

H.P. 1335 - L.D. 1850

Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall examine the reports and related work products presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the 126th Legislature as part of the independent review of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act conducted pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 166 and shall develop a plan to strengthen the adequacy and equity of the following cost components included in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and other related education statutes.

1. Public preschool programs for children 4 years of age. As part of the review and analysis of public preschool programs for children 4 years of age, the commission shall:

- A. Review the work products and any proposed rules developed by the Department of Education's work group to implement quality standards of practice for Maine public preschool programs, including an analysis of the standards proposed to address quality and consistency of public preschool programs and collaboration with other early childhood and preschool programs;
- B. Conduct an analysis of the targeted funds for public preschool to grade 2 students that are allocated specifically for preschool students and conduct an analysis of the projected costs for providing public preschool programs for all eligible children 4 years of age in the state;
- C. Review the current method for calculating the number of public preschool students enrolled in a school administrative unit's public preschool program and conduct an analysis of the projected costs for changing the current method for calculating the number of public preschool students that counts each public preschool student as a 0.5 full-time equivalent student for the first year and a 1.0 full-time equivalent student beginning in the 2nd year to a new method that counts each public preschool student as a 1.0 full-time equivalent student for the first year and subsequent years; and
- D. Collect and review information on the physical space and facility capacity of school administrative units and project the school facility costs necessary to implement public preschool programs for eligible children 4 years of age in the state.**

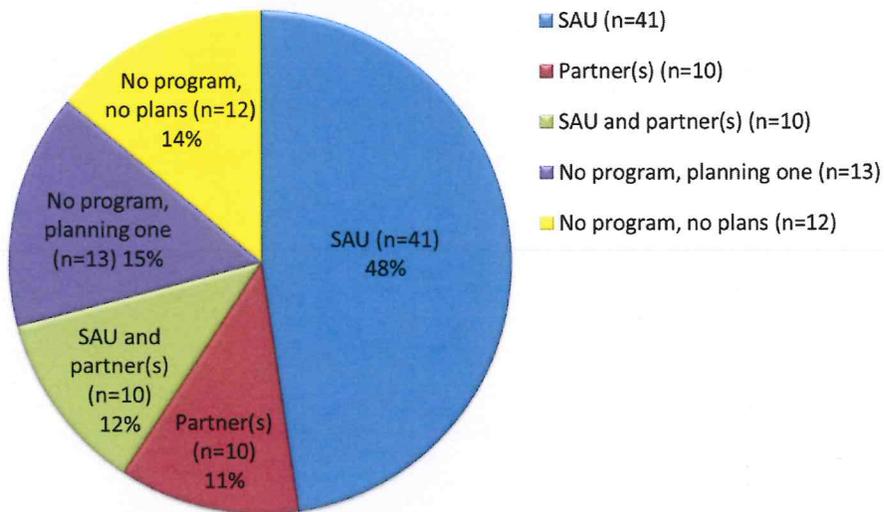
Superintendent Reports on Public Preschool Programs in Maine

