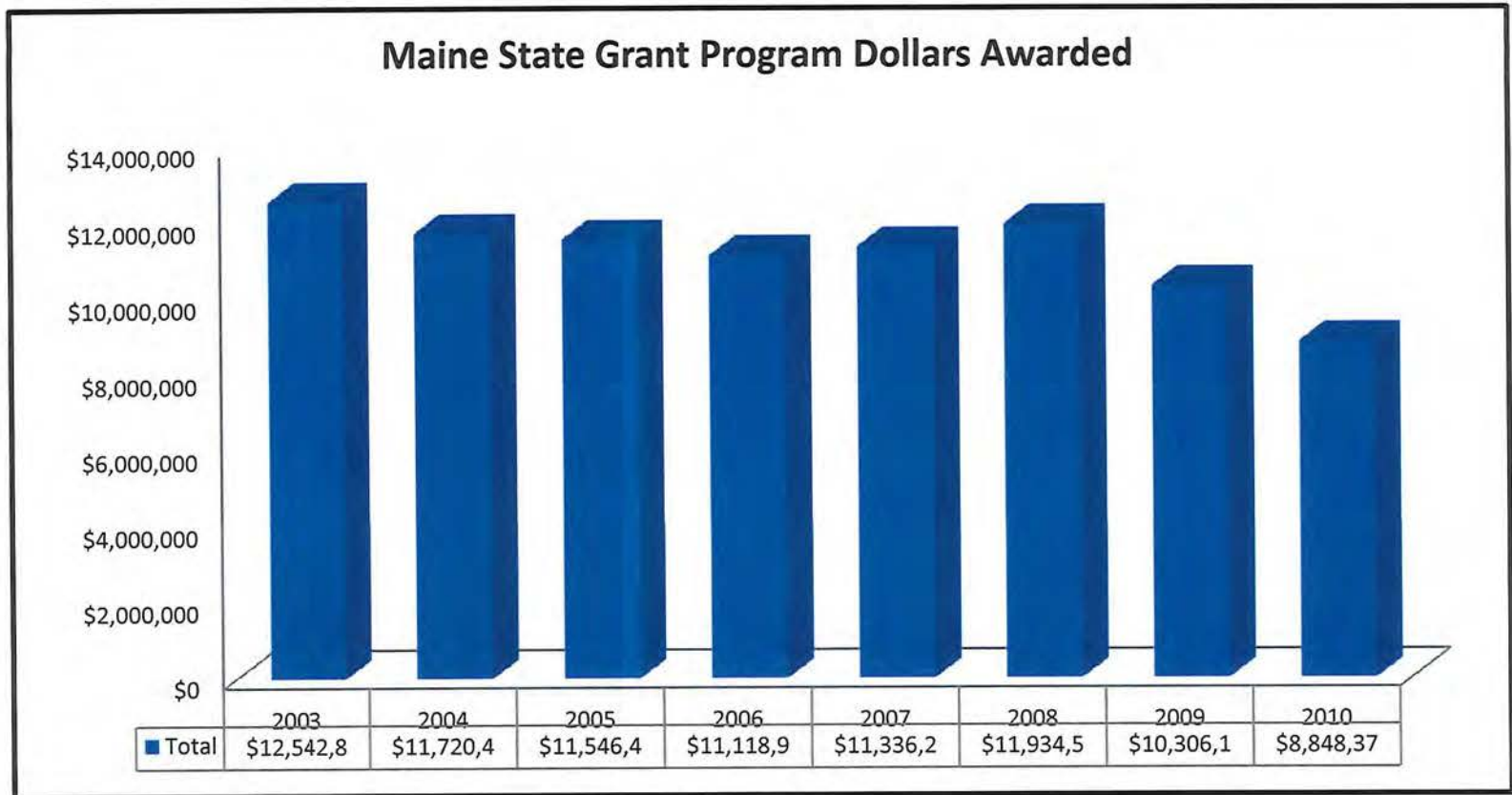
*Students who already have attained a Baccalaureate Degree are not eligible for grant funds.*

#### **Recent Developments Place Even Greater Demands on Already Limited Funding**

- Increased number of students filing the FAFSA; and
- Decreased availability of funds
  - Reduction of the average grant award by \$200 for full-time students and \$100 for part-time students
  - Limitation on FAME's ability to fund students with higher EFC

