

# SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

September 2007

Below is an initial list of some of the Department of Education's major programs and initiatives that provide supports for students. The Department is the lead agency in most of these programs. However, for some of the initiatives the Department provides partial funding and/or acts as a partner to another agency. The program descriptions are organized under the following topics:

1. Academic Support, After-School/Out-of-School Time, and School Redesign: Expanded Learning Programs
2. Comprehensive Health Education Programs
3. Human Services/Social Services Initiatives
4. Safe and Supportive Learning Environments
5. School-to-Career and Community Involvement

## **1. Academic Support, After-School/Out-of-School Time, and Expanded Learning Programs**

### **a. Academic Support Grants**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support

**Funding Source and Amount:** State - 7061-9404: \$13,215,863

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts

**Purpose:** The goal of this state-funded grant program is to enhance academic support services needed for those students who have yet to meet the Competency Determination required for high school graduation. These services are to supplement currently funded local, state, and federal programs. Programs may offer instruction during the school day, before school, after school, weekends, and during school vacations. Programs must provide identified students with small group instruction that incorporates engaging, hands-on and relevant curriculum that addresses identified gaps in their acquisition of knowledge and skills in English language arts and/or mathematics as described in the students' Individual Student Success Plans.

**Population Served:** Students in the Classes of 2003-2012 who have performed in the *warning/failing* or *needs improvement* categories on their most recent English language arts and/or mathematics MCAS or re-tests. Students served from the classes of 2003-2009 must have scored at the *warning/failing* level.

### **b. After-School and Out-of-School Time Quality Grants**

**DOE Unit:** Elementary School Services

**Funding Source and Amount:** State - 7061-9611: \$2,000,000

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; Early Education and Care; Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership

**Purpose:** The After-School and Out-of-School Time Quality grants provide funding for after-school and out-of-school time programs during the school year and the summer, including:

- Academic tutoring and homework centers;
- Programs that improve the health of students, including physical activities, athletics, nutrition and health education, and exercise;
- Art, theater, music programs, or other enrichment activities;
- Advanced study for the gifted and talented; and
- Community service programs.

In addition, \$50,000 is provided for the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership to convene regional networks to work with the Departments of Education and Early Education and Care to support school and afterschool partnerships.

**Population Served:** Children and youth in kindergarten through Grade 12, including children with disabilities and children who are English Language Learners.

### **c. Citizen Schools Matching Grants**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support

**Funding Source and Amount:** State - 7061-9610: \$475,000

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Citizen Schools.

**Purpose:** These funds provide matching grants of \$1,000 per enrolled child to Citizen Schools' after-school learning programs for middle school children upon documentation by Citizen Schools of \$1 in private sector, local, or federal funds for every \$1 in state funds. These programs provide opportunities for students to develop a variety of academic and leadership skills. The Citizen Schools program is intended to promote school success, high school completion, and college and workforce success for low-income, at-risk students. Up to \$50,000 of the \$475,000 is provided to Citizen Schools Inc. to support statewide training and evaluation efforts.

**Population Served:** Middle school students.

### **d. Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grants**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support

**Funding Source and Amount:** Federal: \$14,406,511

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts and community-based organizations

**Purpose:** The Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program funds community learning centers that operate during out-of-school hours (before/after-school and summer) and provide students with academic enrichment opportunities along with other activities designed to complement the students' school day program. Community learning centers may also offer families of these students literacy and related educational development.

**Population Served:** Grades K-12; primarily students in schools designated as Title I school-wide programs and/or students in districts/schools with 15% or more low-income families.

### **e. School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time Initiative**

**DOE Unit:** Accountability and Targeted Assistance/School and District Intervention

**Funding Source and Amount:** State - 7061-9412: \$13,000,000

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts

**Purpose:** The School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time Initiative includes two types of grants. *Planning Grants* support a district's planning activities to use longer school days/years as a strategy to raise student achievement. The grants provide resources for districts to plan the innovative redesign of selected schools by adding time to their schedules for English language arts, mathematics, and other core subjects; planning time and professional development for teachers; and integrated enrichment opportunities for students. Districts will plan to expand the hours and/or days of operation to the current schedule for all students in the participating schools.

*Implementation Grants* provide financial assistance to districts with schools that have increased learning time schedules by at least 25% for the 2007-2008 school year or are continuing to operate schools with at least 25% more time. Priorities are to provide resources that support the implementation of approved Implementation Plans in specified schools to: provide more

instructional opportunities in mathematics, literacy, science, and other core subjects to support student achievement; integrate enrichment opportunities into student learning; and provide educators with increased opportunities to plan and participate in professional development activities.