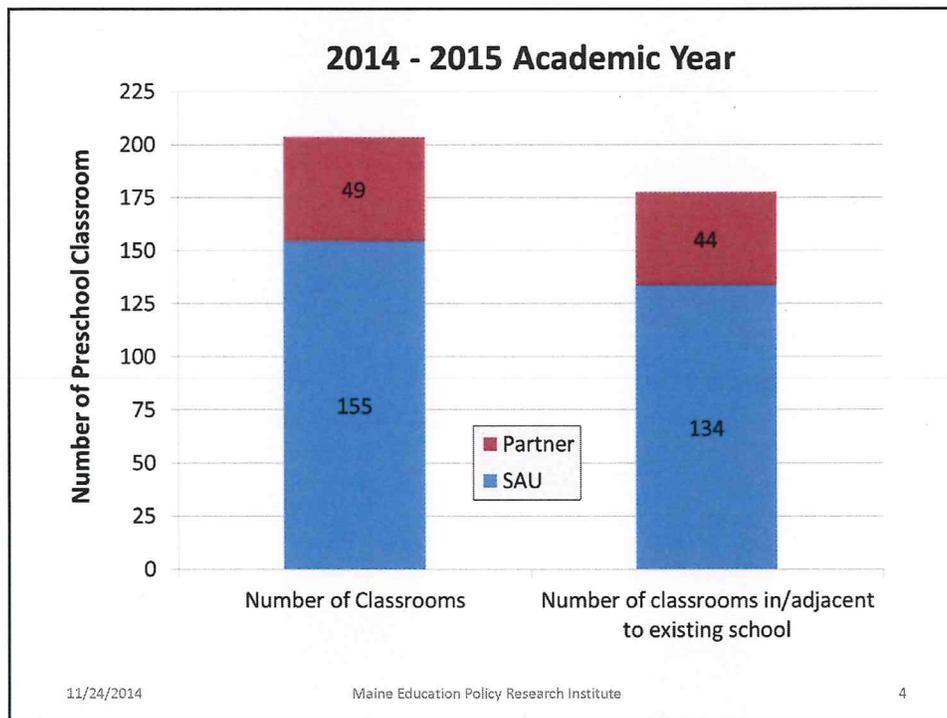
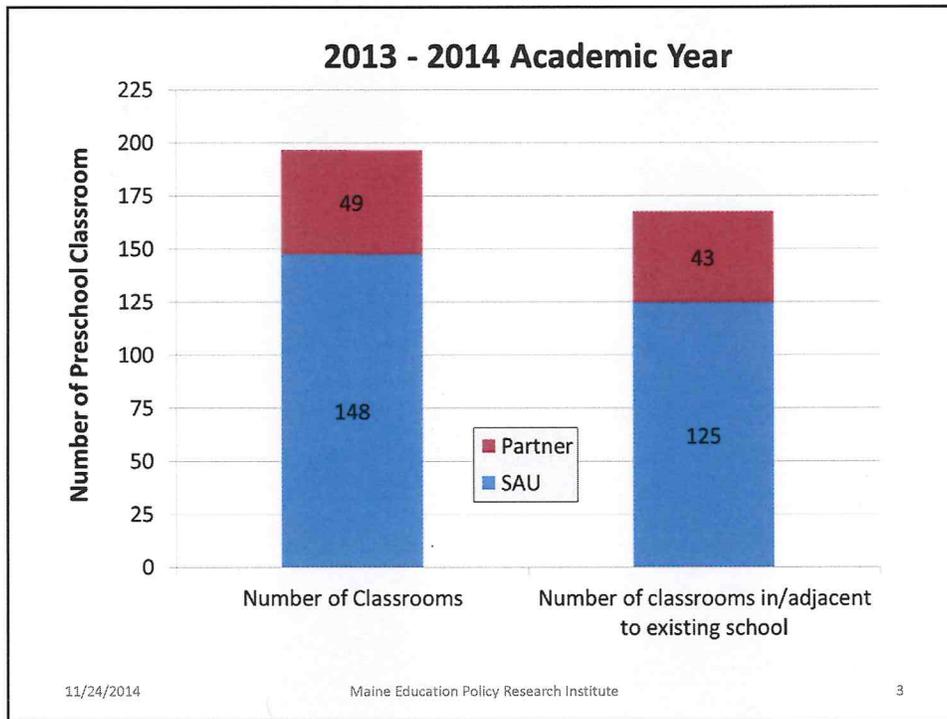
Craig A. Mason, PhD
Michael J. Porter, M.S.

