



STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2031

MISSION & VISION

Mission

Our educational community helps every student **succeed academically and personally** through challenging, collaborative learning in a safe and supportive environment.

Vision

Our educational community prepares every student to **think independently, solve problems, and contribute to society** - ready to shape their future.

FOCUS AREAS

Engagement and Well-Being ✓

We support holistic well-being by prioritizing safety and mental health and fostering independence.

Rigorous and Collaborative Learning ✓

We provide engaging, real-world learning that meets students where they are and prepares them for life ahead.

Responsible Use of Resources ✓

We are committed to strategic stewardship of district resources to support students today and invest in a strong, sustainable future for Saco Schools.



FOCUS AREA 1 Engagement and Well-Being

We support holistic well-being by prioritizing safety and mental health and fostering independence.

- Our schools sustain rigorous safety protocols, including facility maintenance, staff training, and clear expectations for students.
- Staff continuously learn and grow so they can better support students.
- Students learn to speak up for themselves and others while respecting those around them.
- Students learn to manage their emotions and relationships, supporting their mental health and well-being.





FOCUS AREA 2

Rigorous and Collaborative Learning

We provide engaging, real-world learning that meets students where they are and prepares them for life ahead.

- Students engage in collaborative learning experiences that develop critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills for college, work, and community life.
- Students have opportunities to explore their interests and passions, engage in activities that foster joy, build community connections, and contribute to the school environment.
- We provide comprehensive support services to remove barriers to learning and give students access to the resources they need to thrive academically and personally.
- We regularly review and update our curriculum to make sure it's challenging, relevant, and builds the skills students need.
- Families receive personalized communication, and students are encouraged to reflect on and share their learning.





FOCUS AREA 3

Responsible Use of Resources

We are committed to strategic stewardship of district resources to support students today and invest in a strong, sustainable future for Saco Schools.

- We invest in school buildings that support learning, spend taxpayer dollars carefully, and keep the community informed.
- We assign staff and resources thoughtfully so every student has access to quality teaching.
- We evaluate technology based on its ability to genuinely support learning.

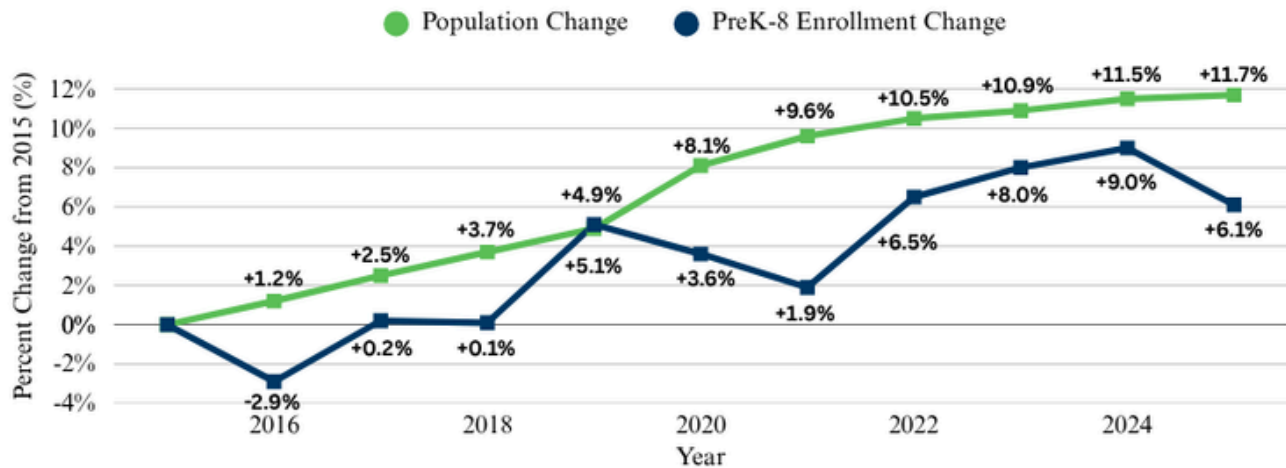




ENROLLMENT

Saco: Population vs. Enrollment % Change

2015-2025 (2015=Baseline)



Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program (PEP) for population data
Saco School Department records for PreK-8 enrollment data

Enrollment Statistics

Total Population Growth:

- 2,209 people (+11.7%)
- 2015: 18,893 vs. 2025: 21,102

PreK-8 Enrollment Growth:

- +108 students (+6.1%)
- 2015: 1,781 vs. 2025: 1,889

Peak Enrollment:

- 1,942 students in 2024

PreK-8 Students as % of Total Population:

- 2015: 9.43% vs. 2025: 8.95%
- Change: -0.48% points

Summary

Over the past decade, Saco's total population has grown by nearly 12%, outpacing the 6% increase in PreK-8 enrollment.

