



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTHERN MAINE**

Center for Education Policy,  
Applied Research, and Evaluation

## **New Teacher Survey Report - Spring 2006**

September 20, 2006

Dear PPS Staff,

We are pleased to present this report from the survey of new teachers in the Portland Public Schools undertaken in the spring of 2006. Fifty-five first and second year teachers, 100% of the total, responded to the survey. The results indicate that new teachers in Portland feel very well supported by the teacher induction system now in place, and individual items in the survey point out specific areas in which supports are viewed as specifically helpful. This data will be very useful in ongoing efforts to make new teacher recruitment and induction in the Portland schools among the best in the nation.

This survey follows one initiated by Dr. Judy Swanson, of Research for Quality Schools in Seattle, in 2005. The 2005 survey was part of a national evaluation of the Portland Strengthening and Sustaining Teachers Project, which was funded by several private foundations for the five and a half year period 2000-2005. As the formal SST Project ended, the three partners in SST (Portland Education Association, Portland Public Schools, and USM) decided that it was important to continue the survey with local funds. A small group of people from USM and from the Building Steering Committees met to review the 2005 survey and develop the 2006 survey. During that process, every effort was made to minimize changes while also working to improve the usefulness of the data to the PEA-PPS-USM partners as we continue to seek ways to improve the role of preservice preparation, mentoring and professional development in support of new teachers.

We encourage you to review the report and share it widely with all staff members in your buildings who work with new teachers. We would be pleased to hear your feedback on ways that subsequent surveys can be made more helpful to you as teacher educators, mentors, peers and school administrators committed to strengthening and sustaining teachers in our schools.

Sincerely,

Richard Barnes  
Associate Professor of  
Education Leadership  
USM

Sincerely,

Leanne Walker  
Research Analyst  
Center for Education Policy,  
Applied Research & Evaluation