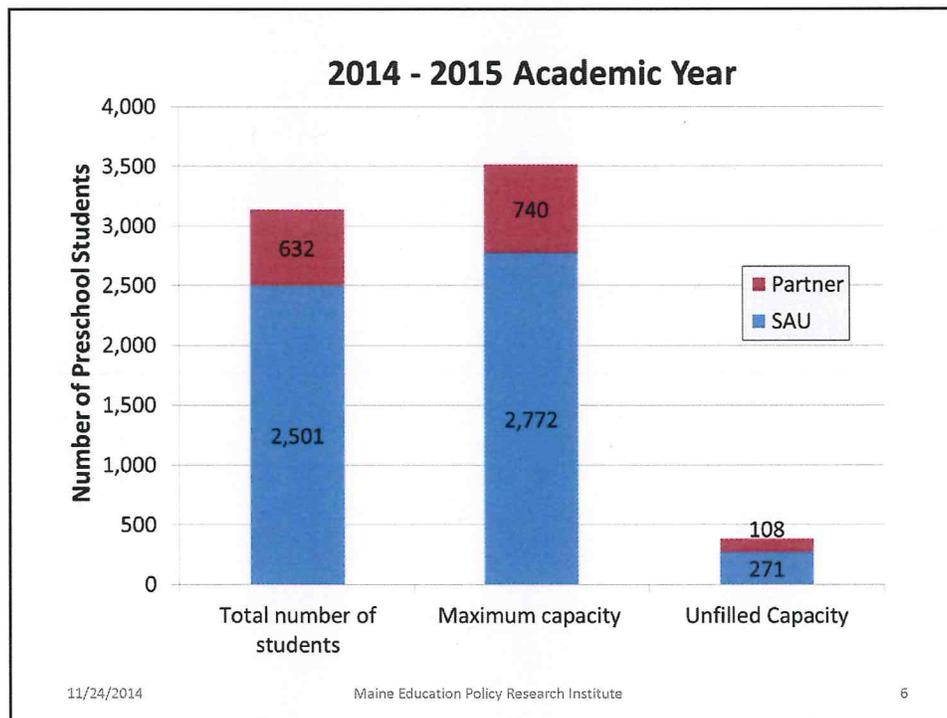
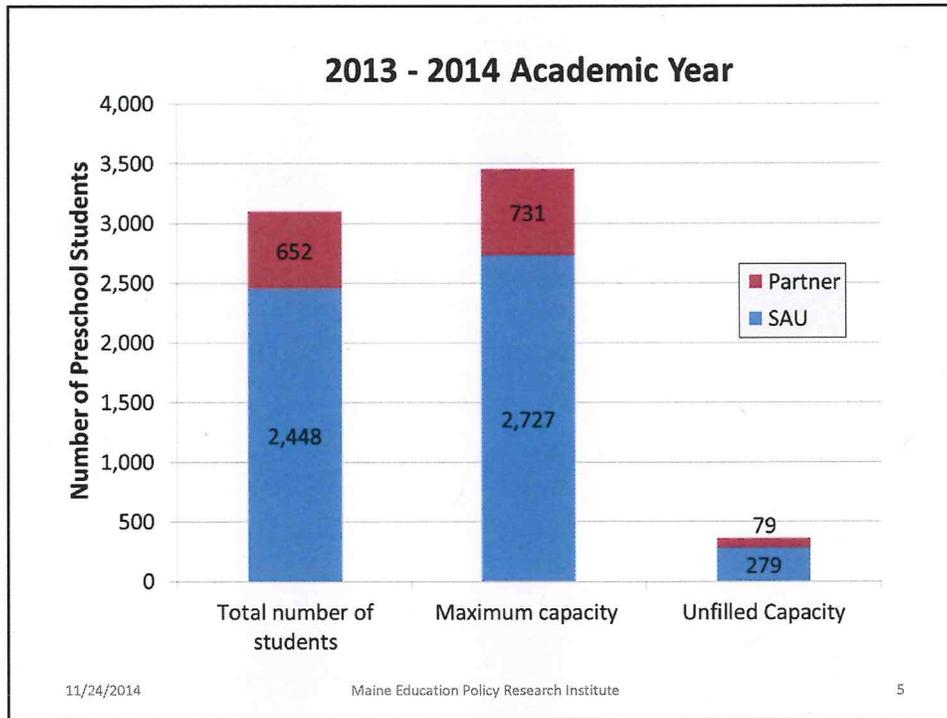
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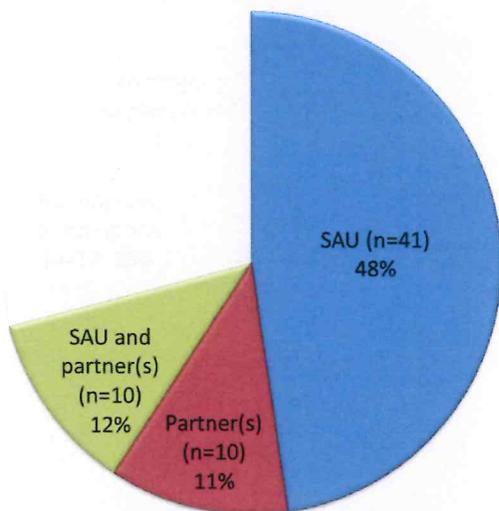
Entity Operating Preschool Program