While the total number of elementary and middle school students rose—with a peak of 1,942 in 2024—students now make up a slightly smaller share of the overall population.

These trends suggest notable demographic shifts.

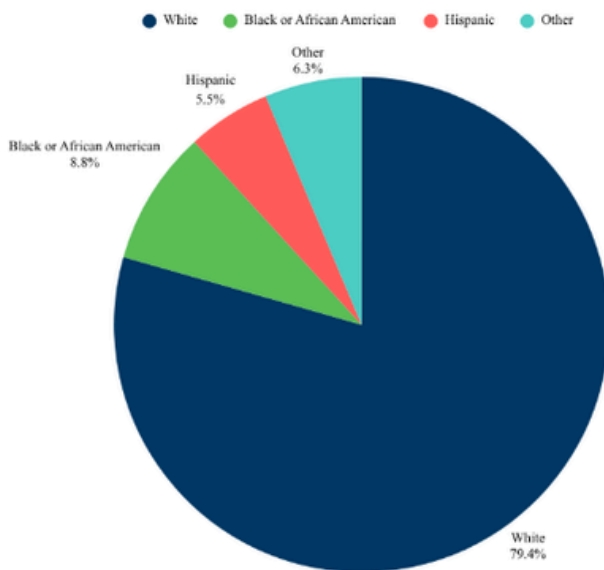


DEMOGRAPHICS

Student Demographics

Saco vs. State 2025 (%)

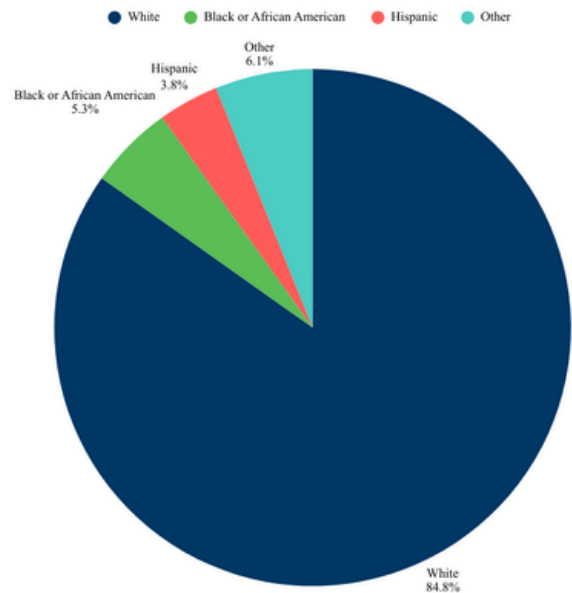
Saco



Data Source: Saco School Department

Note: "Other" consists of - Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Two or More Races

State



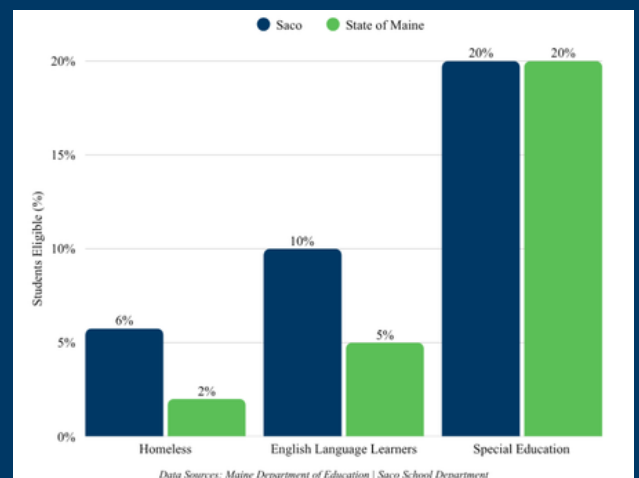
Data Source: Maine Department of Education Data Warehouse

Note: "Other" consists of - Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Two or More Races

Student Needs

Saco vs. State 2025 (%)

- **Saco serves a higher proportion of students experiencing homelessness**, with 6% of its student population identified as homeless compared to the state average of 2%.
- **Saco also supports a significantly larger percentage of English Language Learners**, at 10%, which is double the state average of 5%, indicating a more diverse linguistic population.



