

Maine Charter School Commission

Annual Report School Year 2016 - 2017

December 2017

Burton M. Cross State Office Building
182 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0182

Approved 12/5/17

Maine Charter School Commission

Commission Members:

Laurie Pendleton, Chair
J. Michael Wilhelm, Vice Chair
John Bird
Nichi Farnham
Jana Lapoint
Shelley Reed
Jim Rier

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Staff:

Bob Kautz, Executive Director
Gina Post, Dir. of Program Management
Amy Allen, Senior Support Coordinator
Kim Kimball, Office Assistant

Website:

Maine Charter School Commission site
<http://www.maine.gov/csc>

Maine Public Charter Schools:

ACADIA Academy
12 Westminster Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
<http://www.acadiaacademy.org/>

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science
185 Lancaster Street, Portland 04101
www.Baxter-Academy.org

Cornville Regional Charter School
1192 West Ridge Road, Cornville 04976
www.CornvilleRegionalCharterSchool.org

Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science
25 Shaker Road, Gray 04039
www.FiddleheadsSchool.org

Harpswell Coastal Academy
9 Ash Point Road Harpswell 04079
www.HarpswellCoastalAcademy.org

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
16 Prescott Lane, Hinckley 04944
www.Means-gwh.org

Maine Connections Academy
75 John Robert's Road, Suite 11B
South Portland 04106
www.MaineConnectionsAcademy.com

Maine Virtual Academy
6 Chestnut Street, Augusta 04333
www.mainevirtual.org

Snow Pond Arts Academy
8 Goldenrod Road
Sidney, ME 04330
<http://www.snowpondartsacademy.org>

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AUTHORIZER INFORMATION

The Maine Charter School Commission (Commission or MCSC) currently oversees nine charter schools serving approximately 2200 students, a little more than one percent of all k-12 students in Maine. In September 2011, Maine became the 41st state to pass public charter school legislation and the Commission's first two charter schools opened in 2012. Two types of entities are permitted to authorize public charter schools in Maine. The Maine Charter School Commission may authorize up to 10 public charter schools throughout the state during the first 10 years of Maine's charter school legislation. Additionally, local school boards and collaboratives of local school boards may authorize charter schools within their school administrative units at any time with no limit to the number of charter schools they may authorize. No local school boards currently authorize charter schools in Maine.

The Maine Charter School Commission consists of seven members appointed by the State Board of Education for three-year terms. Three members must be members of the State Board of Education, and they nominate the other four members from the public at large, who must be approved by a majority vote of the State Board of Education.



Laurie Pendleton,
Chair



Dr. Michael Wilhelm,
Vice Chair



Jana Lapoint



Shelley Reed



John Bird



Nichi Farnham



Jim Rier

The Commission employs three full-time employees and one part time-employee. The Commission also receives assistance from the Maine Department of Education in areas such as Special Education, English Learner support, Pre-K support, and other areas as needed.

Staff

Bob Kautz, Executive Director
Gina Post, Director of Program Management
Amy Allen, Senior Support Coordinator
Kimberly Kimball, Office Assistant

MISSION

The Maine State Charter School Commission will provide thoughtful stewardship in authorizing and monitoring public charter schools consistent with State statutes to create unique, high-quality learning options for Maine students.

CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION 2016-2017

Charter Schools Currently Under Contract:				
School Name:	Current Contract Start Date:	Current Contract Expiration Date:	Grades Currently Served:	Number of Students Currently Enrolled (based on Oct. 1):
ACADIA Academy	3/1/16	6/30/21	Pre-K - 3	130
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science	5/7/13	6/30/18	9-12	342
Cornville Regional Charter School	7/31/12	6/30/17	Pre-K – 9	142
Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science	5/7/13	6/30/18	Pre-K – 5	123
Harpswell Coastal Academy	5/7/13	6/30/18	6 – 12	201
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences	7/31/12	8/31/17	9 – 12	147
Maine Connections Academy	5/6/14	6/30/19	7 -12	407
Maine Virtual Academy	2/3/15	6/30/20	7 -12	355
Snow Pond Arts Academy	2/2/16	6/30/21	9 -12	106

Charter Schools Whose Contract was Renewed:			
School Name:	New Contract Start Date:	Date of Renewal Vote:	Length of Renewal Term:
Cornville Regional Charter School	6/28/17	11/8/16	5 years
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences	7/11/17	11/8/16	5 years

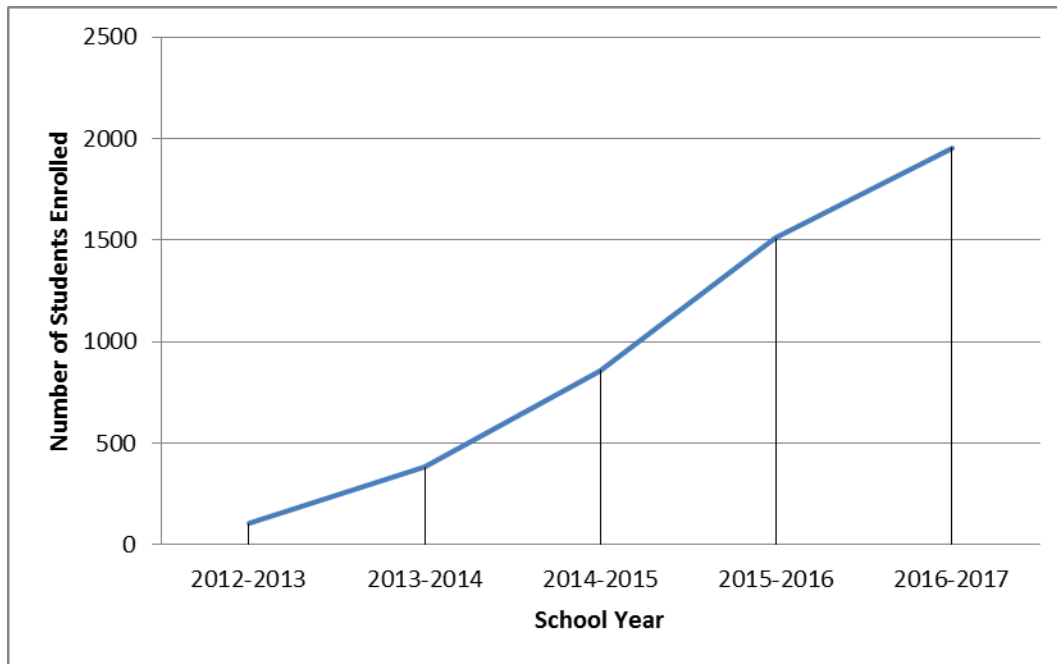
Charter Schools Whose Contract was Non-renewed or Revoked:			
School Name:	Contract Start Date:	Date of Non-renewal or Revocation:	Reason for Non-renewal or Revocation:
NONE			

Charter Schools Currently Under Contract that have not Opened:		
School Name:	Contract Start Date:	Date School will open:
NONE		

Charter Schools that Closed:		
School Name:	Date of School Closure:	Reason for Closure:
NONE		