Expansion Plans for Existing Programs



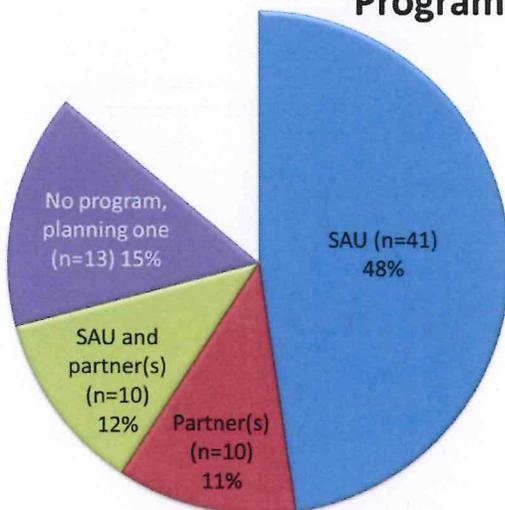
Plan to expand their existing programs: **47.5%**

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Expansion Plans for New and Existing Programs



Approximately 39 districts adding or expanding preschool programs

Classrooms to add:
2.41 classrooms per district
94 total classrooms

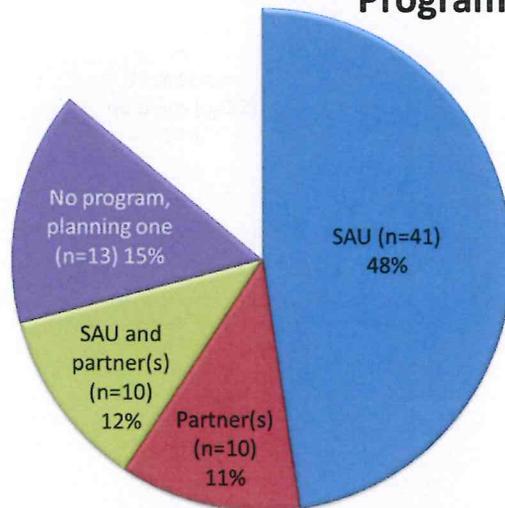
Students that could be enrolled:
46.33 students per district
1807 total students

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Expansion Plans for New and Existing Programs



Mean cost renovations: **\$52,897**. Approximately 3/4 "hard" renovations; Median=**\$19,500**