**Population Served:** All districts are eligible to apply for Planning Grants. Districts with fully approved implementation plans are eligible to apply for Implementation Grants.

#### **f. Supplemental Educational Services**

**DOE Unit:** Accountability & Targeted Assistance/NCLB Accountability

**Funding Source and Amount:** Funding comes from an identified school district's federal Title I entitlement grant or from other federal, state, local, and private sources in order to meet the requirement to spend up to an amount equal to 20% of its Title I, Part A allocation as needed.

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts

**Purpose:** Supplemental educational services (SES) are provided outside of the regular school day. This additional, free, academic instruction is designed to increase the academic achievement of students in schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under the No Child Left Behind Act. These services may include tutoring and remediation provided they are consistent with the content and instruction used by the local school district and aligned with the State's academic content standards. Public schools, private schools, educational service agencies, institutions of higher education, faith-based and community-based organizations, and private businesses may apply for approval by the Department to provide SES.

**Population Served:** Students from low-income families attending Title I schools in their second year of school improvement (i.e., have not made Adequate Yearly Progress for three or more years), in corrective action, or in restructuring status are eligible to receive SES. In the 2005-06 school year there were 126 Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring whose students received SES. In the 2005-06 school year, 6,430 students received supplemental educational services. Data for the 2006-07 school year are currently being analyzed.

### **Related Activities**

#### **Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time**

The Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time was created by the Massachusetts Legislature to "study and recommend how to define and better coordinate, expand, finance and improve accessible, affordable, and quality out-of-school time programming for school age children in all settings in Massachusetts." The Special Commission is co-chaired by Senator Thomas McGee, the Chair of the Senate Labor and Workforce Development Committee, and by Representative Marie St. Fleur, the Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Commission has 36 members representing community-based and faith-based organizations, public and private schools, child care organizations, advocacy, and parent-teacher organizations. The Department participates as a member of this Commission. In addition, the Special Commission has convened working groups that will develop recommendations in three key areas:

- Information and Access;
- Quality, Workforce and Professional Development; and
- Sustainability.

The Department is represented on these 3 subcommittees. The Commission plans to release a report with its recommendations this fall.

## **Statewide System of Extended Learning Opportunities Grant**

Massachusetts is one of six states to receive a \$50,000 eighteen-month grant from the National Governors Association, the National Council of State Legislatures, and the Mott Foundation. In order to assist all students acquire the skills critical to their future success in school and to prepare them to compete in a global economy, Massachusetts needs a statewide system of extended learning opportunities that is strong, flexible, and sustainable. Through this grant, Massachusetts intends to develop a strategic plan to build upon and coordinate its current after-school and out-of-school time and expanded school day/school year initiatives and accomplishments, in coordination with the Special Commission's recommendations. The Department is represented on the grant's Leadership Team.

## **2. Comprehensive Health Education Programs**

### **a. Child Nutrition Programs**

**DOE Unit:** Nutrition, Health, and Safety

**Funding Source and Amount:**

- Federal Funds: \$ 211,493,501
- State Funds - 7053-1909 School Lunch Program (match) \$5,426,986; 7053-1925 Child Nutrition Outreach Program and Universal Breakfast Program \$4,277,645; 7051-0015 Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program \$1,247,000

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Departments of Education, Public Health, Transitional Assistance; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Framingham State College; Project Bread; Massachusetts Nutrition Board

**Purpose:** Child Nutrition Programs provide schools and community agencies with funds and other resources to support the availability of nutritious meals and foods for children, elderly at-risk populations, and families.

**Population Served:** Students, at-risk families, and elderly populations.

### **b. Improving the Health, Education and Well-Being of Young People through Coordinated School Health Programs**

**DOE Unit:** Nutrition, Health, and Safety

**Funding Source and Amount:** Centers for Disease Control: \$659,290.

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Departments of Education and Public Health; University of Massachusetts, Boston; Framingham State College

**Purpose:** The overall goal of the CDC-funded Comprehensive School Health Education and Infrastructure Grant is to improve the health and well-being of K-12 students in Massachusetts, therefore improving academic performance. Divided into two sections, the grant allows the Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) and the Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) to work together in providing communities with the services they need to keep their students healthy. The Infrastructure portion of the grant asks the DOE and DPH to assess and coordinate the health programs they each provide in schools. Together with a state level coalition, the DOE and DPH will look for overlaps or gaps in service, and make adjustments to create a Coordinated School Health Education program.