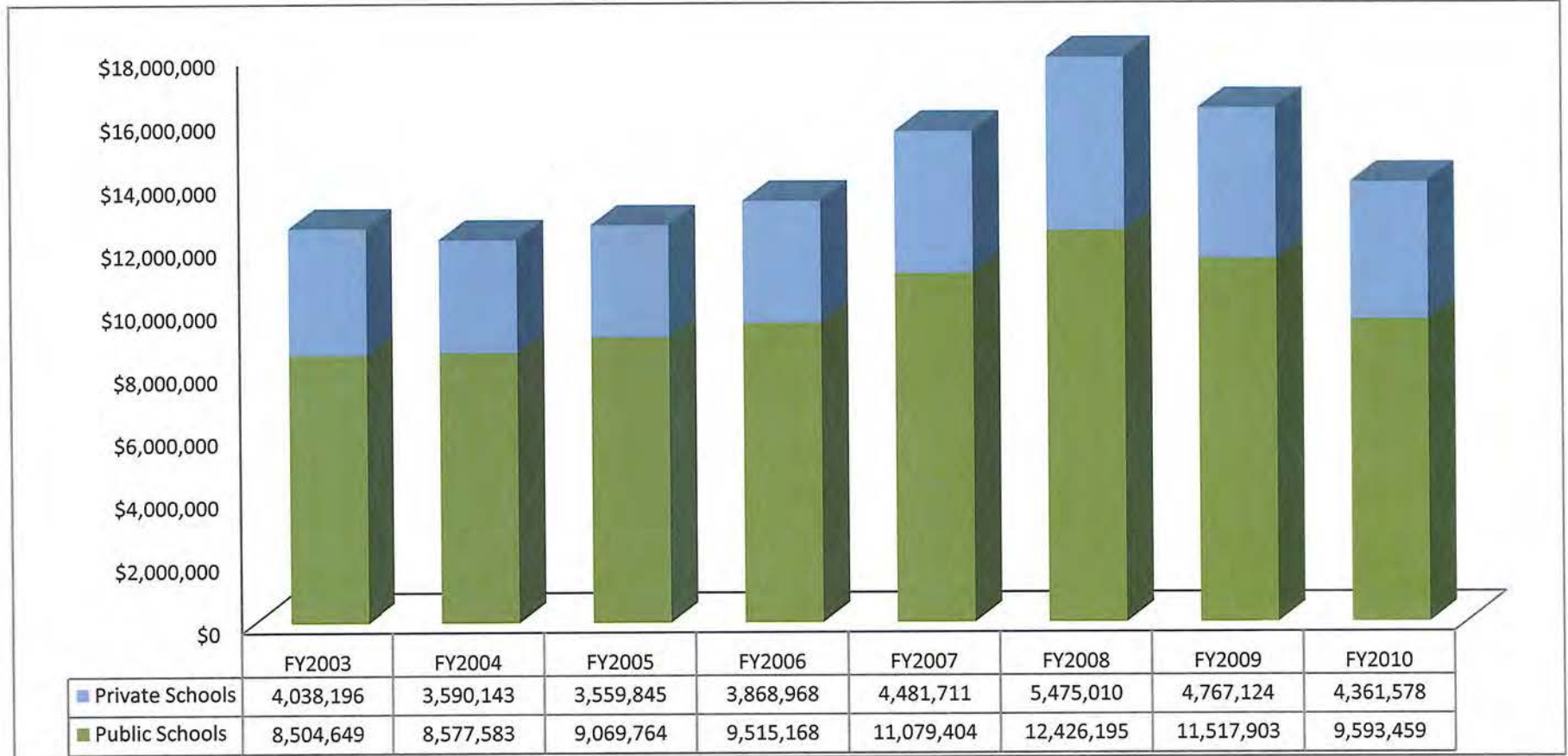


APPENDIX D



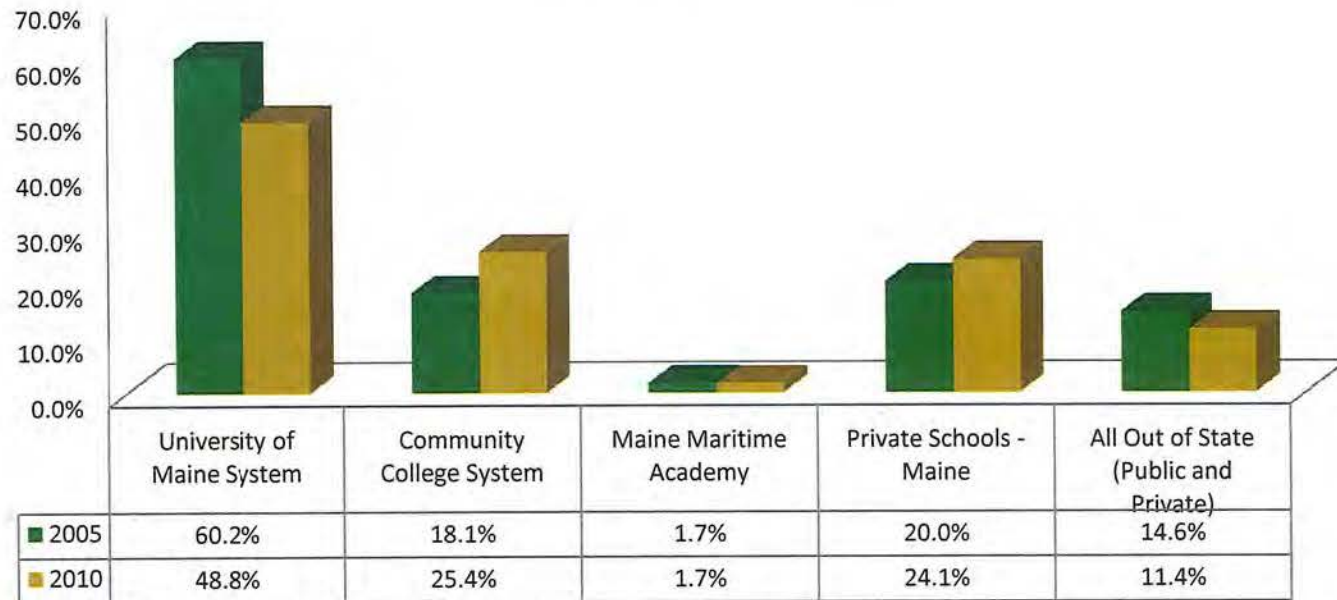
## Differential – Private and Public State of Maine Grant FY03 – FY10

APPENDIX E



APPENDIX F

Distribution of Maine State Grant Dollars



APPENDIX G

Maine State Grant Award Amount