76.5% indicate they can expand using existing SAU space

Others require 2-6 rooms

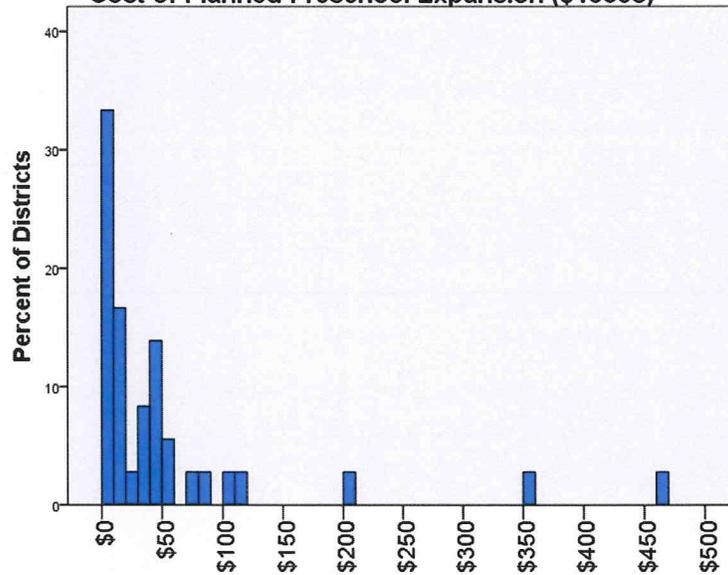
Adds approximately **25 rooms total** across all districts