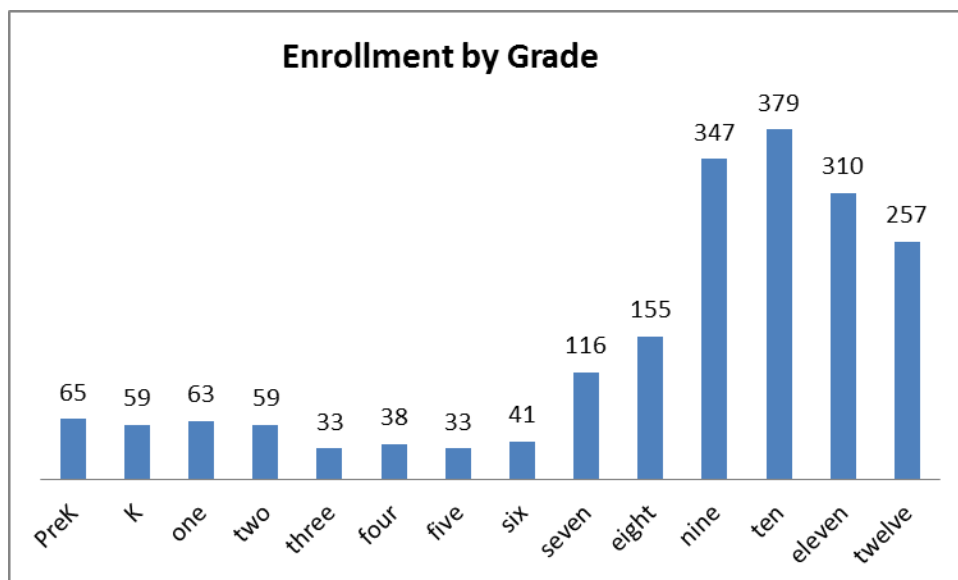
CHARTER SCHOOL PORTFOLIO INFORMATION

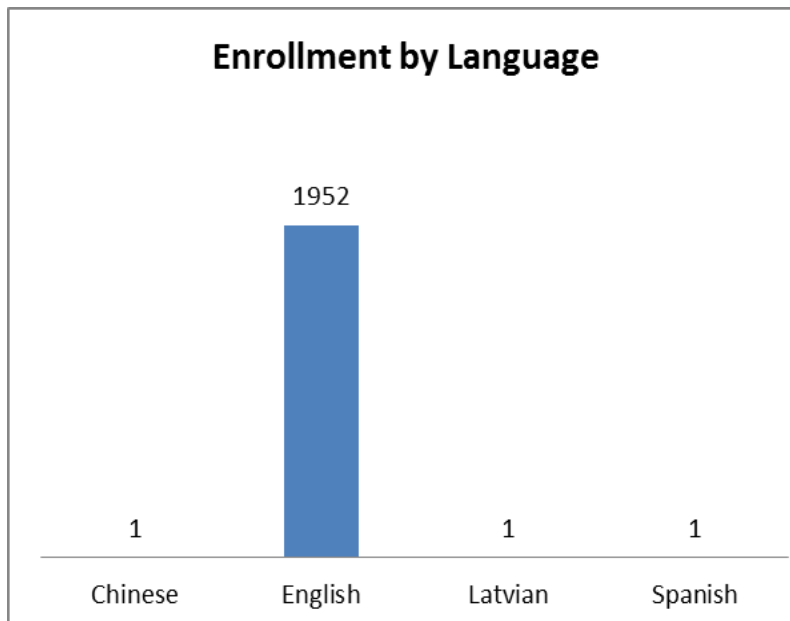
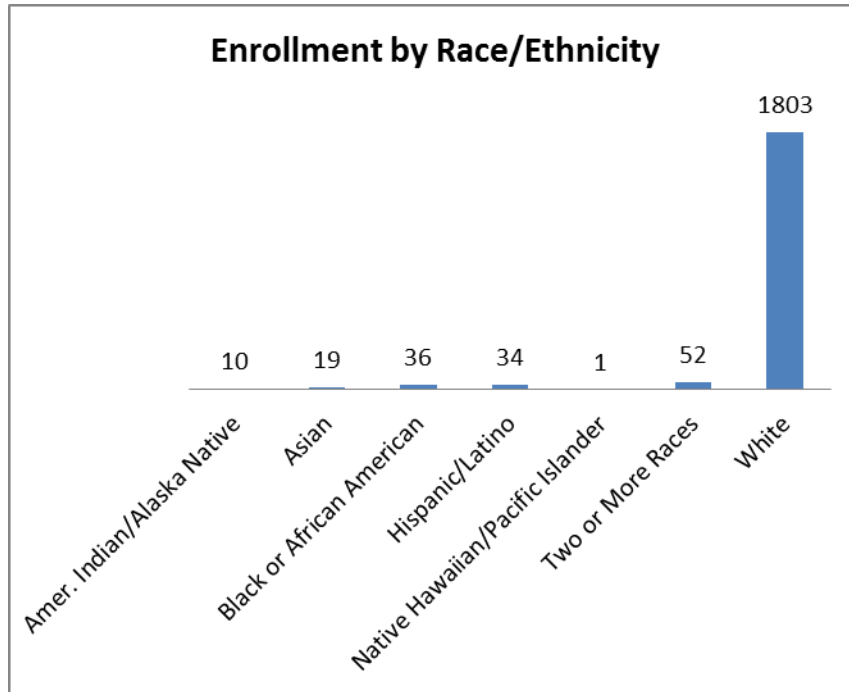
Charter School Enrollment by Year



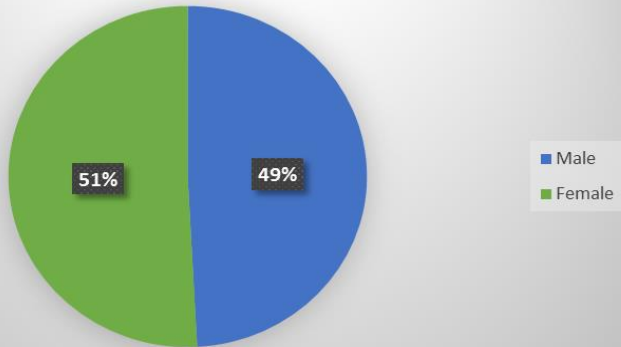
The following data are based on 2016-2017 October 1st school certified data.

