When you graduate from high school, you can enter the workforce or go to college. The median income for someone with a high school diploma is

\_\_\_\_\_\_ a year and \_\_\_\_\_\_ a year for someone with a bachelor's degree. A bachelor's degree typically requires four years of college, and a year of college (tuition and expenses) in Maine costs

\_\_\_\_\_\_ on average. Calculate and graph the net income for each six years after high school.

	Net Income Since High School Graduation									
	0 years	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years			
High School Diploma	\$0									
Bachelor's Degree	\$0	-								

400000							2
375000							-
350000							- +
325000							
275000							n
250000							
225000							
200000					5		
175000							
150000							
135000							
125000							
100000							
75000							
25000							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
-25000							Year
-50000							
-75000							
-100000							

Financial Aid - Is College Worth the Cost

2. Imagine an 18 year-old high school senior is debating whether to take a job after graduation or to go to college. How many years would it take until each option resulted in the same net income?

- a. Write an equation for the high school diploma (*x* being years and *y* income).
- b. Write an equation for the bachelor's degree (*x* being years and *y* income).Be careful it's a piecewise!
- c. You solved this above \_\_\_\_\_\_ how could you determine the number of years it would take to result in the same net income a different way?

- d. How old would he/she be at this point?
- e. Based on this do you think it would be a smart decision for him/her to attend college? Explain.

The average age for retirement in Maine is \_\_\_\_\_\_ years old.
Compare the lifetime net income for the two options.