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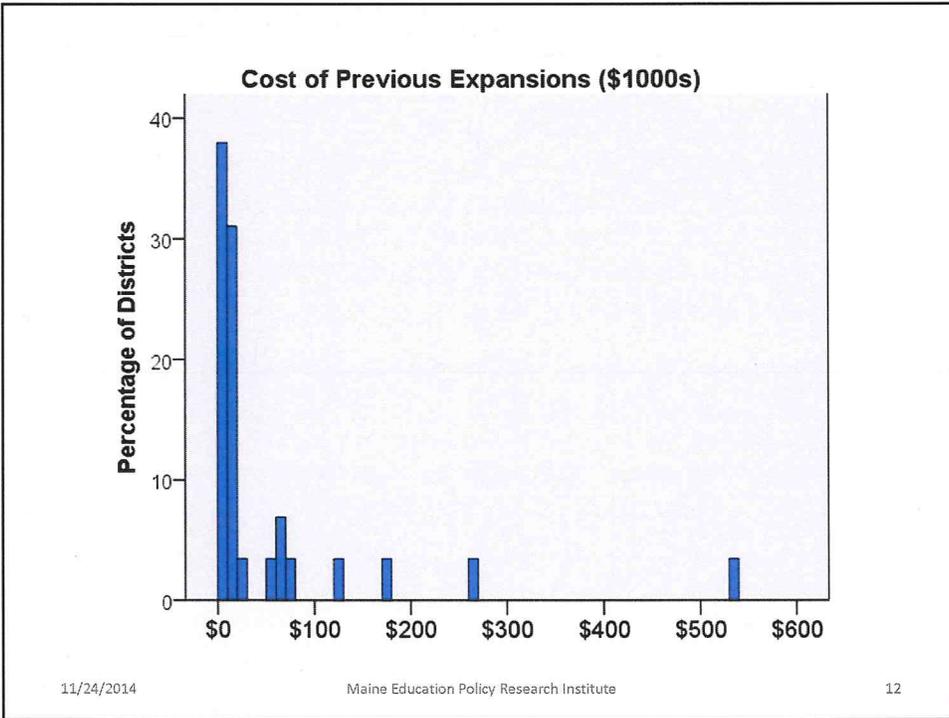
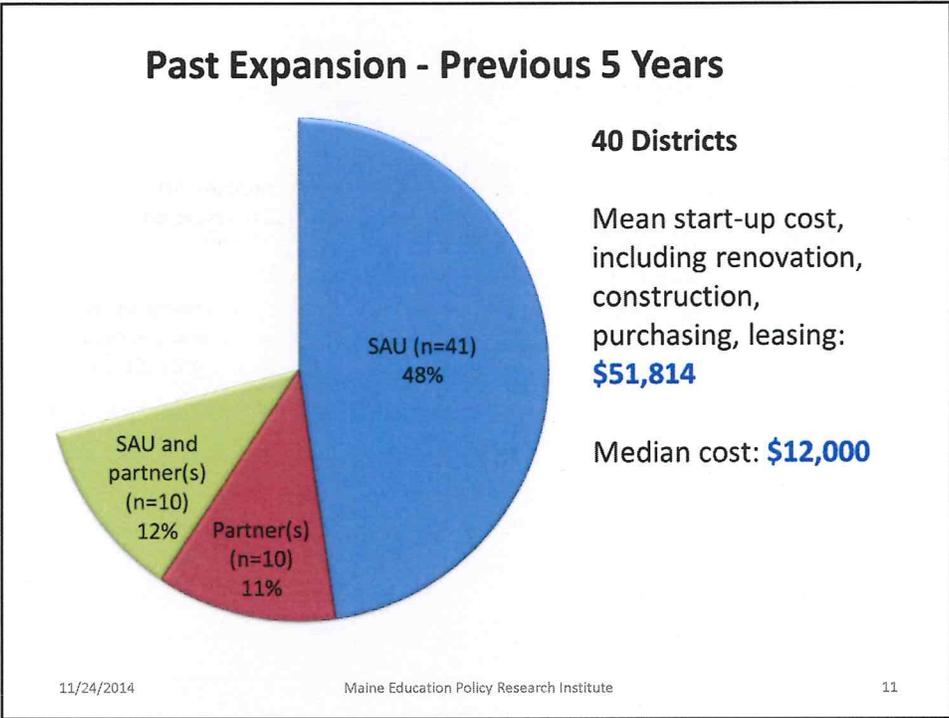
Cost of Planned Preschool Expansion (\$1000s)