2016-2017 enrollment total: 1955

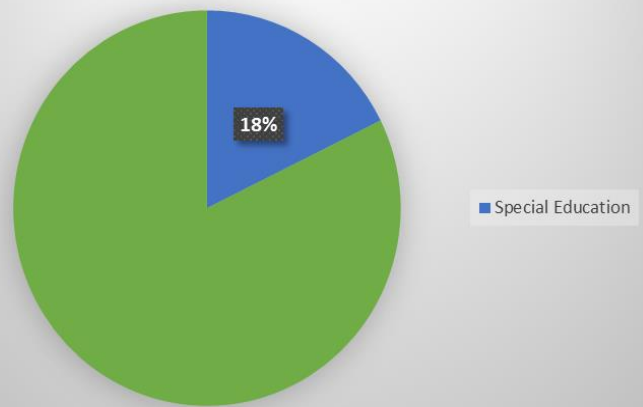




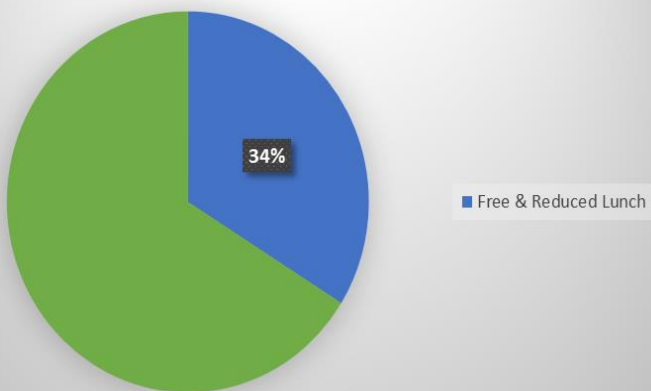
Enrollment by Sex



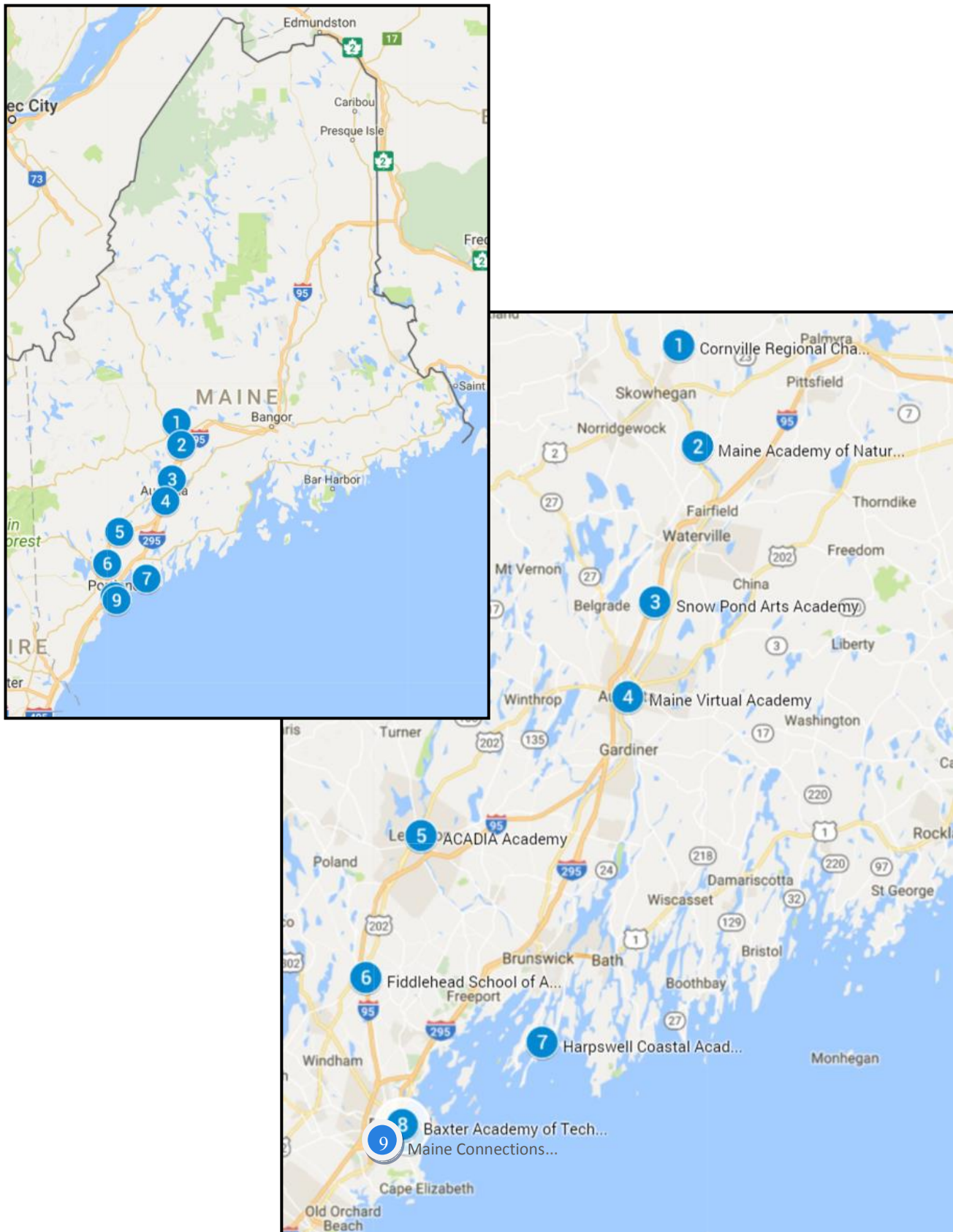
Percentage of Students with a Disability



Free/Reduced Lunch



MAP OF MAINE'S PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS – 2016-2017



SCHOOL INFORMATION

ACADIA Academy



ACADIA Academy opened for the 2016- 2017 school year, providing a rigorous, comprehensive educational program for children of the Lewiston/Auburn area in grades Pre-k through 2, and will eventually include grades Pre-k-6.

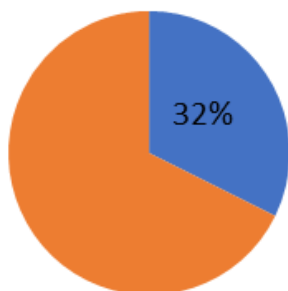
ACADIA promotes high educational achievement through directed teaching opportunities that are entwined with extensive experiential learning opportunities.

ACADIA faculty and staff support the development of the whole child as each student develops academically, socially and emotionally in a safe community that requires personal accountability and meaningful participation.

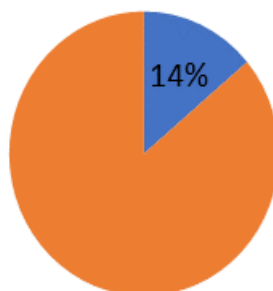
It is ACADIA Academy's intent to support individual students in developing their full potential, while teaching them the value of belonging, connectedness and contribution to the larger community.

2016-17 enrollment: 130

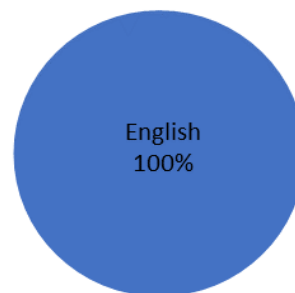
Free/Reduced Lunch



Special Education



Language



In 2017 ACADIA Academy did not have any students in grade levels taking the Maine State Assessment.