**Population Served:** School district educators, health coordinators, and other pertinent staff.

### **c. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC)**

**DOE Unit:** Nutrition, Health, and Safety

**Funding Source and Amount:** Federal: \$5,290,808

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; The Executive Office of Public Safety manages the Governor's SDFSC Allocation.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this federal grant program is to support programs that prevent violence in and around schools, prevent illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and involve parents and communities in school-based initiatives. This program is to be coordinated with related federal, state, and community efforts to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement.

**Population Served:** School district students and staff.

### **3. Human Services/Social Services Initiatives**

#### **a. Coordinated Family Focused Care (CFFC)**

**DOE Unit:** Special Education Policy and Planning

**Funding Source and Amount:** \$750,000; federal special education funds

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Mental Health – Lead; Participants: Departments of Education, Youth Services, Social Services, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Fiscal Affairs Division, Administration and Finance

**Purpose:** To provide wraparound service, including counseling and family support services, to youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families in communities across the Commonwealth (6 sites).

**Population Served:** Each site serves about 60 youth.

#### **b. Departments of Education and Mental Retardation Project**

**DOE Unit:** Finance (with program support from Special Education Policy and Planning)

**Funding Source and Amount:** \$8 million (from state Circuit Breaker set aside 7061-0012)

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Mental Retardation – Program Lead; Department of Education is the financial partner.

**Purpose:** To provide wraparound services, including counseling and family support services, to DMR youth and their families to prevent the need for more restrictive placements.

**Population Served:** Program currently supports about 360 DMR youth and their families.

#### **c. Executive Office of Health and Human Services-Schools Initiative**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support, Career, and Education Services

**Funding Source and Amount:** State (Line item 7061-0012) – \$1,000,000

**Lead Agency:** Executive Office of Health and Human Services – Department of Social Services; Initiative partners include the Massachusetts Departments of Education, Mental Health, and Youth Services; the Juvenile Court Clinic Services; and Massachusetts Associations of School Superintendents, School Committees, Special Educators, Educational Collaboratives, and Chapter 766 schools.

**Purpose:** The primary purpose of this Initiative is to better integrate services for distressed youth by including strategies for promoting social and emotional well-being, early intervention programs, access to clinical/treatment services, and connection with schools to help students overcome barriers to learning.

**Population Served:** Distressed children, including youth who are in state care and those who are at risk of state agency involvement.

#### **d. Massachusetts Family Literacy Consortium (MFLC)**

**DOE Unit:** Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS)

**Funding Source and Amount:** Federal: \$180,000 (7038-0107); \$50,000 (7043-1001); and \$20,000 (7043-7002)

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; Departments of Business and Technology, Early Education and Care, Health, Housing and Community Development, Mental Health, Public Health, Social Services, Transitional Assistance, and Youth Services; Executive

Office of Labor and Workforce Development; Children's Trust Fund; Commonwealth Corporation; Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

**Purpose:** The MFLC vision is that all members of Massachusetts families will have access to comprehensive 'wrap-around' family literacy and family support services, enabling adults and children to develop a strong educational foundation in order to reach their full personal, social, and economic potential. This vision is being realized through partnerships among all relevant education, health, human service, and employment related statewide organizations and other interested parties with four pilot communities serving as a "lab" for integrated services. The four pilot communities (Cambridge, Holyoke, Lawrence, and Leominster) are working to meet the needs of families across separate funding streams. They bring education, employment, health, and human service providers together with local leadership in a broad-based community partnership with an emphasis on prevention, joint service planning, and service integration featuring co-enrollment, co-location, and case management.

**Population Served:** At risk families with multiple barriers to success, headed by undereducated and limited English proficient adults.

#### **e. Mental Health Services Program for Youth (MHSPY)**

**DOE Unit:** Special Education Policy and Planning

**Funding Source and Amount:** \$250,000 (from state Circuit Breaker set aside 7061-0012)

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Mental Health – Lead; Participants: Departments of Education, Youth Services, Social Services; Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Fiscal Affairs Division; Administration and Finance.

**Purpose:** To provide wraparound services, including counseling and family support services, to youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families in the communities of Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, Arlington, and Malden and to do so in cooperation with a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO).

