

**MAINE COALITION FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN EDUCATION**



May 28, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As Chair of the **Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education**, I am writing to express support for the educational goals that Governor John Baldacci and the Maine Department of Education have put forward for the schools of Maine. These goals are the foundation of Maine's Race To The Top application, and they will transform teaching and learning in Maine for years to come.

Several elements of Maine's Race To The Top application will strengthen our ability to create learning environments in which all of Maine's students have the opportunity to realize their full potential. Maine's plan will:

- Strengthen and expand quality standards and assessments for teaching and learning by implementing a balanced assessment system *of* learning and *for* learning that informs instructional practice, while providing support structures for all students to achieve the standards;
- Implement and use longitudinal data systems to support teaching and learning by measuring student growth and informing instruction;
- Support mentoring for teachers and leaders to create the personal journey required for the success of next generation learners; and
- Improve student achievement through whole school improvement of all schools, especially those recognized as previously low-performing.

The Race To The Top grant program presents a great opportunity for the State of Maine and its students. An educational reform effort of this magnitude needs strong partnerships among educators, parents, students, administrators, local school boards, community leaders, and State policy makers. The Maine Department of Education is committed to this essential work and Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education looks forward to our continued partnership with the Department as we prepare our students for successful careers and citizenship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yellow Light Breen".

Yellow Light Breen, MCEE Chair  
Senior Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer  
Bangor Savings Bank