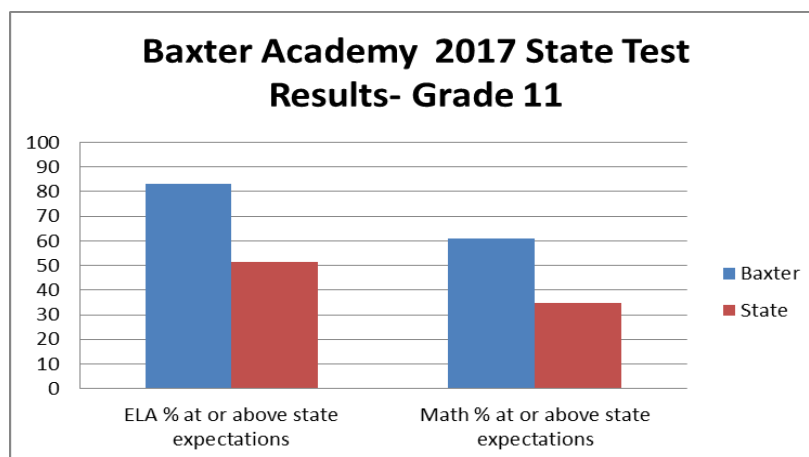
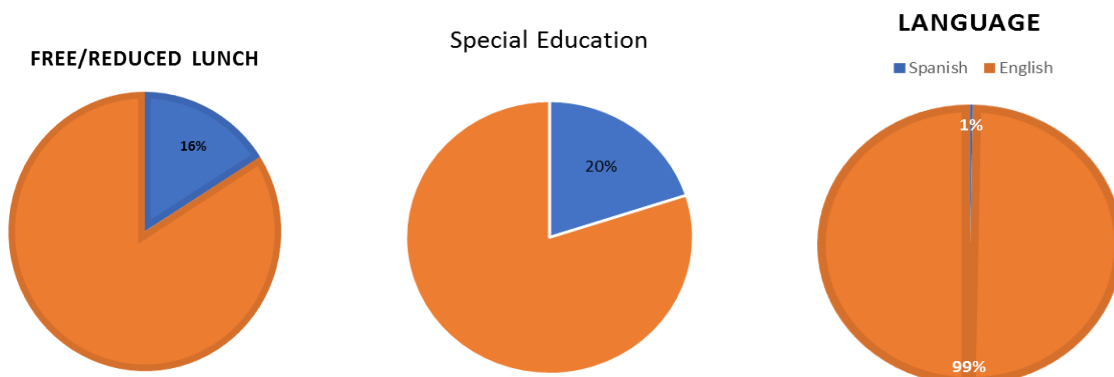
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science



Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, located in Portland, opened its doors in September 2013. The school's students come from over 40 Maine school districts, spanning from Blue Hill to towns south of Kennebunk.

Baxter's curriculum is rooted in inquiry and project-based learning, and is connected across subjects. The school's mission is to be a rigorous, college preparatory high school promoting student ownership of learning through a curriculum focused specifically on science, technology, engineering, and math. Its vision is to use a technology-rich, project-based learning approach to education at the secondary level.

2016-17 enrollment: 343



Cornville Regional Charter School



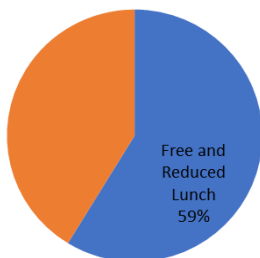
Cornville Regional Charter School was the first elementary public charter school in the state of Maine. Located in Cornville and Skowhegan, it opened its doors on October 1, 2012, to students in grades K-6. Currently, the school educates students in grades preK through 9 from six Maine school districts from St. Albans to Fairfield and points in between. In 2016,

with its 5-year renewal, Cornville Regional Charter School was approved to open a Pre-K and a high school, both to open in Skowhegan for the 2017-18 school year.

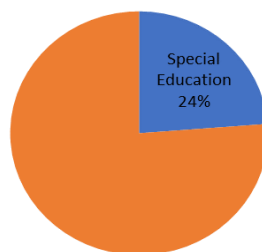
The school's mission is to create a safe, respectful, nurturing and active learning community where every child is given the opportunity to thrive academically, to be accepted, to celebrate accomplishments and to develop a lifetime love of learning.

2016-17 enrollment: 142

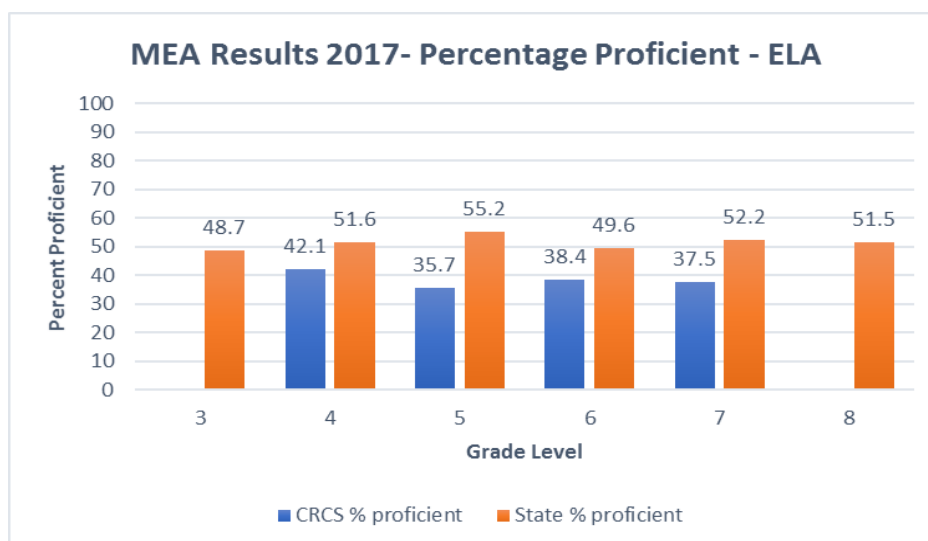
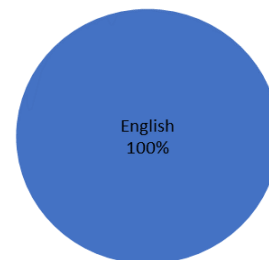
Free/Reduced Lunch



Special Education



Language



Cornville Regional Charter School's test results for ELA grades 3 and 8 and Math grades 3-8 not available to the public due to small N sizes and maintaining student privacy.

Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences



Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences, located in Gray, opened its doors in September 2013. The school's students come from 16 Maine school districts from Portland to Rumford.

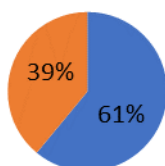
Fiddlehead's curriculum is based on the Reggio Emilia learning approach (image of the child, children's relationship and interactions within a system, role of the families, role of space, and teacher and children as partners in learning).

Fiddlehead's mission is to unfold the potential of children in a respectful, loving culture through authentic and meaningful experiences that sustain a sense of wonder, a love of learning, and embrace the interconnectedness of all things. Its vision is to provide for the foundational needs of growing children in a community where children, teachers, and families learn together in a nurturing environment.

2016-17 enrollment:

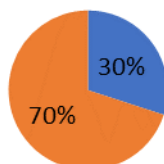
Free/Reduced Lunch

■ Free and Reduced Lunch

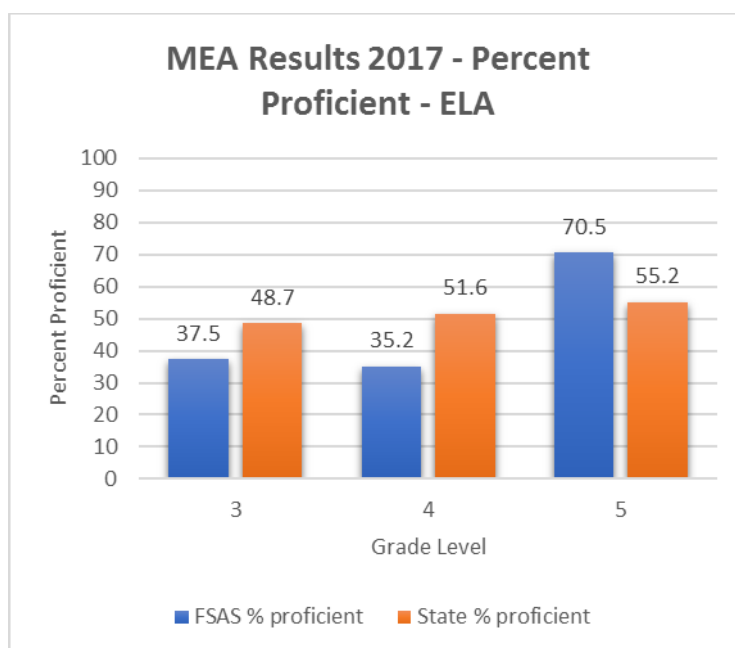
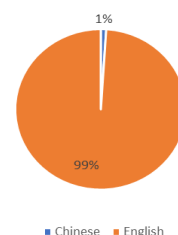