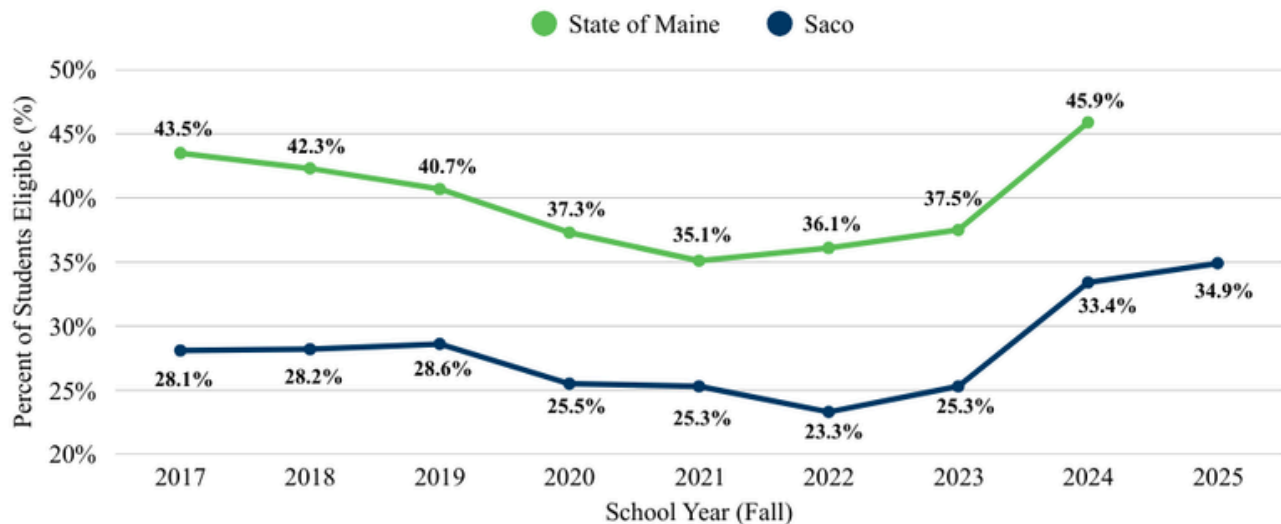
Data Sources: Maine Department of Education | Saco School Department



DEMOGRAPHICS

Students Economically Disadvantaged

Saco vs. State (2017-2025)



Data Sources: Maine Department of Education | Saco School Department

Note: Maine implemented universal free school meals in 2022. Data represents students eligible based on income.

Demographic Statistics

Median Household Income:

- Saco outpaced the State and remains \$10K–\$15K above the statewide median
2015: \$56K vs. 2024: **\$88K**
- Largest gains occurred 2020–2022

Economically Disadvantaged:

- Saco's rate remains below the state but has risen since 2022
- Saco continues to increase
2022: 23.3% vs 2025: **34.9%**
- Maine's rate rose sharply, reaching **45.9%** in 2025

Summary

Saco has seen strong income growth over the past decade, with household earnings rising faster than statewide trends.

Meanwhile, the share of economically disadvantaged students—though still below the state average—has increased in recent years.

These patterns show a **community gaining economic strength while also experiencing growing needs** among some families.



NEW SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION

OPENING FALL 2028

- Consolidating four aging elementary buildings into two new, state-of-the-art PK-5 facilities — Saco Primary School and Saco Elementary School
- \$140M state-funded construction project continues to progress on schedule, with groundbreaking in 2025
- Transition Team actively coordinating logistics, staffing, and planning through multiple project phases, including a Move Manual to guide a smooth, two-year transition of materials, technology, and furniture
- Ongoing collaboration with teachers and community members to ensure new buildings reflect community priorities and support innovative, outdoor, and flexible learning

CURRICULUM

Fall 2022 adoption of Eureka Math Squared PK-5 and Reveal Math 6-8



Fall 2025 Social Studies review completed and adoption of TCI resources for Saco Middle School



Fall 2026 launch of STEM+M programming at Saco Middle School to strengthen hands-on, integrated learning



Fall 2026 adoption of CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) and K for ME resources to support literacy instruction



Upcoming curriculum reviews scheduled for: Science (PK-8), Social Studies (K-5), and ELA (6-8)