**Population Served:** Serves about 80 youth and their families.

### **4. Safe and Supportive Learning Environments**

#### **a. Alternative Education and Safe and Supportive Learning Environments**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support

**Funding Source and Amount:** State -7061-9614: \$1,195,840

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts

**Purpose:** The purpose of this state program is to provide funds to school districts for two grant programs: 1) Alternative Education and 2) Safe and Supportive Learning Environments. The Alternative Education programs serve "at-risk" students such as those who are pregnant/parenting, truant, suspended or expelled, returned dropouts, delinquent, or students who are not meeting local promotional requirements. The Safe and Supportive Learning Environments programs create safe environments for students to learn. The programs are particularly aimed for students who are traumatized by violence.

**Population Served:** The Alternative Education grants primarily serve students in high school and middle school grade levels. The Safe and Supportive Learning Environments grants serve students in all grade levels.

#### **b. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program**

**DOE Unit:** Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

**Funding Source and Amount:** McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act -- Federal: \$996,827

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts

**Purpose:** The purpose of the grant program is to provide funds for school districts to assist homeless children and youth, including preschool children, to enroll in school, attend on a regular basis, and succeed with their studies. Services may include tutoring and supplemental instruction, education and training programs for parents of homeless students, professional development programs, and before and after-school programs, mentoring, and summer programs for homeless children and youth.

**Population Served:** Homeless students enrolled in grades K-12, parents.

### **c. Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support, Career and Education Services

**Funding Source and Amount:** State - 7010-0005: \$200,000

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; Massachusetts Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Youth; Departments of Social Services and Public Health; service providers

**Purpose:** The Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students is a suicide and violence prevention program that provides training and technical support to schools/districts on GLBT issues and concerns to ensure that the Board of Education's recommendations are implemented. A competitive grant provides funding for Gay Straight Alliances in high schools.

**Population Served:** District faculty and staff, students, parents.

## **5. School-to-Career and Community Involvement**

### **a. Career/Vocational Technical Education Student Organizations**

**DOE Unit:** Career/Vocational Technical Education

**Funding Source and Amount:** Federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act: \$209,000

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** School districts and one community college provide a statewide coordinator for each of the following student organizations: Business Professionals of America (BPA), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Farmers of America (FFA), SkillsUSA, and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

**Purpose:** Throughout the 2007-2008 school year, the program will provide leadership training activities and knowledge and skills demonstration events for students.

**Population Served:** High school students enrolled in career/vocational technical education programs.

### **b. Community Service-Learning**

**DOE Unit:** Student Support

**Funding Source and Amount:** Federal Learn and Serve America, \$800,526 (includes Massachusetts' formula allotment-\$350,527 and competitive grant award \$449,999)

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education is the lead agency in partnership with Massachusetts Service Alliance

**Purpose:** The purpose of these federal Learn and Serve America funds is to increase the practice of service-learning as a methodology for implementing the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, K-12 and to support the institutionalization and sustainability of service-learning in districts. Through these service-learning grants, schools provide opportunities for students from low-income families to engage in service-learning and for youth to take on leadership roles in making changes and improving their communities. These grants strengthen school/community

partnerships across the Commonwealth and increase CSL opportunities in school and during out-of-school time.

**Population Served:** Students K-12.

### **c. Connecting Activities**

**DOE Unit:** Connecting Activities

**Funding Source and Amount:** State - 7027-0019: \$4,129,687

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** Department of Education; school districts; employers

**Purpose:** The primary goal of Connecting Activities is to design and implement “work and learning” experiences during the school year and summer to support career development and academic achievement. Connecting Activities (CA) provide quality work-based learning experiences for high school students by providing them with structured internships connected to the classroom teaching and learning. Connecting Activities support staff to recruit employers; prepare and place students in brokered work-based learning opportunities; and structure those experiences through the use of Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan – a diagnostic, goal setting, and performance-based assessment tool. Through Connecting Activities, high school students participate in the following career development education activities:

- Career Exploration Activities/Career Fairs
- Job Shadowing – over 10,000 annually
- Structured Internships – over 12,500 annually at 5,600 employer sites generating over \$36,000,000 annually in student wages paid for by participating employers

MA Work-Based Learning Plans – 82% of all students in structured internships have a Work-Based Learning Plan

**Population Served:** High School students. Priority is given to those who are academically at-risk.

### **d. Tech-Prep Initiative**

**DOE Unit:** Career/Vocational Technical Education Unit

**Funding Source and Amount:** Federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act: \$1,649,446

**Lead and Participating Agencies:** School districts; community colleges and one not-for profit serving a group comprised of school districts and public two-year colleges.

**Purpose:** Throughout the 2007-2008 school year, the program will provide career planning, early college placement testing, college and registered apprenticeship program information, early college mentoring, and advising.

**Population served:** High school and college students enrolled in career/vocational technical education programs.