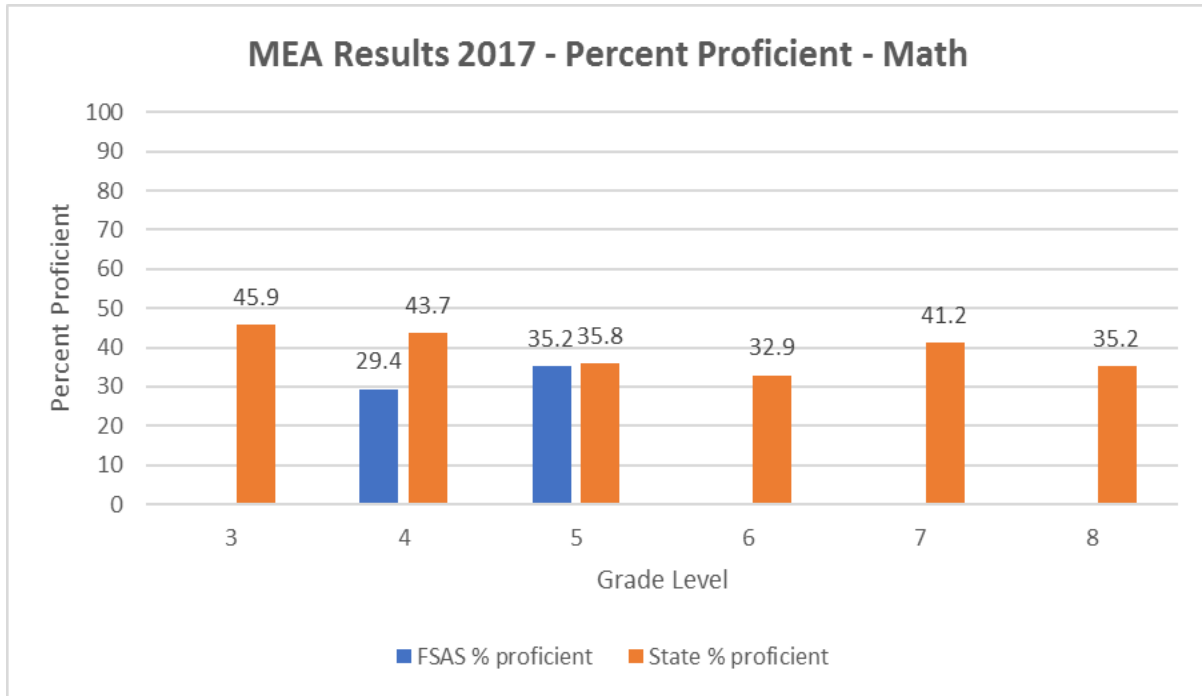
Special Education

■ Special Education



Language





Fiddlehead School for Arts and Science’s test results for Math grades 3, 6, 7, and 8 are not available to the public due to small N sizes and maintaining student privacy.

Harpswell Coastal Academy

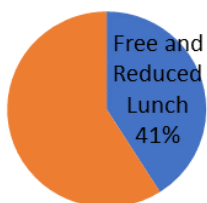


Harpswell Coastal Academy, located in Harpswell, opened in September 2013. The school serves students from over a dozen Maine school districts from Portland to Wiscasset. Its curriculum is based on incorporating marine and natural resources, farms and forests,

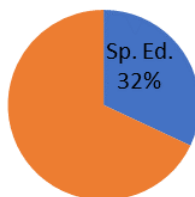
and sustainable entrepreneurship often through direct and ongoing partnerships with professionals in those fields. Harpswell's mission is to offer rigorous, personalized, project-based education to mid-coast Maine students. Its vision is to use Maine's shorelines, working waterfronts, forests, and farms as classrooms. The school's goal is to prepare caring, creative, resilient citizen-scholars who will flourish in a rapidly changing economy.

2016-17 enrollment:

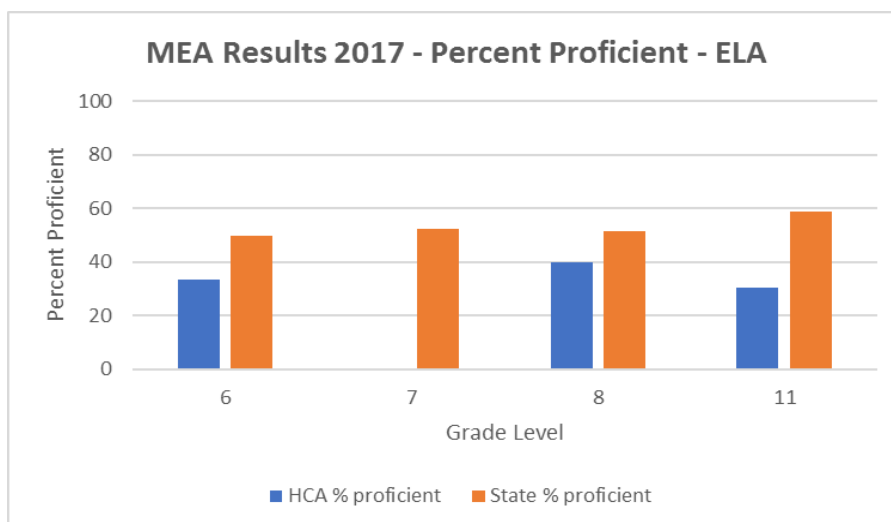
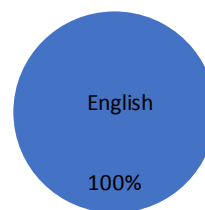
Free/Reduced Lunch



Special Education



Language



Harpswell Coastal Academy's test results for ELA grade 7 and Math grades 6, 7, 8, and 11 are not available to the public due to small N sizes and maintaining student

privacy.

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

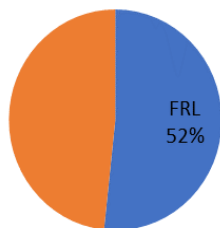
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS), located in Hinckley, opened in September 2011, and was the first Maine high school to focus on the natural sciences.



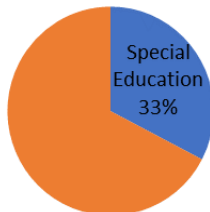
Currently, the school educates students from 25 Maine school districts from Portland to Athens. Its mission is to offer a student-centered, staff-guided high school whose purpose is to inspire and engage students. MeANS welcomes a diverse range of students including those whose previous learning environment has not inspired them to fulfill their potential as learners, those who have become profoundly disconnected from their education, as well as those who have a passion for the school's themes of agriculture, forestry and sustainability.

