

Elevate Maine/Somerset

2020 Services & Outcomes



The Results Are In: Providing high-quality early education and care for infants and toddlers closes the achievement gap!

What is Elevate Maine/Somerset?

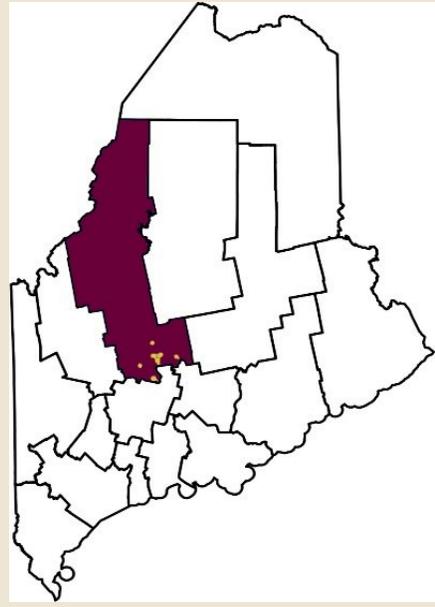
Elevate Maine/Somerset is a partnership between the Maine Early Learning Investment Group (MELIG), Educare Central Maine (ECM), and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program/Early Head Start (KVCAP/EHS).

Project Goals:

1. Elevate quality in both Center-Based settings and Family Childcare homes.
2. Enhance family engagement and parent education to support their child's learning and development.
3. Provide comprehensive child and family services including nutritional, oral, mental, and physical health.
4. Gather data and analyze child-parent-family progress and provider/teacher quality improvement.
5. Expand local awareness of the importance of quality early care and education.

The *Elevate Maine/Somerset* mission is to ensure that program participants arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

Service Area



With the highest number of child risk factors in the state, the greater Skowhegan area and Somerset county have been selected as Elevate Maine/Somerset's premiere location (2015).



Child Outcomes

170 children were positively impacted in Provider settings. One-hundred thirteen (113) children have participated in direct child assessment.

The longer children are in the Elevate Maine/Somerset program, the higher their vocabulary and their social emotional scores. Continuity of quality care is a proven factor in positive child outcomes.

Supporting Families

100% of the parents are employed (full-time 70%)

76% are two-parent families

100% of families received health and parent education

Family engagement is a cornerstone of the program's success. Focusing on the whole child involves the family in meeting children's health needs, child development and early learning.



Key Program Design Features

- Weekly Provider visits for coaching/mentoring
- Enhanced funding for environments, resources, and supplies
- Parent engagement and education
- Professional learning communities and networking with other providers
- Program evaluation, utilizing data to support increased child outcomes

Investing in Early Education and Care

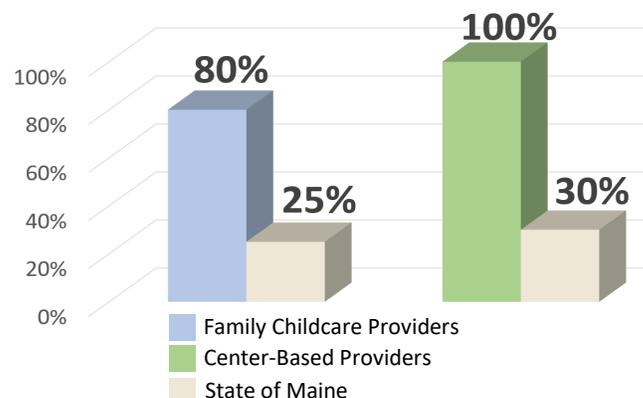
The cumulative lifetime fiscal savings and tax benefit to government is estimated to be **4.8 times greater** than the initial cost.*



**Path to a Better Future*, Philip Trostel, University of Maine School of Economics Professor. Visit educarecentralmaine.org to view the report.

Provider Outcomes

Maine's Quality Rating and Improvement System



Eighty percent (80%) of the projects family child care providers are at Steps 2, 3, or 4, compared to 25% statewide. One-hundred percent (100%) of the project's center-based providers are at Step 3 or 4, compared to 30% statewide.

Specific Environmental Rating Scale tools reflect **providers are increasing the quality of their program, exceeding state comparison settings.**

Elevate Maine/Somerset is an on-the-ground, rural, replicable model in the greater Skowhegan area that demonstrates a *coordinated birth-to-kindergarten-entry quality early care and education system*.

This strategic public/private partnership with rural family childcare and center-based programs, demonstrates progress and attainment of quality benchmarks for children, families and early educators. With the intensive and intentional work provided in Elevate Maine, children who would otherwise start kindergarten behind their peers, close their learning and developmental gaps to now be on par with more resourced peers. This reduces special education costs, improves third grade assessment scores, increases high school graduation rates, and moves Maine forward in workforce development goals.

The Elevate Maine/Somerset project goal is to fundamentally change Maine's early childhood education delivery system by demonstrating the impact of investing in high quality early childhood education from birth. It's working!

The full report can be viewed:

<https://www.educatemaine.org/research-reports>



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