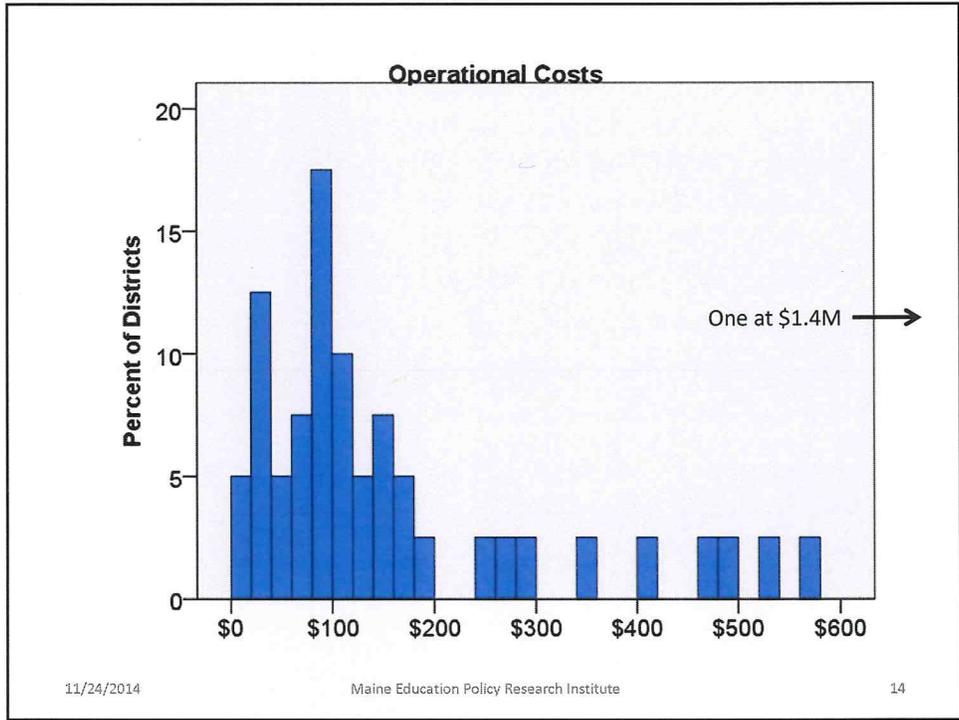
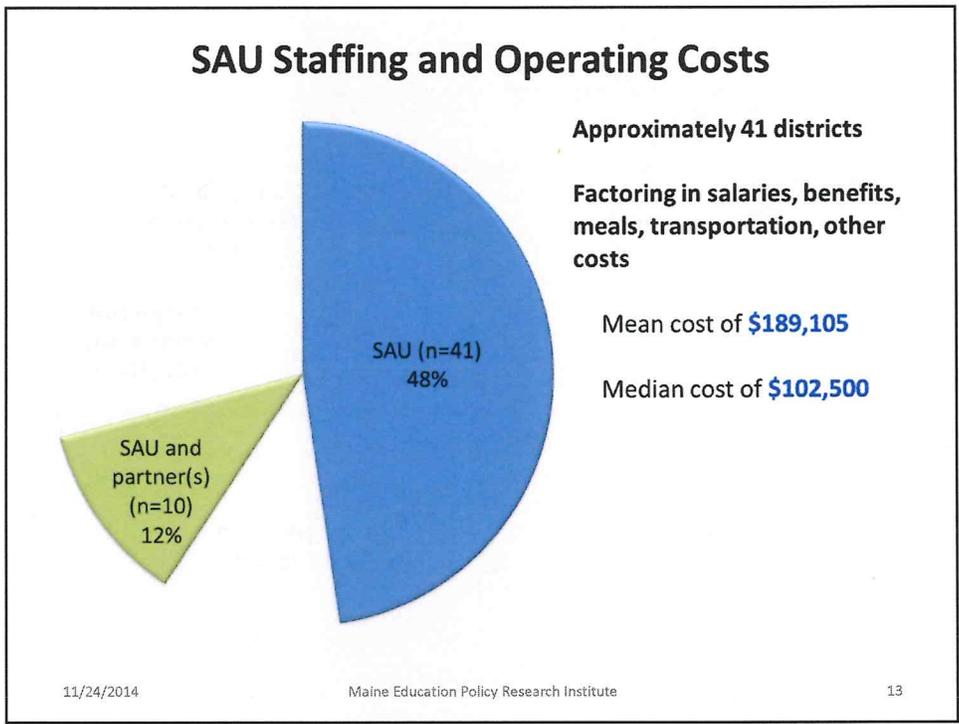