2016-17 enrollment:

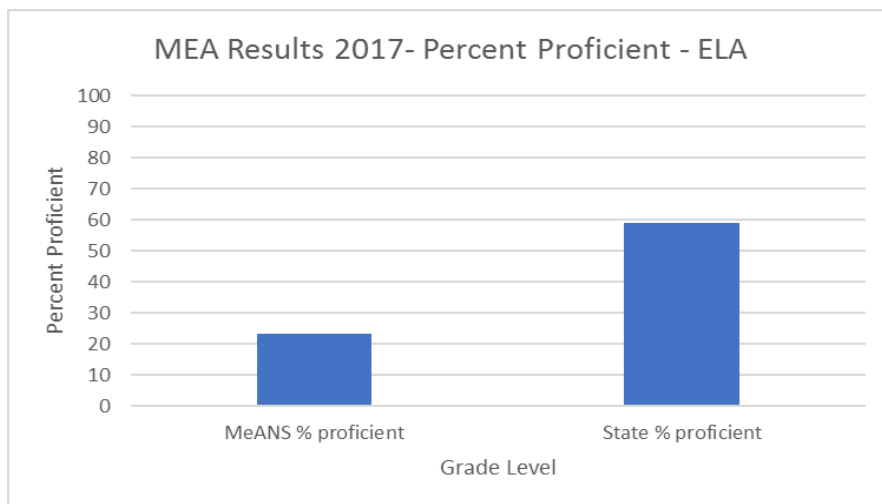
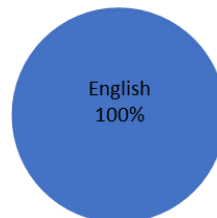
Free/Reduced Lunch



Special Education



Language



Maine Academy of Natural Science's test results for Math 8 are not available to the

public due to small N sizes and maintaining student privacy.

Maine Connections Academy



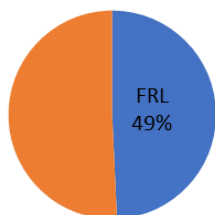
Maine Connections Academy (MCA), located in South Portland, opened in September 2014 as Maine's first virtual public charter school, and it currently educates students from 96 school districts statewide.

The school's curriculum combines online and offline resources working with specialists to deliver comprehensive, high quality education. The school's mission is to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program in grades 7-12 for students who need an alternative to the traditional classroom.

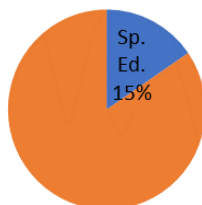
MCA's vision is to reach students for whom a virtual approach provides the best pathway to school success through an individualized learning program that combines the best in virtual education with close connections among students, family, teachers, and the community to promote academic and emotional success for every learner.

2016-17 enrollment:

Free/Reduced Lunch

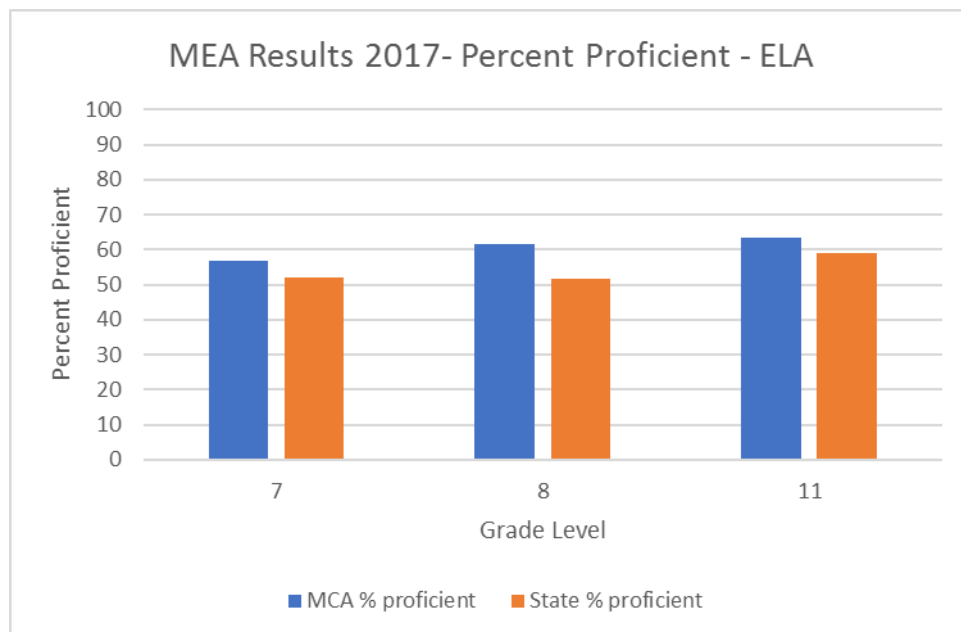
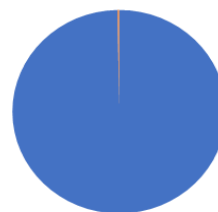


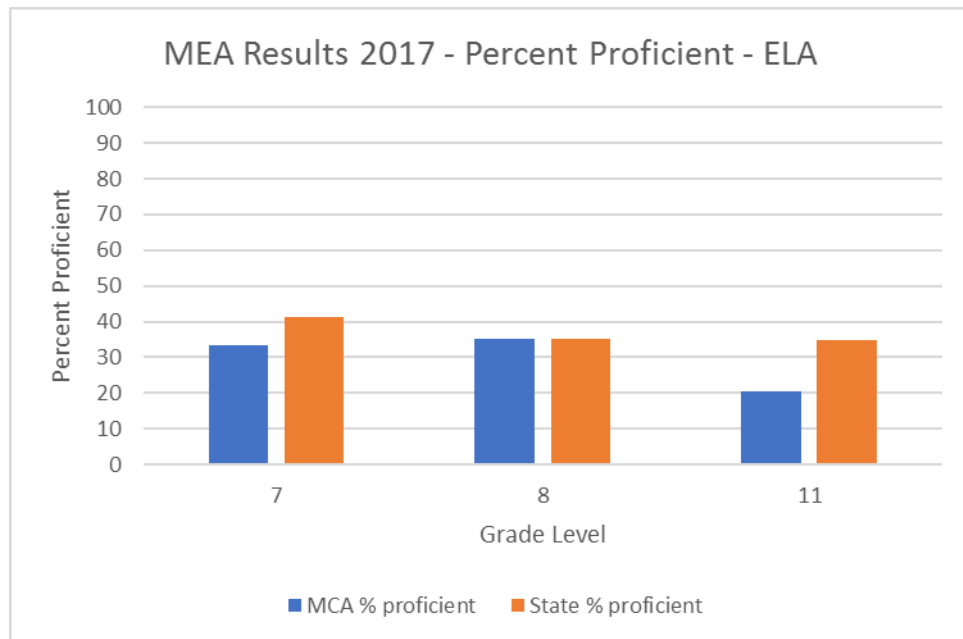
Special Education



Language

■ English ■ Latvian





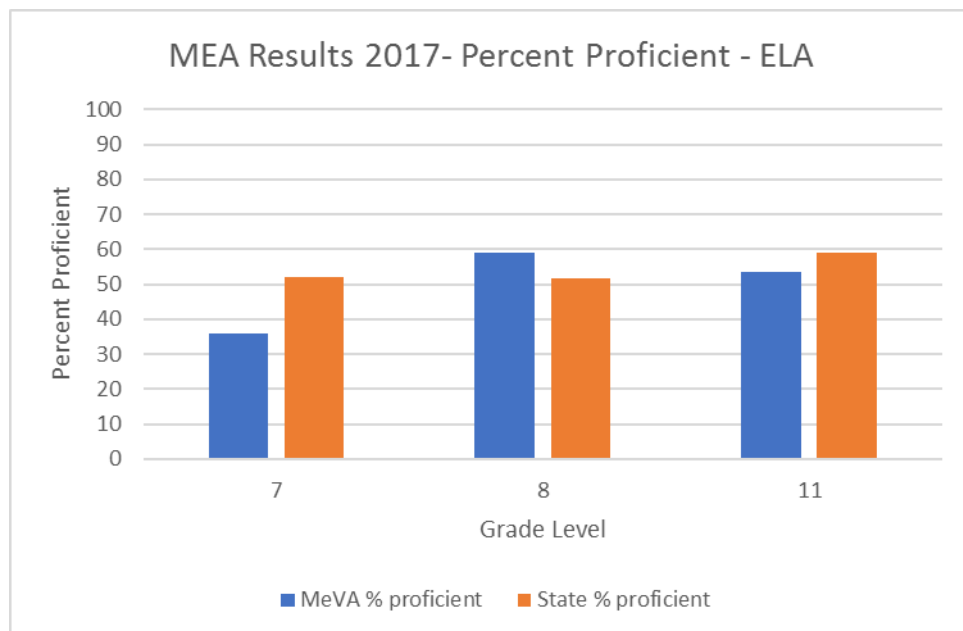
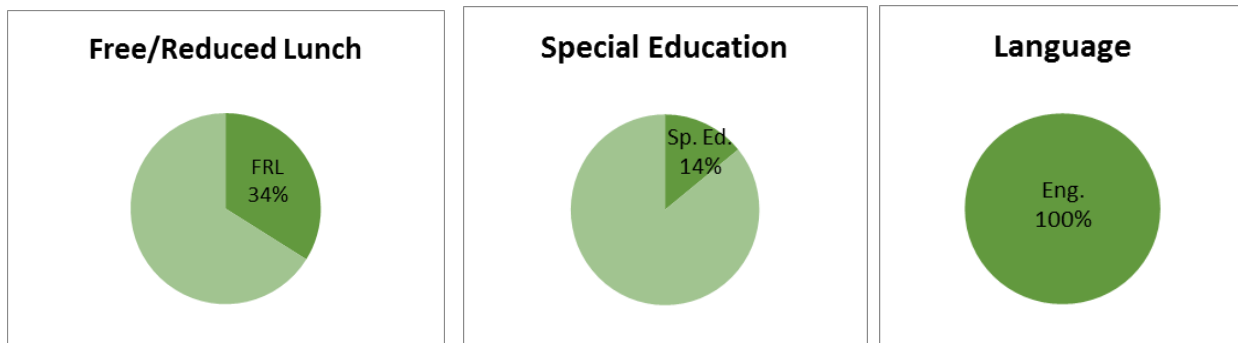
Maine Virtual Academy

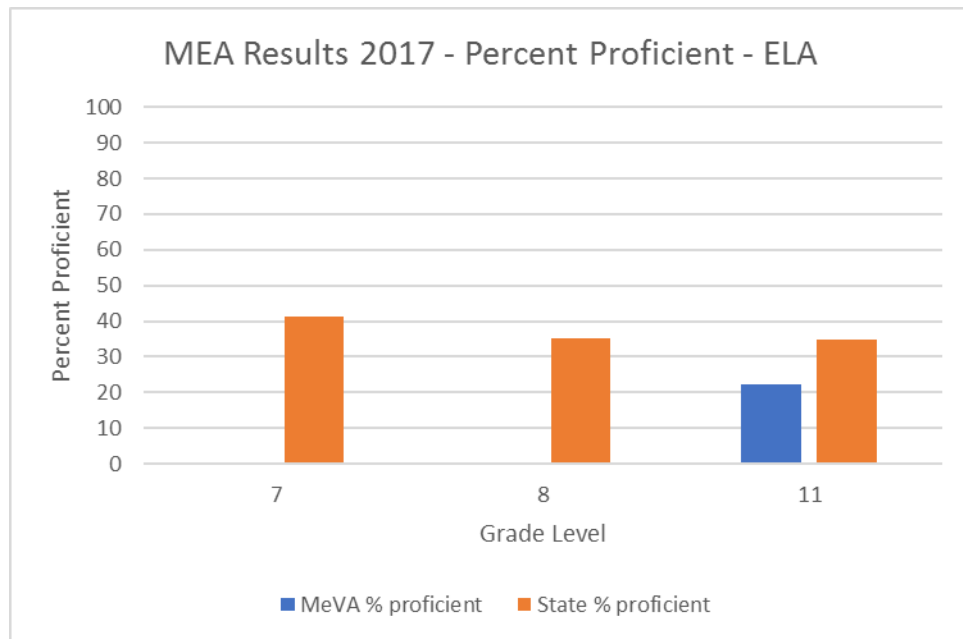


Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA), located in Augusta, opened in September 2015 as the second virtual public charter school in Maine. Currently, Maine Virtual Academy educates students from approximately 100 school districts all over the state of Maine. Its

curriculum is based upon the teaching affiliated with the K- 12 Inc. online program. It offers courses in Language Arts/English, Math, Science, History, Art, Health/PE and Music. The school's mission is to develop each student's full potential with learner-centered instruction, a research-based curriculum and educational tools and resources to provide a high-quality learning experience for grade 7-12 students in need of alternative educational options.

2016-17 enrollment:





Maine Virtual Academy's test results for Math grades 7 and 8 are not available to the public due to small N sizes and maintaining student privacy.

Snow Pond Arts Academy

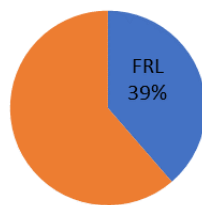


Snow Pond Arts Academy (SPAA), located in Sidney, opened for the 2016-2017 school year as a performing arts charter high school that integrates the power of the arts with a rigorous academic experience.

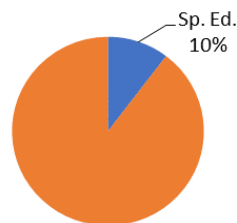
The performing arts curriculum in music, theater and dance includes lessons, technique classes, small and large group ensembles, comprehensive courses in theory, history, and more.