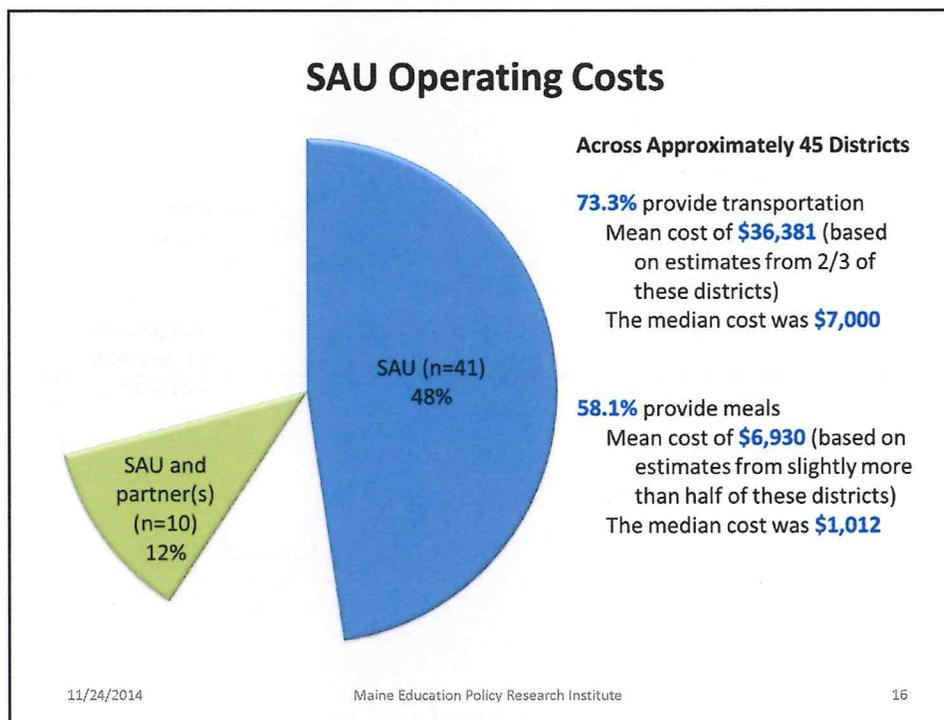
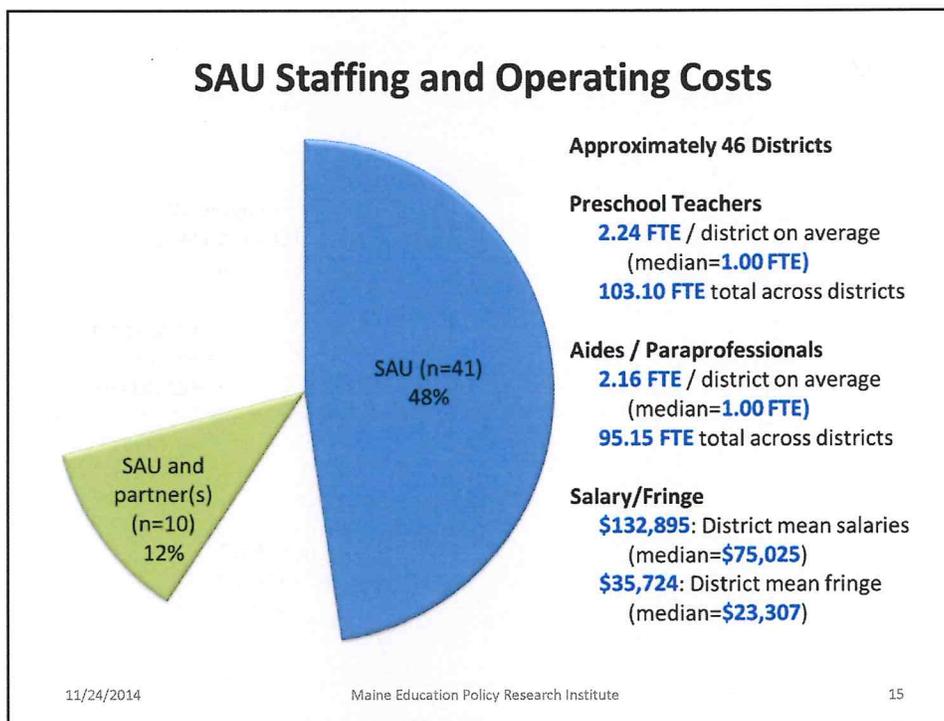
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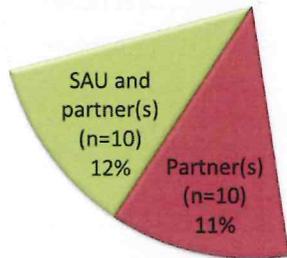
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Costs to Partner Agencies



SAU Payments to Partners (N=12)

\$67,985 mean payment to partner(s)
\$21,958 median payment to partner(s)

Including Other SAU Costs (N=12)

\$112,809 mean payment to partner(s)
\$28,912 median payment to partner(s)

Nine districts have other, complicated financial supports

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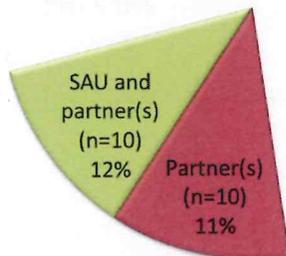
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Partner Agency Services

Across 20 Districts

10.0% of partner agencies provide transportation

31.6% of partner agencies provide meals



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