2016-17 enrollment:

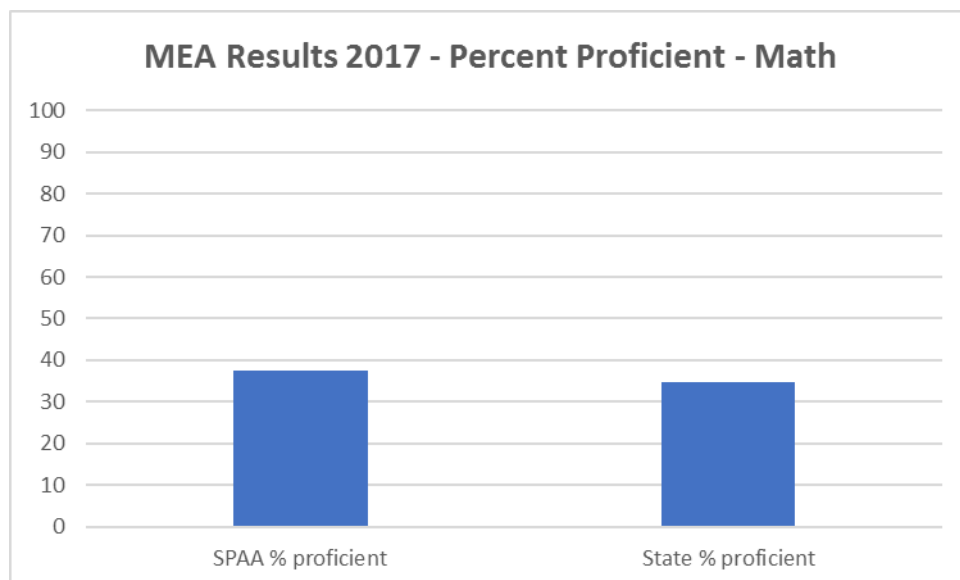
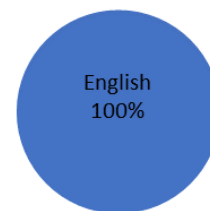
Free/Reduced Lunch



Special Education



Language



Snow Pond Arts Academy's test results for ELA are not available to the public due to small N sizes and maintaining student privacy.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS - MEA 2017-ELA

Grade 3	School Name	Grade 3 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Fiddlehead School	37.5
	State	48.7

Grade 4	School Name	Grade 4 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	42.1
	Fiddlehead School	35.6
	State	51.6

Grade 5	School Name	Grade 5 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	35.7
	Fiddlehead School	70.5
	State	55.2

Grade 6	School Name	Grade 6 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	38.4
	Harpswell Coastal	33.3
	State	49.6

Grade 7	School Name	Grade 7 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	37.5
	Harpswell Coastal	*
	Maine Connections	56.7
	Maine Virtual	36
	State	52.2

Grade 8	School Name	Grade 8 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Harpswell Coastal	40
	Maine Connections	61.5
	Maine Virtual	59
	State	51.5

Grade 11	School Name	Grade 11 - % at or above state expectations
	Baxter Academy	83.3
	Harpswell Coastal	30.4
	MEANS	23.5
	Maine Connections	63.4
	Maine Virtual	53.4
	Snow Pond Arts	*
	State	59

*Data suppressed to protect student privacy

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS – MEA 2017- MATH

Grade 3	School Name	Grade 3 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Fiddlehead School	*
	State	45.9

Grade 4	School Name	Grade 4 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Fiddlehead School	29.4
	State	43.7

Grade 5	School Name	Grade 5 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Fiddlehead School	35.2
	State	35.8

Grade 6	School Name	Grade 6 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Harpswell Coastal	*
	State	32.9

Grade 7	School Name	Grade 7 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Harpswell Coastal	*
	Maine Connections	33.3
	Maine Virtual	*
	State	41.2

Grade 8	School Name	Grade 8 - % at or above state expectations
	Cornville Regional	*
	Harpswell Coastal	*
	Maine Connections	35.2
	Maine Virtual	*
	State	35.2

Grade 11	School Name	Grade 11 - % at or above state expectations
	Baxter Academy	61.1
	Harpswell Coastal	*
	MEANS	*
	Maine Connections	20.6
	Maine Virtual	22.4
	Snow Pond Arts	37.5
	State	34.8

*Data suppressed to protect student privacy

CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARDS

Maine's public charter schools each have a Governing Board that holds a charter contract with its authorizer the Maine Charter School Commission. These Governing Boards typically have between 5 and 11 seats. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds.

Governing Boards are required to hold regularly scheduled meetings open to the public and are required to post meeting agendas and minutes to the school's website.

Governing Board Membership:

ACADIA Academy

Chris Brann, Chair
Kelly Cabral
Amy Deitrich
Travys Fecteau
Joel Charpentier
Sean Seibert
Meaghan Swan
Tracy Turner
Mary Verrill

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Dr. Alison Crean Davis, Chair
Ruth Dean
Kim Gustafson
Thorn Dickinson
Peter Morrison
Patti Oldmixon
Christian Sparling

Cornville Regional Charter School

Jean Walker, Chair
Lorri Cahill
Stephanie Miller
Jayson Gayne
Ted Prawat

Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences

Alison Moser, Chair
Kathleen Clements
Adam Gilman
Alyson Spencer-Reed
Bill Doughty
Melanie Prinz
Penny Collins
Sally Morris

Harpswell Coastal Academy

Dr. Sally MacKenzie, Chair
David Eldridge
Ed Harris
Eileen Horner
David Jean
Cynthia Shelmerdine
Sharon Whitney
Nancy Andersen

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

Dr. Tom Edwards, Chair
Cheryl Bulmer
Mara Casey Tieken
Scott Cyrway
Dr. Gordon Donaldson
Donna Ferenc-McGorty
Troy Frost
Stephanie Johnson
Karen Kusiak
Pam Mattos
Mike Muir

Maine Connections Academy

Amy Linscott, Chair
John Larouche
Bernice Stockley
Amy Volk
Carol Weston

Maine Virtual Academy

Amy Carlisle, Chair
Edward LeBlanc
Donna Madore
Peter Mills

Snow Pond Arts Academy

Janna Townsend, Chair
Rick Bryant
Sherry Gilbert
Debra Levenseller
Kathleen Moore
Julie Richard
Carl Steidel

AUTHORIZER OPERATING COSTS

By law, the Commission is allowed to receive up to 3% of annual per-pupil allocations received by each public charter school it authorizes. These funds must be used to cover the costs for the Commission to oversee its public charter schools. In November 2016, MCSC voted to take only 2.25% of annual per-pupil allocations received by each public charter school it authorizes. In addition, the MCSC returned funds to each school totaling \$428,000.

The revenue received from the Department of Education based on the Essential Program S (EPS) formula in FY 17 was \$581,538.57 of which \$304,007 was used to pay the Commission per diem, fund professional development for the Commission and staff, engage professional and administrative staff, and to fund activities to oversee public charter schools. The balance has been carried into FY 2018.

Maine Charter School Commission			
FY17 Budget vs Actual Report			
As of June 30, 2017			
	Budget	Actual	Balance
Personnel			
Executive Director	95,826.00	89,396.08	6,429.92
Program Director	62,069.00	55,068.75	7,000.25
Administrative Assistant	43,440.00	38,021.85	5,418.15
Analyst	52,649.00	-	52,649.00
	253,984.00	182,486.68	71,497.32
Per Diem Commission Members	15,488.00	8,470.00	7,018.00
Professional Services	5,300.00	45,169.00	(39,869.00)
Travel	36,200.00	26,461.25	9,738.75
General Operations	9,497.00	8,691.15	805.85
Technology	60,944.00	20,327.82	40,616.18
Office and Other Supplies	4,450.00	3,559.64	890.36
Training - Charter Schools	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
Unobligated	-	-	-
Sta-Cap at 2.996%	11,860.00	8,840.17	3,019.83
*TOTAL	407,723.00	304,005.71	103,717.29
**Revenue	615,196.00	153,065.58	768,261.58
Current Cash on Hand	421,194.35		
*FY17 allotment is \$315,598. If expenditures equal or exceed budgeted amounts a financial order will be necessary.			
**Does not include \$348,860 from revenue received through 6/30/15.			